

What Is Yarn Weight?

Yarn weight refers to the 'thickness' of your yarn. To thicken strands of yarn they are twisted together or 'folded' hence the thickness of a yarn can be named the 'ply'. The chart below helps understand the types of yarn and their relative thickness.

How do I know what weight my yarn is?

It is very common if you have lost the ball band or information label, to know what weight your yarn is.

However, there are a few methods to determine the weight of your yarn:

Wrap your yarn around a ruler, over 1 inch. You then count how many wraps there are, use the chart below and check the 'wraps per inch' column to determine the weight.

It could also just be a piece of cardboard where you have measured an inch, the width does not matter as you are looking at laying the yarn strands against each other.

Why does yarn weight matter?

The thickness of the yarn will determine the feel and drape of the fabric you knit up. It is important when following a pattern to use the correct weight, if you use a thinner yarn it will be smaller than the size you want, thicker it will be bigger and so on.

Yarn Weights Chart

UK Yarn Type	Recommended Needle Size	Tension / 10cm	Wraps Per Inch 1 inch=25.4mm
Lace	1.5 – 2.5 mm	> 36 stitches	> 36
3 Ply	2.0 – 3.25	28 – 36	30 – 36
4 Ply	2.0 – 3.75	24 – 28	18 – 24
4 Ply	3.25 – 3.75	24 – 28	12 – 18
DK	3.75 – 4.5 mm	20 – 24	10 – 12
Aran	4.5 – 5.5 mm	16 – 20	8 – 10
Chunky	5.5 – 8.0 mm	12 – 16	6 – 8
Super Chunky	8 – 15 mm	< 11 stitches	<6

If you are adventurous you can experiment with yarns to make different sizes but using the same number of stitches - you can see in the chart above that there will be more 'wraps per inch' the thinner or finer the yarn is. You can also change the size of your needles and this will also affect the tension.