

New Beginnings

When setting off on a new knitting project, remember - like every great chef knows, your ingredients (yarn) measuring cup (needle) and cooking method (knitting style) are three factors that come together to create your perfect fabric.

YARN CONSIDERATIONS

Gauge

Look beyond the ball band. Many yarns might say 22 st per 4", yet work up VERY differently. Ask the shop if they have a swatch you can see, or check what other knitters have made with the yarn on Revely.

Color

Not all colors look great in all stitch patterns. Make sure you swatch in the color you are going to use. Does the pattern get lost in a color changing yarn? Is the stitch pattern invisible in a dark yarn?

Texture

A heavily textured yarn is best with a stockinette or garter fabric. A seed, rib, basket weave or other knit purl patterns might get lost in the texture of the yarn.

Fiber Content

Experiment with different fiber blends to see what they do. A great chef tastes EVERYTHING, why shouldn't you. Swatching is getting to know your yarn. What does it want to be when it grows up!

NEEDLE CONSIDERATIONS

Comfort

Experiment as you swatch with different needle materials. Needles fall in three main categories, wood, metal and plastic, but within those, there are a lot of variations. If your yarn has no bite (is slippery) then you might want a needle with bite (a wood or metal).

Gauge

Changing needle material while keeping the same needle size may very well change your row gauge, while maintaining your stitch gauge

KNITTING STYLE OR METHOD

Having more than one way to knit a stitch means you have multiple tools in your "knitter's toolbox".

With some yarns you may have trouble getting the fabric you like, or the gauge you want, or you may experience "rowing out" (when your purl row is visibly larger than your knit row). In those cases experimenting with different ways to make your stitch is a vital part of swatching. Try the Portuguese purl, or purling backwards, what happens when you use the combination purl? How does the look change if you pick, if you throw?

The more tools the better!!!

SPECIAL OFFER FOR KNITTING DAILY VIEWERS:
To learn more about Yarn Substitution and other knitting topics,
take one of Patty's Interweave classes or Webinars:

- 1) Just go to: <http://pattylyons.com/classes/online-classes/>
- 2) Click on any of Patty's Interweave / Knitting Daily classes or webinars
- 3) Use promo code: PATTYLYONS15 at checkout to get your savings!

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