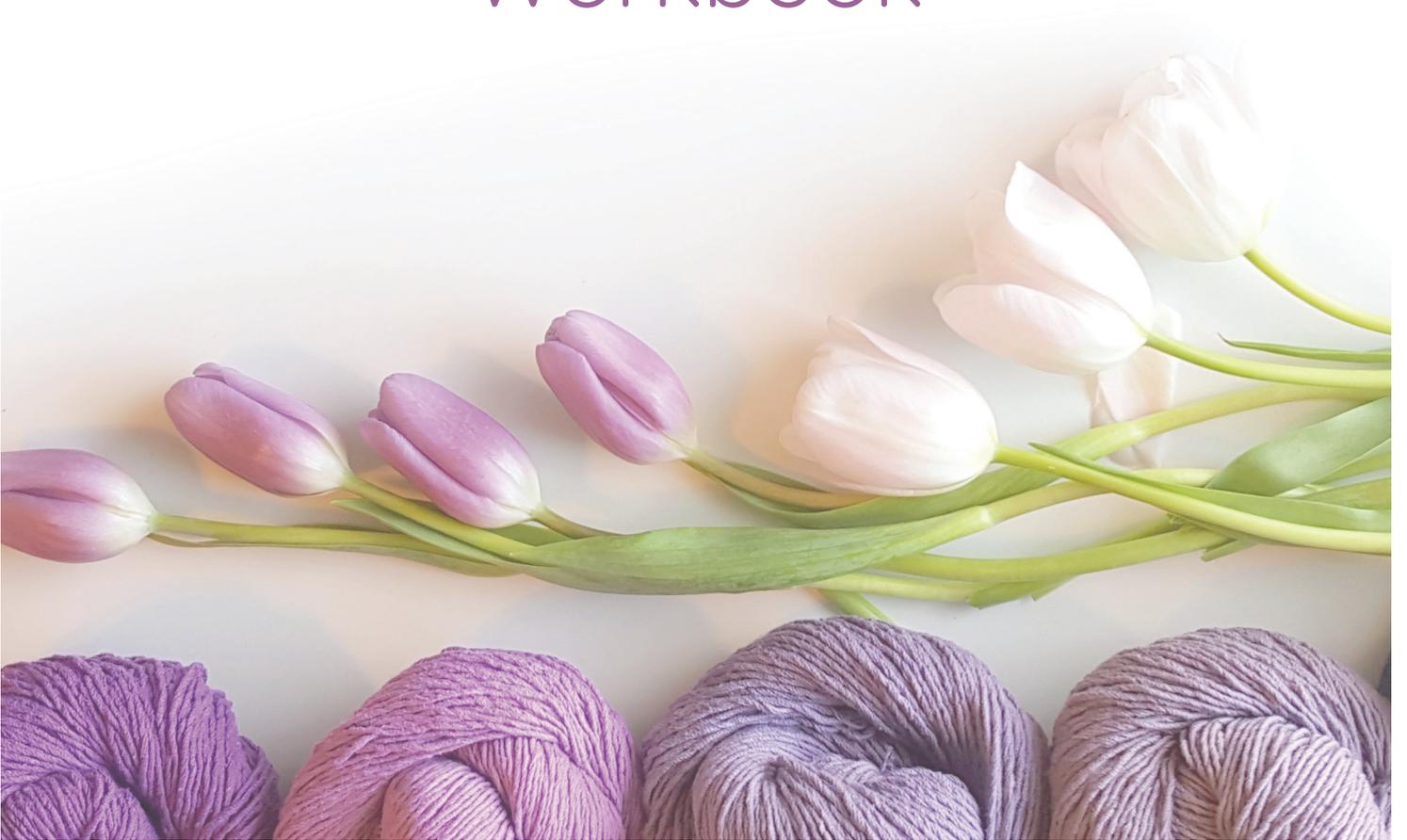




MODULE 1 Workbook





The 4 Myths of Lace Knitting

Myth #1 - You need to use super skinny yarn

Lace can be knit in any weight of yarn from lace weight to bulky. Some projects are more suited to different weights though.

Myth #2 - You need to use tiny needles

Because lace is such an open fabric, you actually get to use needles that are LARGER than recommended by the ball band.

Myth #3 - Lace is super complicated

Lace knitting covers a wide variety of styles. It can be as simple or as complicated as you would like it to be.

