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Knitting a “Proper” Swatch

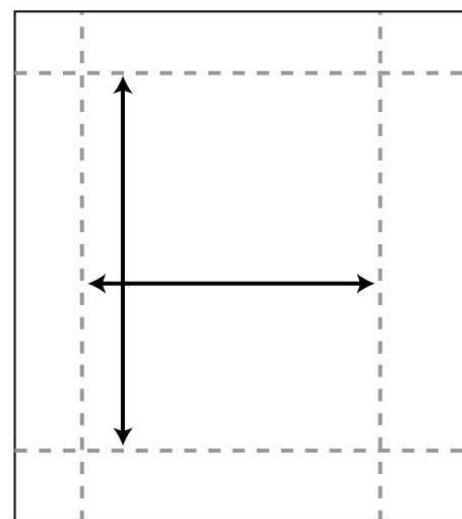
The goal of a swatch is to determine how many stitches and rows it takes to knit a 1” (or 4”/10cm) square.

To do this accurately, you will knit a larger piece, and mark off a set number of stitches and rows AS YOU KNIT.

After you dress your swatch, you can easily measure and calculate your stitch and row gauge.

Listed below are some standards that have been used over the years. These indicate the ISOLATED SECTION to measure.

When you knit your swatch, you will cast on MORE stitches and knit MORE rows than shown. This will prevent you from measuring edge to edge and ONLY MEASURE the ISOLATED AREA.



Isolated (Marked) area to measure

Standard	Mid-Gauge	Bulky
40 stitches 60 rows	30 stitches 40 Rows	20 stitches 30 rows

Cast on enough stitches and knit enough rows so you can measure these marked areas in the MIDDLE of the swatch

Knitting a “Proper” Swatch

1. Garment yarn: Cast on with any method
2. Knit for 1” or so - carriage on the right
3. Contrasting waste yarn: Knit 2 rows
4. Garment yarn: knit the number of “isolated rows” according to your machine gauge
5. Use a yarn marker or run a strand as you knit, isolate the stitches.
6. Contrasting waste yarn: Knit 2 rows
7. Garment yarn: knit 1” or so
8. Bind off or drop the work from the machine
9. Dress the swatch (wash, block and treat as you will the finished item)

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Measure Your Swatch

No matter what method you use to measure (gauge rulers or regular ruler) it's important to be accurate

1. Measure between the marked stitches

2. Measure between the marked rows



Calculate Gauge by inches

Number of stitches DIVIDED by the Measurement = stitches per inch / cm

Number of rows DIVIDED by the Measurement = rows per inch / cm

TIP:

Don't forget to record your tension

- Create eyelets in the waste yarn of the swatch
- Attach a hang tag with all the information about your swatch



Machine
Yarn
Tension
Stitches per in/cm (or 4"/10cm)
Rows per in/cm (or 4"/10cm)

Stitch pattern details