

Mystery Yarn

What Is It ?

And

What Do You Make of That?

Object

Move it off your shelf - And use It!

- Determine what your mystery yarn is
- What is it suited for
- How much you have
- Plan and weave a project

What is It?

Fiber Identification

- Touch & Look
- Wet smell test- smells like wet animal, treat like wool
- Bright Light test
 - dull = Animal fibers, unmercerized cotton & linen
 - shine = Bamboo, tencel & mercerized cotton
 - sparkly = acrylic
- Unravel, wet & air dry yarn
 - kinky = wool
 - straight = cotton, linen, bamboo & silk
 - uniformly kinky = acrylic (often)

Fiber Identification

continued

- **Bleach Test (good for blends)** Procedure: 6” yarn in jar (with lid) filled with bleach
 - dissolve within 24 hours = Animal fibers
 - dissolve within a week = Plant based fibers
 - doesn’t dissolve = Acrylic
- **Burn Test (quick estimate)**
 - does not self-extinguish = Plant based fibers
 - self-extinguishes = Animal fibers
 - melts, usually forms bead = synthetic

What is it suited for

- How does it look & feel?
 - Is it wearable or should it be walked on?
 - It won't change with weaving.
- Can it be Warp
 - Does I have a firm twist?
 - Does it break?
 - Cleanly? Okay
 - Does pull apart? Not okay

How Much is there?

1. Weigh it

- a. subtract the weight of the cone
- b. use a kitchen or mailing scale
- c. determine number of ounces (1c)

2. Calculate yard per pound

- a. yarn balance
- b. length of balanced yarn X 100 = yards/pound
- c. divide by 16 = yards/ounce(2c)
- d. Total yards = 1c x 2c

Is it enough for ???

- Determine Sett – wrap yarn or reference
- The Yard Equivalent (thanks to Marci Petrini S,S,D Fall 2016)
 - Yards of yarn for 36" x 36" warp = sett (epi) X 36 X 1
 - Yards of yarn for 36" x 36" weft = warp amount
 - Yards of yarn for take-up = warp amount
 - Total yards of yarn = warp+weft+take-up
 - Change shape? How about 9" x 108" or 18" x 72"
- These are just approximations

Resources

- Petrini, Marcy. “Right from the start- Shopping for inspiring fibers at Convergence.” pp.13-16. Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot, Issue 186, Fall 2011.
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- Petrini, Marcy. “Right from the start- Identifying mystery yarns Part II.” pp. 20-24. Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot. Issue187, Fall, 2016.
- The Weaver’s Companion. pp.22-29, 35-39. Loveland, CO: Interweave, 2001.
- “How to identify mystery yarn.”
<http://rovingcrafters.com/2016/04/03/how-to-identify-mystery-yarn/>
- Ditzzy Prints “Fiber Burn Chart.” <http://ditzzyprints.com/dpburnchart.html>