

Cheat Sheet #4 – Gauge– US terms



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HIGHER GAUGE

- # Finer yarn
- # Smaller hook size
- # More number of stitches and rows

SMALLER GAUGE

- # Heavy yarn
- # Bigger hook size
- # Less number of stitches and rows

NEED OF GAUGE

For an item, where sizing is crucial, e.g. clothing, it will always be better to check the gauge before starting the project.

For many items sizing is not that crucial scarves, amigurumi, dish clothes, coasters etc you can opt to work without checking the gauge.

YARN TENSION

It is important to maintain yarn tension while crocheting. It gets better with practice or you can take help of a 'yarn guide'.

HOW TO MEASURE

Make a 4" x 4" swatch of the pattern in the specified yarn and stitches. Pick up the ruler and measure the required gauge.

Example : Double crochet stitches in Size 4 yarn;
17 stitches x 7 rows = 4"x4"

HOW TO FIX

a) Swatch measuring 17 sts x 7 rows = 4" ; you are good to go.

b) **Swatch measures smaller**- Stitches are tight. Make it again by keeping the stitches a little loose by pulling up a little extra yarn. OR go up by a hook size. Make it again and measure.

c) **Swatch measures bigger** - Stitches are loose. Make it again by keeping the stitches a little tight OR go down on the hook size. Use a smaller hook, make it again and measure.