

Wraps per inch

The idea is to wrap the yarn so the wraps lie side by side, smoothly, neither crowded nor see-through, and count how many widths of the yarn it takes to make an inch. Of course this isn't a rigidly exact measure, but it does give you a close estimate.

This is meant to be a starting point for sampling. Machine and hand knitters need to sample, with at least 4" square. A difference of 1 stitch can add up to enormous size differences. Not all yarns fit neatly into a single category, but with adjustments to needle size you should get the correct gauge.

Standard Size	British	WPI	Approx. Gauge	Needle size	approx. yd/oz.	approx. yd/lb
Baby	3 ply		8-9 st/inch	1-2		
Fingering	4 Ply	16 wpi	7 st/inch	1-3	110-144	1700-2300
Sport	DK	14 wpi	5½ - 6½ st/inch	4-6	75-110	1200-1600
Worsted	Aran	12 wpi	4-5 st./inch	7-9	55-75	850-1100
Bulky		9 wpi	3-3½ st./inch	10-11	30-55	500-900

Lace

Gauge Varies. Fine knitting or crochet.

Knitting Machine: Tension 3-4 on 4.5mm machine (standard bed)

Sock, Baby, Fingering 1500 + yds per lb.

14 wraps per inch. 94 yds+ per oz.

Needle size: 0-3 (2-3.25mm) Knit gauge 7 or more stitches = 1"

Crochet Hook size: D/3-E/4 Crochet gauge: 22-28 stitches = 4"

Machine Knit: Tension 7-8 on 4.5mm machine (standard bed)

Sport 1200-1600 yds per lb. 12 wraps per inch. 75-100 yds per oz.

Needle size: 4-6 (3.5-4mm) Knit gauge: 7 sts = 1"

Crochet Hook size: F/5-G/6 Crochet gauge: 16-20 sts = 4"

Machine Knit: Tension 9-10 on 4.5mm machine (standard bed)

Tension 3-6 on a 6.5 or 7.0 mm machine (mid-gauge bed)

DK Double Knit 1200-1600 yds per lb.

11 wraps per inch. 75-100 yds per oz.

Needle size: 5-7 (3.75-4.5mm) Knit gauge: 6 sts = 1"

Crochet Hook size: F/5-G/6 Crochet gauge: 16 sts = 4"

Machine Knit: Tension 5-7 on 6.5-7 mm (mid-gauge bed machines)

Tension 0-1 on 9mm (bulky bed machines)

Light - Medium Worsted 850-1150 yds per lb.

9 wraps per inch. 53-72 yds per oz

Needle size: 7-9 (4.5-5.5mm) Knit gauge: 5 sts = 1"

Crochet Hook size: H/8-J/10 Crochet gauge: 12-16 sts = 4"

Knitting Machine: Tension 5 on 9mm (bulky bed machines)

Tension 8-10 on 6.5-7mm (mid-gauge bed machines)

Heavy Worsted or Bulky 500-900 yds per lb. 31-56 yds per oz







7-8 wraps per inch

Needle size: 9-11 (5.5-8mm) Knit gauge: 4 sts = 1"

Crochet Hook size: K10 ½-L (7mm) Crochet gauge: 8-12 sts = 4"

Knitting Machine: Tension 7-9 on 9mm (bulky bed machines)

Standard Yarn Weight

Yarn Weight Symbol & Category Names	 1 SUPER FINE	 2 FINE	 3 LIGHT	 4 MEDIUM	 5 BULKY	 6 SUPER BULKY
Type of Yarns in Category	Sock, Fingering, Baby 3-Ply	Sport, Baby 4-Ply	Light Worsted DK	Worsted, Afghan, Aran	Chunky, Craft, Rug	Bulky, Roving
Knit Gauge Range* in Stockinette Stitch to 4 inches	27–32 sts	23–26 sts	21–24 st	16–20 sts	12–15 sts	6–11 sts
Recommended Needle in Metric Size Range	2.25–3.25 mm	3.25–3.75 mm	3.75–4.5 mm	4.5–5.5 mm	5.5–8 mm	8 mm and larger
Recommended Needle U.S. Size Range	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 7	7 to 9	9 to 11	11 and larger
Crochet Gauge* Ranges in Single Crochet to 4 inch	21–32 sts	16–20 sts	12–17 sts	11–14 sts	8–11 sts	5–9 sts
Recommended Hook in Metric Size Range	2.25–3.5 mm	3.5–4.5 mm	4.5–5.5 mm	5.5–6.5 mm	6.5–9 mm	9 mm and larger
Recommended Hook U.S. Size Range	B–1 to E–4	E–4 to 7	7 to I–9	I–9 to K–10 1/2	K–10 1/2 to M–13	M–13 and larger
* GUIDELINES ONLY: The above reflect the most commonly used gauges and needle or hook sizes for specific yarn categories						