

Yarn selection is a skill that should be demonstrated in all three levels. It is upon the participant to correctly choose project and swatch yarns to meet the requirements of the program.

CAREFULLY READ THE DIRECTIONS PACKET

as to descriptions of the yarns acceptable for the swatch or project you are working on.

[Here is a link to an On Your Way to the Master's Article](#)(Arenda Holladay) with advice for choosing yarn for the Masters. You will need to be logged in to see the article. Keep in mind this article was written in 2005, so some of the requirements may be different for the 2016 directions — again refer to your directions.

The program requires currently produced, commercial yarns. This means avoid discontinued yarns and any home-spun and hand-dyed yarns. Single color swatches should be in white, off-white, or pastels. Contrast colors should be light or bright. When choosing colors for projects, keep in mind that the reviewers must be able to see every stitch. If that is not possible due to your yarn choice, you will be asked to resubmit that item.

[This article from Knitty Fall, 2005](#) discusses how ply affects the finished fabric and more importantly stitch definition. We recommend using yarns that are conventionally plied as shown in the first example. Using other types of yarns often has a negative effect on cable, yarn over, and special stitch patterns and can (and has) led to some of these swatches requiring resubmission.

We also recommend 100% wool (not superwash) as this yarn blocks well and will show off your work the best. This does not mean you are limited to 100% wool. Allergies as well as availability will also affect your choice. It is upon you to demonstrate your knowledge of yarn selection. After the main list we have included alternative yarns that we have seen successfully used in place of wool.

The following is a list of yarns that have worked for many people going through the program. This does not mean that the yarn is in anyway automatically acceptable for your submission. If you find that your yarn choice is not working to the CYC category required for your swatch or project, then it is upon you to recognize this and find a yarn that shows you understand how to select appropriate yarn for purpose and project.

Again, just because a yarn is on the following list does not insure it will be appropriate for your particular swatch or project. This is where you show you understand how to correctly choose yarn.

Disclaimer: This list was made in good faith and at that time all yarns were current. If you find that a yarn becomes discontinued after you have begun working on your Level, contact either your former Co-Chair or Leslie Gonzalez (lgonzalez@tkqa.org). Do not assume your work will be automatically rejected.

2015 UPDATE

Swatches

Cascade Yarns Cascade 220
Lion Brand Fisherman's Wool
Plymouth Galway Worsted
Patons Classic Wool Worsted
Ella Rae Classic Wool Solids (worsted)
Brown Sheep Nature Spun Worsted
Knit Picks Wool of the Andes (worsted)
Stonehedge Fiber Mill Shepard wool worsted white only

Level 1 Mitten

Cascade Yarns Cascade 220
Plymouth Galway Worsted
Patons Classic Wool Worsted

Ella Rae Classic Wool Solids (worsted)
Brown Sheep Nature Spun Worsted
Knit Picks Wool of the Andes (worsted)

Level 2 Lace Swatches

Dale Garn Baby Ull

Level 2 Wristlet

Jamieson's Shetland Spindrift
Jamieson and Smith 2 ply Jumper Weight
Knit Picks Palette
Quince and Co. Finch
Elemental Affects Natural Shetland Fingering

Level 2 Sock

Brown Sheep Wildfoote Luxury Sock
Cascade Yarns Heritage
Karabella Yarns Aurora 4
Spud and Chloe Fine
Louet Gems Fingering Weight
Simply socks Yarn co Simply Socks
Knit Picks Stroll Solids
Lorna's Laces Shepherd Sock Solid
GGH Merino Soft
Sandness Garn Sisú Solids

Level 2 Vest

Cascade Venezia Sport, dk or worsted
Berroco Ultra Alpaca
Plymouth Select DK

Level 3 Doily

Level 3 Aran Project

Lion Brand Fisherman's wool
Cascade 220
Knit Picks Gloss dk
Rauma Finullgarn

Level 3 Stranded Project

Jamieson's Shetland Spindrift
Knit Picks Palette
Brooklyn Tweed Loft
Blue Moon Fiber Arts Laci
Dale of Norway Heilo
Dale of Norway Falk
Dale of Norway Baby Ull
Rauma Finullgarn
Rauma Strikkegarn
Hillesvåg Hifa 2

Alternative Options

If you choose to use an alternative to 100% wool, keep in mind, you will need to choose a yarn that can adequately blocked. Swatches should have straight tops and bottoms. Tops and bottoms should be parallel. Sides should be straight, with the exception of some cable swatches. Sides should mirror that is, when folded in half vertically, there should be no overhang. No selvages should roll to the wrong side. There should be no evidence of pins.

Alternative options to 100% wool in worsted weight:

Plymouth Encore, worsted

Berroco Vintage

Berroco Comfort, worsted

Patons Decor

Knitpicks Comfy worsted

Alternative options to wool in fingering/sock weight:

Pingouin Corrida 3

Berroco Comfort, sock

Alternative options to wool in Lace weight:

Cotton Crochet thread