

# Knotty Lady YARN S

## Functional Fiber

As we transition seasons, we transition the fiber we yarn enthusiast work with. With chilly mornings and warmer afternoons, we break out our layers and favorite accessories and the back seat of our vehicle starts to double as a closet. Below is a helpful chart that shows synthetic and natural fiber yarns. This chart is a general and helpful tool to base our next projects off of. With summer behind us, we generally put away our cotton, bamboo and linen based yarns. And as the cooler weather sets in, we want to stay warm and are excited to work with wools and alpacas. However, with the warmer afternoons do we really want to sweat block that sweater you worked so hard on?

### Types of Yarn

**Natural Fiber Yarns**

- ALPACA**  
Alpaca yarn is an animal fiber that looks and feels silky and soft.
- ANGORA**  
This animal fiber is fluffy, soft, and silky and sourced from the Angora rabbit.
- CAMEL**  
This is a lightweight and temperature-regulating animal fiber spun from the hair of adult and baby camels.
- CASHMERE**  
Sourced from the Cashmere goat, the benefit of this animal fiber is that it has impressive insulating qualities without bulkiness.
- COTTON**  
Cotton is a popular plant fiber. It is soft, strong, and the most commonly used natural fiber in textiles.
- HEMP**  
When formed into yarn, hemp is a bit coarser than most but it softens over time.
- LINEN**  
This plant fiber is made from flax. It's a luxurious yarn that is great at absorbing moisture while remaining cool.
- MOHAIR**  
From the Angora goat, this animal fiber is commonly blended with wool as it is very fine on its own.
- SILK**  
Silk is an animal fiber that is known as the "Queen of Fabrics" since it has ties to royalty and is incredibly strong for its weight.
- WOOL**  
Made from sheep fleece, this is a very popular animal fiber. Wool is nonflammable, affordable, and long-lasting.

**Synthetic Fiber Yarns**

- ACRYLIC**  
One of the most popular synthetic fibers in crochet, acrylic has a feel similar to wool. It is warm but lightweight and soft to the touch.
- BAMBOO**  
Though plant-based, bamboo is often considered semi-synthetic as it goes through a chemical process to form yarn. It's fast-growing and naturally antibacterial.
- NYLON**  
Popularly known as a silk replacement, this fully synthetic fiber is highly resilient and can be made shiny or dull in appearance.
- RAYON**  
Rayon is a semi-synthetic fiber because it is made from wood or plant cellulose fibers that then go through a chemical process to form the textile.
- POLYESTER**  
This synthetic fiber is often blended with natural fibers to help reduce shrinking and add strength.

# Knotty Lady YARNS

This transitional season called Fall is the perfect time to play with those mixed yarns that we often overlook. As well as remember those unique fibers we don't always work with. Cotton and linen get mixed reviews and are not always a yarn fiber that likes to be worked with outside of washcloths, towels and summer tops. It is important to remember that those two fibers are both great at absorbing moisture, staying cool and becoming softer with use. While working with hemp yarn gets mixed cool weather reviews. To start with, its feel can often deter people. While hemp has a long list of positive features, the rough feel is enough for most of us to overlook it. However, like its linen counter part, it gets softer with time while maintaining its durability.



**Knit One Crochet Too Daisy is Linen, Silk and Hemp!**



**Fibra Natura Papyrus is a cotton and silk**

Wool and alpaca are more commonly used and favored, simply because of how soft, warm and enduring of time the projects can be. All these natural fibers can be, and often are, blended with synthetic fiber to increase strength, add stretch, reduce shrinking and making the overall yarn more lightweight.

As yarn lovers, we tend to stash our favorites, while overlooking some of the more unique fibers. Some great transitional fibers to consider are angora, silk, camel, yak and cashmere. These fibers will give you that lightweight warmth, help with temperature regulating, and are often blended with other fibers for added qualities and sustenance. Camel, angora and silk are often blended with one or more fibers to provide a thicker weight yarn and sourcing issues. We see this a lot with the stubborn mohair. It is great to hold double to add a beautiful halo to your project. But is more often blended to give it density and workability. Cashmere, among others, can stand alone. And with something that amazing, do we really want to blend it with another fiber?



**GGH Mussante is wool, polyamide, viscose, angora and**



**Fyberspates Faery Wings is Mulberry Silk, Mohair and**



**The Fibre Company Road to China Light is Baby Alpaca,**

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Bamboo and rayon are classified as semi-synthetic fibers even though they come from a plant or wood. Both go through a variety of chemical processes to become the fiber we know, thus making them semi-synthetic. Acrylic, nylon and polyester are great stand alone and are seen in yarn and commercial textiles. While we don't mind them by themselves, we prefer them as a small mixture alongside a natural fiber. We add nylon to superwash wool, acrylic and other fibers for socks, children's clothing and blankets for its affordability and washability.

Each blend of yarn has its pros and cons. Finding the right mixture doesn't have to be hard or intimidating. Being bold and experimenting with something completely new can only expand our fiber knowledge.



Plymouth Yarn Co. Hannah is cotton and bamboo.