







## Standard Yarn Weight System

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	Sport, Baby	DK, Light Worsted	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 sts	16–20 sts	12–15 sts	6–11 sts
Recommended Needle in Metric Size Range	2.25–3.25mm	3.25–3.75mm	3.75–4.5mm	4.5–5.5mm	5.5–8mm	8mm 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

ball band to find the recommended gauge and needle size, and thereby figure out its weight. But, of course, you don't have to actually leave the house to find info about a ball of yarn. Today we have the Internet, and if you can track down information about old classmates and ex-boyfriends on the Web, you can certainly get the lowdown on some yarn. Just enter the full name of the yarn you want to know about in your favorite search engine. Yarn stores that carry the yarn will pop up (possibly even the company that makes the yarn), and at least one of them will list the recommended gauge and needle size. With that info in hand, you can finally figure out the weight of that darn yarn.

### SWATCH WATCH

#### What a Gauge Swatch Can Tell You About Your Yarn (Besides Its Gauge)

Of course, the main way to figure out what's going on with your yarn, and whether it will make a good

replacement, is to really get to know it. And you do that by making a swatch. After all, yarn can look just so cute in its balled-up state, but you really don't know what it can grow up to be unless you knit up a bit of it and find out. Some yarn shops even have sample skeins of the yarn they carry so you can swatch some up in a corner of the store and get an idea of what the yarn does before you take it home and marry it.

To make a nice swatch, begin with the needle size suggested on the ball band and cast on one and a half times the number of stitches suggested for a 4" swatch. You need to make a sizable swatch at least 6" wide if you really want to get a sense of the yarn. Knit a couple of rows in garter stitch, then continue in stockinette till you have about 3" of fabric. Stop. Count how many stitches are in a 2"-wide area smack in the center of the swatch. If all you get is one leg of the stitch at the end, count it as half a stitch. Measure another 2" spot; count again. If you keep getting different numbers, take an