SOME PEOPLE WERE BORN TO BE ENGINEERS.

We were born to create.

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CROCHET YARN & CROCHET COTTON

As a beginner I would highly recommend you start with an acrylic yarn, they are cost effective and come in a variety of colours. I still use acrylic yarns, as I love working with them.

TYPES OF YARN/WOOL & CROCHET COTTON/THREAD

Yarn/Wool
There 3 basic types of yarn/wool:
1. Animal fiber-based – this is commonly called wool and is made from sheep, angora goats, etc.
2. Plant fiber-based – this is commonly called yarn and is made from cotton, bamboo, etc.
3. Synthetic or Man-made – this is your acrylic, polyester, etc.

The use of the words wool and yarn can be confusing, as a child I grew with the word wool and have called it wool, regardless of how it was made. ☺.

Download your free "Types of Yarn chart" – www.allfreecrochet.com - https://content.primecp.com/master_images/files/Types-of-Yarn-Chart.pdf

Crochet Cotton/Crochet Thread

There are two main types of crochet cotton/thread:
1. Matte Cotton – this is untreated cotton with a dull and non- shiny look.
2. Mercerized Cotton – this is treated cotton and has a slight shine and bright look to it.
Just to confuse things crochet cotton is also numbered, but the higher the number, the thinner the thread.
A number 5 crochet thread is thicker than a number 25 crochet thread. The best to start with are sizes 5 to 10

YARN/WOOL WEIGHT

When speaking about yarn/wool weight, we are not talking about the actual weight of the "Ball/Skein" of yarn/wool, but to the thickness of the 'thread' of the yarn/wool. Confusing I know, but you will get used to it.

The different yarn/wool weights are used to create different projects. For example: Using a chunky yarn/wool to create a delicate doily or table runner. Though there is no stopping you from experimenting. I personally have used crochet cotton for Macramé work, who says you create in your own way. ☺
Depending where you live or where the yarn/wool comes from, the yarn weight will either be named or how many plies make the "string of yarn/wool". A PLY is how many threads are spun together to make one length of yarn/wool. (For example – 3 ply means it has 3 threads spun together as one)
The Chart below is a basic guideline of the yarn/wool weights.

YARN WEIGHT CONVERSION CHART BASIC CHART		
UK	**US**	**AUS**
1 PLY	LACEWEIGHT	2 PLY
2 PLY	FINGERING	3 PLY
3 PLY	SOCK	3PLY
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

Some great videos to watch: - https://youtu.be/TELfIFMfibE
https://youtu.be/D-ednND09LY

YARN/WOOL & CROCHET COTTON PACKAGING (different shapes)

Donut ball

Skein or a Ball

Hank

Cake

Cone

These are various types of yarn/wool and crochet cotton packaging. As you can see they come in all shapes and sizes.

The most commonly used yarn/wool/crochet cotton is the skein & balls. The more high quality, luxurious yarns/wool comes in the Hank.

Crochet cotton can be packaged as a ball, but is more commonly packaged in a Cake or Cone.

At the end of the day, they all unravel and can be rolled up in to a ball. You can crochet with any type of yarn – especially when you are learning. Do not stress about the packaging. Each pattern will advise you what type of yarn/wool/crochet cotton to use and the amount.

YARN/WOOL & CROCHET COTTON LABELS

Yarn/Wool labels

Two sample of yarn & wool labels

Washing and care instructions

Top yarn label – Mix of Acrylic & Lurex.
Bottom – 100 % Acrylic

Each yarn/wool comes with a label of some form:
A. Wrapped around the skein or ball, etc
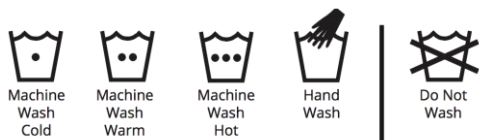B. Mainly with the cones – it is on the wrapping and a sticker inside the cone.

These labels do vary slightly, but most of them will have the following information:
1. Yarn/wool weight – Acrylic, polyester, etc.
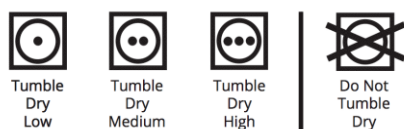**2. Washing & care instructions**.
WASH
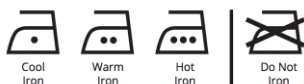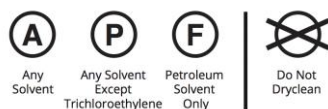If dots or numbers are shown inside the "tub", they indicate water temperatures.

