

# Yarn Weight Categories

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ARGH! Everyone seems to call yarn by different names using a confusing set of units! Hand knit and crochet, EU (Europe) vs. US, machine knit, weaving WPP (wraps per inch), YPP (yards per pound), nm (meters per 1 gram – metric yarns number), ... Depending on the system you're using,  $16/2 = 2/24 = 6720$  yds / lb (cotton count vs worsted count)

BTW, the basic conversions I know off the top of my head are:

- 2.54 cm = 1 inch
- 453.6 grams = 1 pound
- 1 kilogram (kg) = 2.2 pounds

Thank goodness for Google (and other search engines) and built in conversion computations. In the “old” days when I got my bachelor’s degree in mathematics, we used the *CRC Standard Mathematical Tables and Formulae*. I don’t remember what version I used but much of this info is available on calculators now.

What works with what machine? I’ve combined info from various web sites to provide basic guidelines. Please go to the sources listed below and do your own research. When all else fails – SWATCH!! (I’m kidding – always always always make a gauge swatch for a knit item that requires specific dimensions.)

Note: Silver Reed manuals have photos to correlate actual sizes of yarn to stitch dial settings and of course, the different gauge machines will support different sizes of yarn. Yet more sets of numbers that have no relationship to the table below!

I did not include #6 (Super Bulky) and #7 (Jumbo) yarns as these generally cannot be used as main yarns in any machine. However, they may work for weaving so keep your yarn stash!







3/11 = Sport Weight

4/8 = Worsted Weight

2/11 and 3/15 = Fingering Weight

2/20 and 2/24 = Fine weight

2 strands of 2/24 together = Fingering Weight.

Yarn Weight Symbol & Category Names	 LACE DENTELLE Liston	 SUPER FINE SUPER FIN Super Fino	 FINE FIN Fino	 LIGHT LÉGER Ligero	 MEDIUM MOYEN Medio	 BULKY Abultado
Type of Yarns in Category	Fingering, 10-count crochet thread	Sock, Fingering, Baby	Sport, Baby	DK, Light Worsted	Worsted, Afghan, Aran	Chunky, Craft, Rug
Knit Gauge Range* in Stockinette Stitch to 4 inches	33–40 sts (depending on size needles)	27–32 sts	23–26 sts	21–24 sts	16–20 sts	12–15 sts
YPP (yards per pound)	3000-6000	Sock: 3000 – 6000 Baby: 2400 – 3000 Fingering: 1800 - 2400	1300 - 1800	DK: 1000 – 1400 Lt Worsted: 900 - 1100	Worsted: 900 -1100 Aran: 700 - 1000	500 - 700
WPI (wraps per inch)	36 - 40	24 – 30	18 - 24	12 – 18	10 -12	<=8
UK terminology	1 ply	2 ply – 3 ply	4 ply	8 ply	10 ply	12 ply
Tamm Yarns	Estilo Kitty 2/14 2 strands Petit 2/30	Astracryl (2564 yds) Bebe Cristal Diamante Estilo Kitty 2/14 Rayito Spirit Trenzi Varsity	Can Cun Micro-Tamm Sport 2/7	Nordic		

<http://www.aboutknittingmachines.com/yarn-weight-systems.html>

<http://www.craftyarnCouncil.com>

<http://www.swicofil.com/companyinfo/manualyarnnumbering.html>

Yarn Weight Conversion Chart		
UK	USA	Australia
1 ply	Laceweight	2 ply
2 ply	Fingering	3 ply
3 ply	Sock	3 ply
4 ply	Sport	5 ply
DK	DK/Light Worsted	8 ply
Aran	Worsted	10 ply
Chunky	Bulky	12 ply
Super Chunky	Super Bulky	14 ply

\* Please note that conversions are approximate

One nm equals 1,000 meters of yarn per kilogram (1,000 m/kg). This equals 50 meters per 50 grams. A 1/8 nm yarn (usually just called 1/8, without the nm) tells you that the yarn has been spun 8 times longer than the standard and is therefore finer. You will get 8,000 meters per kilogram if your yarn is a 1/8.

The first number in the name, or the 1 in 1/8 indicates the number of plies in the yarn. A 1/8 yarn has one ply, a 2/8 yarn has 2 plies, etc.

A 2/8 yarn indicates the yarn was spun to 8,000 meters per kilogram, but then plied into a two-ply yarn. The finished yarn will therefore measure 4,000 meters per kilogram. A 3/8 yarn will have 2,666 meters/kilogram, or 8000 divided by 3.

How does the general numeric system compare to the CYCA chart? From thick to thin:

4/8 yarn yields 1,120 yards per pound and is closest to what hand knitters consider a DK weight yarn or #4.

3/8 yarn yields 1,490 yards per pound, or sport weight yarn. Similar to a DK weight, but slightly thinner or #3.

2/8 yarn yields 2,240 yards per pound, for a fingering weight yarn or #2.

2/18 yarn yields 5,040 yards per pound and is considered laceweight or #0 - #1.

2/20 yarn yields 5,600 yards per pound and is also considered laceweight. The difference between 2/18 and 2/20 is slight for a hand knitter, akin to the difference between 4/8 and 3/8.

2/24 yarn yields 5,960 yards per pound, and again, is considered laceweight.

2/16 nm: 8000 m / kg

2/28 nm: 14,000 m / kg

4/9 nm: 2250 m / kg = 1100 yds / lb

3/10 nm: 3333 m / kg

2/32 nm: 16,000 m / kg

2/20 nm: 10000 m / kg or 4971 yds/lb

2/30 nm: 15,000 m / kg or 7456 yds / lb

1 / 2.5 nm: 2500 m / kg or 1225 yds / lb

$$\frac{x \text{ meters}}{kg} * .49 = \frac{y \text{ yards}}{lb}$$