

Estimating yardage

If you have a large quantity of yarn, or leftover yarn, and don't know how many yards it is, a way to figure it out is with an accurate scale; for instance a postage or baking scale.

Step 1: Wind up a known yardage into a ball of between 1 and 2 ounces (28 to 56 grams) and weigh it. If you have a swift, you could first wind the yarn to be weighed onto the swift. The circumference of the swift, as you have it set up, times the number of yarn windings will give you the length of the yarn. To get the length of a yarn winding on your swift, mark the beginning of a winding, unwind and measure.

You now have the weight of the ball of yarn, which we will call WB, and the length of the yarn in that ball, which we will call LB.

Step 2: Weigh all the yarn. To keep the yarn together and compact for weighing, put it in a thin plastic grocery store bag, squeeze out the air and tie it shut.

You now have the weight of the total amount of yarn (WT). Our goal is to find the length of the total amount of yarn (LT).

Step 3: Calculating the total length (LT) of your yarn. Here is the equation for LT:

$$LT = WT \times (LB \div WB)$$

Example:

The small ball is 75 yards in length and weighs 1 gram. The total weight of the yarn is 8 grams.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Length (LT)} &= 8 \text{ grams} \times (75 \text{ yards} \div 1 \text{ gram}) \\ &= 600 \text{ yards} \end{aligned}$$