



Knitting needles and Crochet hooks: “Which size should I use for my yarn?”

Well, this depends on many factors:

- Do you want a loose, lacy, transparent fabric or a dense one?
- Do you want to alter a size a little without having to do too much counting?
- Perhaps most importantly: what does your pattern say?

Generally speaking, thicker needles and hooks are used for thicker yarns and thinner ones for finer yarns, but there is actually no “right size”. Both mohair and lace yarns are generally worked on larger needles to create open and lacy effects.

The following tables are therefore indicative of what you may expect as a starting point, suggesting needle or hook sizes for a series of yarn weights and indicating the resulting tension or gauge you are likely to make. At the same time we give the equivalent sizes of needles and hooks in metric, UK and US nomenclature and the equivalent US and UK yarn names.

In summary: **thick yarn: thick hook/needle = fewer, larger stitches = open fabric**
thick yarn: thinner hook/needle = more stitches, closer together = denser fabric
thin yarn: thin hook/needle = more, smaller sts = denser fabric
thin yarn: thicker hook/needle = fewer stitches, further apart = lacier, looser fabric

Overleaf please see two tables of main yarn names with appropriate knitting needles or crochet hooks and indicative gauges/tensions for your work.



BLACKER YARNS



Knitting needles

Please note the colour shading crosses the typical yarns, which do not necessarily fit precisely into the boxes given!

Gauges assume a 10 cm (4 inch) square worked in stocking stitch/stockinette

Metric in mm	US size	UK size	Typical yarn name	Typical gauge (Blacker Yarns)
1.0	5/0	19	US Yarn Weight System Lace/Dentelle, Fingering, 10- count crochet thread, 2-ply yarns, lace-weight yarns and super-fine yarns	
1.25	4/0	18		
1.5	000	17		
1.75	00	16		
2	0	14		
2.25	1	13	US Yarn Weight System Super Fine/super fin, sock, fingering, baby, 3-ply, 4-ply and some lace yarns	34 sts, 42 rows in 2-ply/fine 30 sts, 40 rows in Guernsey
2.75	2	12		
3	2	11		28 sts, 34 rows in 4-ply
3.25	3	10		
3.5	4	n/a	US Yarn Weight System Fine/fin, sport, baby, 4-ply	
3.75	5	9		
4	6	8	US Yarn Weight System Light/leger, DK, Light Worsted	20 sts, 28 rows in DK
4.5	7	7		
5	8	6	US Yarn Weight System Medium/moyen, Worsted, Afghan, Light Aran, Aran	18 sts, 22 rows in Aran
5.5	9	5		
6	10	4	US Yarn Weight System Bulky/bulky, Chunky, Craft, Rug	14sts, 18 rows in Chunky
6.5	10 ½	3		
7	10 ½	2		
7.5	10 ½	1		
8	11	0		
9	13	00	US Yarn Weight System Super bulky/tres epais, Bulky, Roving	6-10 sts, multiple strands
10	15	000		
There are larger sizes, up to around 25mm, US size 50, for working very thick yarns, multiple strands or strips of fabric				



Blacker Sheep Limited, trading as Blacker Designs, Blacker Yarns and The Natural Fibre Company
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BLACKER YARNS



Crochet Hooks

Please note the colour shading crosses the typical yarns, which do not necessarily fit precisely into the boxes given! Gauges assume a 10 cm (4 inch) square worked in single crochet; smallest hooks are steel, larger are aluminium. These indicative gauges are taken from the US Craft Yarn Council website. Remember UK single crochet = US double crochet!

Metric in mm	US No./letter	UK number	Typical yarn name	Typical gauge (Blacker Yarns)
1.0	12 steel	10 steel	US Yarn Weight System Lace/Dentelle, Fingering, 10-count crochet thread, 2- ply yarns, lace-weight yarns and super-fine yarns	32-42 double crochets
1.3	10 steel	1.25= 8 steel		
1.5	8 steel	7 steel		
1.8	6 steel	1.75=5 steel		
2	4 steel	14		
2.25	1/B	13	US Yarn Weight System Super Fine/super fin, Sock, Fingering, Baby, 3-ply, 4- ply and some lace yarns, Guernsey	21-32 sts
2.75	2/C	n/a		
3		11		
3.25	3/D	10		
3.5	4/E	9	US Yarn Weight System Fine/fin, Sock, Sport, Baby, 4-ply, 5-ply, Guernsey	16-20 sts
3.75	5/F	n/a		
4	6/G	8	US Yarn Weight System Light/leger, DK, 8-ply, Light Worsted	12-17 sts
4.5	7	7		
5	8/H	6	US Yarn Weight System Medium/moyen, Worsted, 10-ply, Afghan, Light Aran, Aran	
5.5	9/I	5		
6	10/J	4	US Yarn Weight System Bulky/bulky, Chunky, Craft, Rug	11-14 sts
6.5	10.5/K	3		
7	n/a	2		8-11 sts
8	11/L	0		
9	13/ M/N	00	US Yarn Weight System Super bulky/tres epais, Bulky, Roving	5-9 sts
10	15/ N/P	000		
There are larger sizes, up to around 19mm, US size 19 or P/Q, for working very thick yarns				

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