

# Gauge Worksheet

Gauge is the measurement that the rest of your math will be based on to create a sweater for your unique size.

Knit a swatch using the amount of stitches specified to the right in your desired stitch pattern with a needle in a compatible size.

If you are happy with the fabric you end up with simply use the measurement section on the following page to determine how many stitches and rows you are getting per inch.

Be sure to wash and block your swatch before you measure your gauge.

Yarn Weight	Stitches to Cast On	Minimum # of Rows
Fingering	40	48
Sport	32	40
Worsted	28	36
Bulky	24	32

## Washing & Blocking Your Gauge Swatch

After you have finished your swatch make sure to wash it like you will wash your finished garment. *Don't skip this step!* Washing and blocking your swatch will help even out the stitches and show you how your yarn will react to washing (sometimes it is surprising).

1. Soak finished swatch in warm water for 10-15 minutes, gently squeezing out all air bubbles.
2. Drain sink and squeeze out excess water, being careful not to twist or wring fabric.
3. Roll swatch in a clean, dry towel, burrito-style and stomp on rolled towel from end-to-end.
4. Remove swatch. Fabric should feel damp but not saturated.

Once you have your swatch washed lay it out flat on a flat surface. Let it dry completely before measuring.

Using a RULER - not a tape measure, measure 4 inches in the center of the swatch for both stitches (horizontal) and rows (vertical).

Place a straight pin in-between the stitch columns to mark the beginning and then place another at the 4 inch mark. Be sure to place the second pin exactly at the 4 inch mark, DO NOT fudge the numbers to get a certain gauge.

Repeat this step TWO MORE times in different areas of the swatch.

NOTE: Round to the nearest quarter inch.  $1/4 = .25$ ,  $1/2 = .5$ ,  $3/4 = .75$

Stitch measurement 1 = \_\_\_\_\_

Stitch measurement 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

Stitch measurement 3 = \_\_\_\_\_

Next, use the following equation to find your average:

Add all three measurements together \_\_\_\_\_ then divide by 3 = \_\_\_\_\_ Average stitch measurement over 4 inches

Averaging the measurements from different areas of your swatch ensures the accuracy of your gauge numbers.

Repeat this sequence for your row measurements.

Your row gauge is much less likely to change vertically, so we'll only measure once.

Row measurement = \_\_\_\_\_

Once you have your average stitch and row measurement over 4 inches use the following equation to find your stitches per inch:

**Average stitch measurement** \_\_\_\_\_  $\div$  4 = **Stitch Gauge** \_\_\_\_\_

**Average row measurement** \_\_\_\_\_  $\div$  4 = **Row Gauge** \_\_\_\_\_

Ta-da! Now you have your gauge!

It may seem like this has taken a long time but taking the time to swatch, wash, block and measure for gauge is probably the most important step to creating a sweater that fits properly.