

Yardage: crochet vs. knit

We have all heard the myth: Crochet uses twice as much yarn as knitting, and projects are completed in half the amount of time. The *Love of Crochet* staff completely agrees with the second half of this myth — crocheted projects do seem to work up far more quickly than knitted projects — but we have never believed that crochet projects always require more yarn, and we are not sure where this myth originated, or why. We have a theory that this misperception has kept some crocheters from selecting yarns they really wanted to use for fear of how many balls they would need to complete their project.

To dispel this myth, we decided to conduct our own experiment and compare several knitted and crocheted samples to determine which craft uses more yarn.

First, we completed two knitted swatches, one in stockinette and one in garter stitch. Each finished swatch is 6" wide and 5" tall. The stockinette swatch required the least amount of yarn using 21 yards (9g), while the garter swatch required 25½ yards (11g).

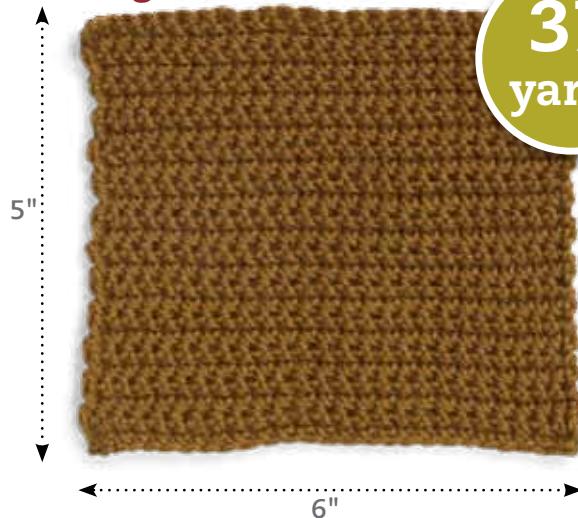
Next, we completed two crocheted swatches, one in single crochet and one in double crochet. Again, each swatch is 6" wide and 5" tall. The single crochet swatch required 37 yards (16g) while the double crochet swatch required 23 yards (10g).

Based on this comparison, projects completed in stockinette will require the least yardage, while projects crocheted all in single crochet will use the most yardage. What we found particularly interesting is that projects created in double crochet stitch require less yardage than projects crafted using garter stitch — meaning a crocheted blanket or sweater created using double crochet stitch will need less yarn than a similar project knit in garter stitch.



Basic Crochet Stitches

Single Crochet



37 yards

Double Crochet



23 yards

Basic Knitting Stitches

Stockinette



21 yards

Garter



25½ yards

After comparing the basic stitches, we moved on to more complicated stitch patterns. To keep our comparisons as simple as possible, we selected two similar stitch patterns used in both knitting and crochet.

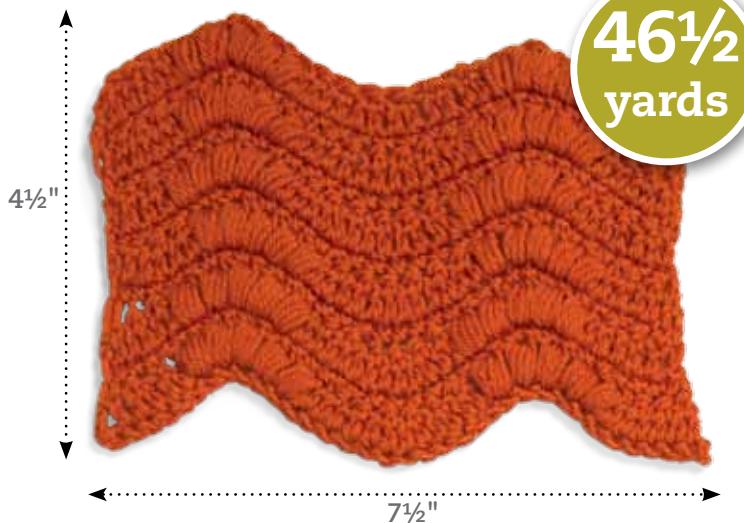
Beginner's Guide

Feather & Fan

Beginning with a feather and fan pattern, we created swatches $7\frac{1}{2}$ " wide x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " tall. In the feather and fan stitch, the knitted swatch required 28 yards (12g) while the first crocheted version required $46\frac{1}{2}$ yards (20g). For the second crochet swatch, we used a lacier stitch and only needed 35 yds (15g).



Crochet Feather & Fan 1



Crochet version 1

Puff stitch: Yo, insert hook into next st, yo and pull up loop (3 loops on hook), *yo, insert hook into same st, yo and pull up loop (5 loops on hook); rep from * 3 more times (11 loops on hook), yo and draw through all loops.

Chain 35.