Machine Wash Cold | Machine Wash Warm | Machine Wash Hot | Hand Wash | Do Not Wash

BLEACHING

Bleach When Needed | Non-Chlorine Bleach When Needed | Do Not Bleach

DRYING

Tumble Dry Low | Tumble Dry Medium | Tumble Dry High | Do Not Tumble Dry

IRONING

Cool Iron | Warm Iron | Hot Iron | Do Not Iron

PROFESSIONAL FABRIC CARE/DRY CLEANING

Any Solvent | Any Solvent Except Trichloroethylene | Petroleum Solvent Only | Do Not Dryclean

Source credit - https://www.craftyarncouncil.com/standards/care-symbols

3. How many metres/yardage in each.
4. What size needles/hooks to use.
5. The scale weight in grams
6. Gauge – which we will discuss in our more intermediate to advance classes.
7. Shade and/or dye lot – this is so if you run out, you quote these number and you should get the same or very close to the same colour you had previously.

Crochet cotton labels, which will have the similar information.

Each crochet cotton or yarn comes with a label of some form:
A. Wrapped around the cake or ball.

B. Placed on the top of the ball or cake.

C. Mainly with the cones – it is on the wrapping and a sticker inside the cone.
These labels do vary slightly, but most of them will have the following information:
1. Crochet cotton – Mercerised Cotton. Or mixed – eg. 80% Viscose & 20% Metalized polyester
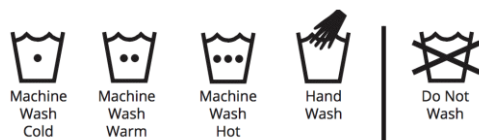

Crochet cotton size.

2. Crochet cotton – numbered size.

Crochet cotton size.

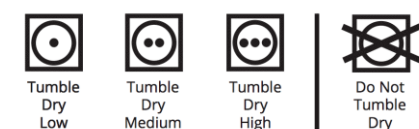3. Washing & care instructions.

WASH
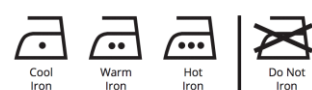If dots or numbers are shown inside the "tub", they indicate water temperatures.

Machine Wash Cold   Machine Wash Warm   Machine Wash Hot   Hand Wash   Do Not Wash

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PROFESSIONAL FABRIC CARE/DRY CLEANING

Any Solvent   Any Solvent Except Trichloroethylene   Petroleum Solvent Only   Do Not Dryclean

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4. How many metres/yardage in each.
5. What size hooks to use.

Crochet hook size.

6. The scale weight.

Weigh in grams.

7. Gauge – which we will discuss in our more intermediate to advance classes.

In a crochet cotton "cake" the gauge instructions are on the inside of the label.

8. Shade and/or dye lot – this is so if you run out, you quote these number and you should get the same or very close to the same colour you had previously. This will be found on the back of the label.

TIPS – a few ☺
1. When crocheting, it is best to use the crochet hook with the correct yarn/wool and crochet thread "thickness". Not to say you cannot, but trying to use a Crochet Hook size 1 with Chunky Wool will be almost impossible. I have my own rule of thumb – due to a lot of experimenting – is that you can use a half size hook up or down from what the pattern states. The same applies with the yarn/wool or crochet cotton that you use. All this does is change the size of your project.
2. Unravel your yarn/wool slightly, as you are crocheting, this will help with keeping the tension even. With yarn/wool, you can unravel from the outside or from the inside of your "ball" of yarn/wool. With crochet cotton, you can only unravel from the outside.
3. To stop your yarn/wool falling/dropping or going all over the place:
- Place your yarn/wool in a colander and feed yarn through the hole.
- Place your yarn/wool in a bowl, clip a bulldog clip to the rim of the bowl and feed the yarn through the top of the clip.
- Place your yarn/wool in a ziplock bag and leave partially open for your yarn.
There are yarn/wool unwanders holders that you can buy and lots of other DIY ideas.
4. Use plastic bags, shoe boxes and recycled plastic containers to store your yarn/wool and name them (yarn weight).
5. Wrap your smaller lengths of scrap wool using clothe pegs. Wrap your yarn/wool around the peg and clip the loose end in the "mouth" of the peg and then place them in containers. There are so many uses for leftover bits of wool.
6. Some uses – pom poms; tassels; make smaller projects(eyes, flowers, granny squares, charity)