

# Knotty Lady YARNS

## Pairing Yarn!

The hardest part of starting a project is deciding on the right yarn. After switching two, three or a hundred times and then starting, frogging, restarting with maybe a different yarn or pattern, we finally settle in for the long haul of finishing! One thing when we are stash busting and oftentimes gets looked over is pairing yarn together. Combining different yarns and working double-stranded. Whether the yarns are the same or different, finding the right blend and pattern, you can make something really unique. Now don't confuse this with colorwork, where you alternate colors in select stitches to form a pattern or design. Working double-stranded is a technique where you work 2 strands of yarns as if they are one. This means in each step of your stitch and pattern always make sure you have both strands on your respective needle or hook.

An easy method is taking two of the same weight yarns and working them together. Using the same color will simply bulk up your piece with little notice. Alternatively, you can work two different colors to form not only a thicker piece but make it colorful like seen in the linen/moss stitch swatch to the right.



Some important things to remember when knitting or crocheting double-stranded, is to keep tension on BOTH strands. As well as adjusting your needle/hook size to accommodate the thickness. Check out this hand chart to help guide you:

**Doubling Up Table**

Yarn Weight	Held Double Will Be Approximately
Light fingering	Sport
Fingering	DK
Sport	Worsted
DK	Aran
Worsted	Bulky

Bulky Weight held together becomes Super Bulky!

Super Bulky held together becomes...simply impressive!

A common yarn to be utilized when pairing is lace weight and novelty yarns. Examples of novelty yarns are eyelash yarn, faux fur yarn and yarn with bits of sequins in it. Other yarns that are commonly used are mohair and silk. Pairing yarn together also gives you the added texture,

# *Knotty Lady* YARN S

drape that is unique to the fiber content, coloring that you can't always find, and even a stunning gradient effect. Pairing mohair and silk yarn with something else provides more structure and substance to your project. Since mohair by itself can be tricky, or dreadful, to work with it makes for a prime yarn to be held double. Mohair yarn adds a halo effect while blending its color. In some cases, the yarn will disappear into the project, making it look like a single strand of yarn. A stunning example of utilizing mohair in a project is Love Note by Tin Can Knits below.



When pairing colors together the easy choice is to use 2 of the same colors. However, playing around with the color pairing can create something unique. For example, you have a white lace weight yarn. If you pair that with a light, medium or dark green, the white will easily show through. However, the overall product will show a gradient or ombre coloring. Working two strands of variegated yarn will make the fabric and colors denser.



One of our favorite yarn companies, that in a way specializes in mixing and matching yarn, is Shibui! They design yarns to mingle together so that we can create a custom fabric. Many of their patterns utilizes this double-stranded technique. With that said, not all patterns are designed to be or can be altered so they can be worked double-stranded. Now let me contradict myself here. If you are in a pinch and want to, for example, make a hat that calls for a bulky weight yarn you can try using 2 strands of worsted weight yarn together.

This is a fun technique that is great for stash busting and working with those lusher yet tricky yarns, such as lace weight mohair. Like most of the yarn world, the possibilities are endless. Lastly, who says you can only work a max of 2 strands together?