

The Standard Yarn Weight System Handy Chart

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Categories of yarn, wraps per inch or WPI, gauge ranges, and recommended needle and hook sizes will give you general starting place.

Remember: Many manufacturers have their own standard weights of yarn.

Please note: that a gauge range is difficult to determine, and following the gauge stated in your pattern is the best way to insure success. For instance- Lynn almost always goes down 2 needle sizes from the suggested in the pattern. She is a loose knitter and knows 2 sizes smaller is a good starting point. Learning to gauge saves time and head aches.

A Side note: Steel crochet hooks are sized differently from regular crochet hooks—the higher the number, the smaller the hook, which is the reverse of regular hook sizes.

Chunky Is heavier than Bulky, Can be roving

Knitting = 6–11 stitches per 4 inches on an 8 mm or 11 US needle or larger

Crochet = 5 -9 stitches per 4 inches on an 9 mm or M13 US needle or larger

Bulky Weight Less than 8 wraps per inch - 400 to 700 yards per pound

Knitting = 12- 15 stitches per 4 inches on an 5.5 - 8 mm or 9 - 11 US needle

Crochet = 8-11 stitches per 4 inches on an 6.5— 9 mm or K–10 1/2 to M–13 US needle

Aran Weight 6 to 10 wraps per inch - 700 to 1000 yards per pound

Knitting = 16-20 stitches per 4 inches on an 4.5 - 5.5 mm or 7- 9 US needle

Crochet = 11 - 14 stitches per 4 inches on an 5.5 - 6.5 mm or I–9 to K–10 1/2 US needle

Worsted Weight: 10 to 12 wraps per inch - 900 to 1100 yards per pound;

Knitting = 16-20 stitches per 4 inches on an 4.5 - 5.5 mm or 7- 9 US needle

Crochet = 12 -17 stitches per 4 inches on an 5.5 - 6.5 mm or I–9 to K–10 1/2 US needle

Double Knitting (DK): 12 to 18 wraps per inch - 1000 to 1400 yards per pound;

Knitting = 21 -24 stitches per 4 inches on an 3.75 - 4.5 mm or 5 - 7 US needle

Crochet = 11 - 14 stitches per 4 inches on an 4.5- 5.5 mm or 7 to I–9 US needle

Sport Weight: 18 to 24 wraps per inch - 1300 to 1800 yards per pound

Knitting = 23 -26 stitches per 4 inches on an 3.25 - 3.75 mm or 3 - 5 US needle

Crochet = 16 - 20 stitches per 4 inches on an 3.5 - 4.5 mm or E4 - 7 US needle

Fingering:24 to 30 wraps per inch - 1800 to 2400 yards per pound

Knitting = 27 -32 stitches per 4 inches on an 2.25 - 3.25 mm or 1 -3 US needle

Crochet = 21 - 32 stitches per 4 inches on an 2.25 - 3.5 mm or B1- E4 US needle

Baby: 30 to 36 wraps per inch - 2400 to 3000 yards per pound;

Lace Weight:36 to 40 wraps per inch - 3000 to 6000 yards per pound

Lace weight yarns are most often knitted or crocheted on larger needles/ hooks to create the lacy patterns.

Cobweb:40 or more wraps per inch - 6000 or more yards per pound;

Zephyr weight yarn is finer than Cobweb

WPI - Take a ruler and wrap your yarn around for 2". Divide that number by 2.

This will give you a wraps per inch number. DO NOT wrap too tightly – or overlap the yarn.