Row 1: Sc in 2nd stitch from hook and in each stitch across, turn. (34 sts)

Row 2: Ch 2, 1 dc, [dc2tog] twice, [ch 1, puff st] 5 times, ch 1, [dc2tog] 6 times, [ch 1, puff st] 5 times, ch 1, [dc2tog] 3 times.

Row 3: Sc in each stitch and ch-1 sp across. (34 sc).

Repeat rows 1–3 for patt.

Crochet Feather & Fan 2



Crochet version 2

Cluster (CL2 or CL3 or CL4 or CL7): *Yo, insert hook into next stitch and pull up loop, yo, draw through 2 loops; rep from * to specified number of sts, yo, draw through all loops on hook.

Chain 38.

Row 1 (set-up row): Work CL3 over 4th, 5th and 6th ch from hook, *[ch 1, dc] in next 2 ch, [ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1] in next ch, [dc, ch 1] in next 2 ch, CL7 in next 7 ch; rep from * across, end with CL3 instead of CL7, turn.

Row 2: Ch 3, dc in next ch-1 sp, *dc in next 11 sts, CL2 in next 2 ch-1 sp; rep from * across, end CL2 in last ch-1 sp and dc, turn.

Row 3: Ch 3, skip CL2, CL3 over next 3 dc, *[ch 1, dc] in next 2 dc, [ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1] in next dc, [dc, ch 1] in next 2 dc, CL7 in next 7 dc; rep from * across, end with CL4 instead of CL7, turn.

Rep rows 2 and 3 for patt.

Knit Feather & Fan



28
yards

Knit version

Cast on 36 sts

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: [K2tog] 3 times, [yo, k1] 6 times, [k2tog] 6 times, [yo, k1] 6 times, [K2tog] 3 times.

Row 4: Purl.

Rows 5–7: Rep rows 1–3.

Row 8: Knit.

Rep rows 5 – 8, for pattern.

Chevron Stitch

Next, we compared several chevron patterns. Each finished swatch was 6" wide x 4½". The knitted swatch consumed 23 yards (10g) while the crocheted version used 32½ yards (14g). We also crocheted a second lacier chevron swatch. We were surprised to find the second crochet swatch only used 25½ yards (11g), only slightly more yarn than the knitted swatch.

Crochet Chevron 1



32½
yards

Crochet version 1

Chain 31.

Row 1: 2 dc in 4th ch from hook (turning ch counts as dc here and throughout), 3 dc, [dc3tog] twice, 3 dc, [3 dc in next ch] twice, 3 dc,[3dctog] twice, 3 dc, 3 dc in last ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 3, 2 dc in first st, 3 dc, [dc3tog] twice, 3 dc, [3 dc in next ch] twice, 3 dc,[3dctog] twice, 3 dc, 3 dc in last ch, turn.

Rep row 2 for patt.

Beginner's Guide

Crochet Chevron 2



25½ yards

Crochet version 2

Chain 48.

Row 1: In 4th and 5th ch from hook, dc2tog, sk 2 ch, [dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch, sk 2 ch, [dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch, sk 2 ch, [dc, ch1, dc, ch1, dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch, sk 2 ch, [dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch, sk 2 ch, dc3 tog, sk 2 ch, [dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch, sk 2 ch, [dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch, sk 2 ch, [dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch, sk 2 ch, [dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch, sk 2 ch, [dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch, sk 2 ch, dc2 tog, sk 2 ch, dc in last ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 3, working in dc and ch-1 sp, dc2tog, [dc, ch 1, dc] in next 2 ch-1 sps, [dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch-1 sp, [dc, ch 1, dc] in next 2 ch-1 sps, dc3tog over next ch-1, dc, and ch-1 sps, in next 2 ch-1 sps, in next ch-1, dc, and ch-1 sps, [dc, ch 1, dc] in next 2 ch-1 sps, [dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc] in next ch-1 sp, [dc, ch 1, dc] in next 2 ch-1 sps, dc2tog over last ch-1 sp and, end 1 dc in last dc.

Rep row 2 for patt.

Knit Chevron



23 yards

Knit version

Cast on 33

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K1, yo, k6, s2-k1-pss0, k6, yo, k1, yo, k6, s2-k1-pss0, k6, yo, k1.

Row 4: Purl.

Rep rows 2 and 3 for patt.

From the results of our experiment, we learned that crochet does take less time, and in many instances, it does use more yarn than knitting. However, it does not use twice as much yarn as knitting, and with the exception of the feather and fan swatch, we found that most patterns only required 10 to 30 percent more yarn. Additionally, by simply changing from single crochet to double crochet stitches, it is possible to further reduce the amount of yarn required for each project.

The next time you go yarn shopping, think about the amount of time you will spend feeling the yarn running through your fingers as you crochet your next project, not to mention how that finished crocheted fabric will feel in your finished project. With as many hours as you spend crafting, it's important to treat yourself to a yarn you love. You deserve it. ☺