Myth #4 - Lace uses a whole bunch of complicated stitches

Lace knitting generally includes quite a bit of stitch manipulation, but it uses the same combinations of knit, purl, increase, and decrease as all other forms of knitting



Gather Your Supplies

Critical

- Suitable Yarn
- Suitable Needles
- Some Method of Marking Your Pattern (highlighter, magnets, pencil, whatever)
- Rust Proof T-Pins (for blocking)

Recommended

- Stitch Markers (removable ones are best for lifelines)
- Row Counter
- Smooth String (for lifelines)
- Blocking Wires
- Blocking Mats

Optional

- Knit Blockers Pins



Choosing Your Needles Checklist

The biggest consideration when choosing needles is that they have a sharp tip and that they play nice with your yarn.

Choosing dark yarn and dark needles, or slick yarn and slick needles is a recipe for disaster.

Choosing needles with a dull tip will only lead to frustration.

Choose wisely

- Needles have a nice sharp tip
- Needles are free of any sharp edges
- Cables are relaxed and do not kink (if using circular needles)
- Needles and yarn play nice together (No slick yarns with slick needles)
- Needle tips are securely screwed in (if using interchangables)
- Needles are the size recommended by the pattern
or
Needles are the size needed to obtain gauge
or
Needles are 2 - 4 sizes larger than recommended on the ball
band

Dawn's Favorite Needles:

Knit Picks Options Interchangeable needles
ChiaoGoo Red Lace needles (interchangeable or fixed circulars)
Addi Lace needles (interchangeable or fixed circulars)



Choosing a Yarn

Commercial knitting yarns come in a wide variety of weights, fibers, and textures, any of which can be used to knit beautiful lace.

Some weights, fibers, and textures may be more or less suited to different projects, though, so here is a handy reference of different weights and fibers, and their properties.

Yarn Weights

Names

Best Lace Uses

Thickness Meter	Yarn Weight	Name	Best Lace Uses
thin	0	Lace Cobweb	Fine lace - Shawls - Doilies - Very lacy garments
	1	Baby Sock Fingering	Socks - Shawls - Baby items - Lacy garments
	2	Baby Sport	Socks - Shawls - Baby items - Lacy garments
	3	DK Light Worsted	Blankets - Shawls - Sweaters
	4	Worsted Aran	Blankets - Shawls - Sweaters - Scarves - Hats
	5	Chunky Bulky	Blankets - Hats - Scarves - Rugs
thick	6	Bulky Roving	Blankets - Rugs



Yarn Fibers

Many yarns are a combination of several fibers. This allows knitters to enjoy the benefits of several different fibers while mitigating many of their downsides.

Pros

Cons

Acrylic

- Easily available
- Easy care for any recipient
- Suitable for people with allergies
- Hard wearing and darn near indestructible

- Melts in high heat (unsafe for some applications)
- Non breathable
- Does not block as well when “aggressive” blocking is needed

Angora

- Luxurious and divinely soft
- Blocks beautifully
- Wonderfully warm even in lighter weights

- Can be quite expensive
- Has a HUGE fuzzy ‘halo’ that can obscure stitch definition
- It can be VERY warm. So warm that it may make thicker garments too hot to wear

(usually found blended with other fibers)

Alpaca

- Luxurious and divinely soft
- Blocks beautifully
- Wonderfully warm even in lighter weights
- Can have a lower “itch” factor than wool

- Can be expensive
- It can have a fuzzy ‘halo’ that can obscure stitch definition
- It can be VERY warm. So warm that it may make thicker garments too hot to wear

Cashmere

- Luxurious and divinely soft
- Non-irritating
- Very light weight

- Expensive
- Delicate

Cotton

- Easy care for any recipient
- Suitable for people with allergies
- Hard wearing and soft

- Has very little give and can be hard on hands while knitting
- Is heavy in large pieces or thicker yarns
- Can stretch out over time

Linen

- Great for cool weather
- Suitable for people with allergies
- Hard wearing and soft

- Has very little give and can be hard on hands while knitting
- Can feel very stiff and rope like

Mohair

- VERY light weight
- Fuzz fills in the gaps, meaning a very open fabric doesn’t appear net like

- Can be itchy
- Fuzzy “halo” can obscure stitches

Wool

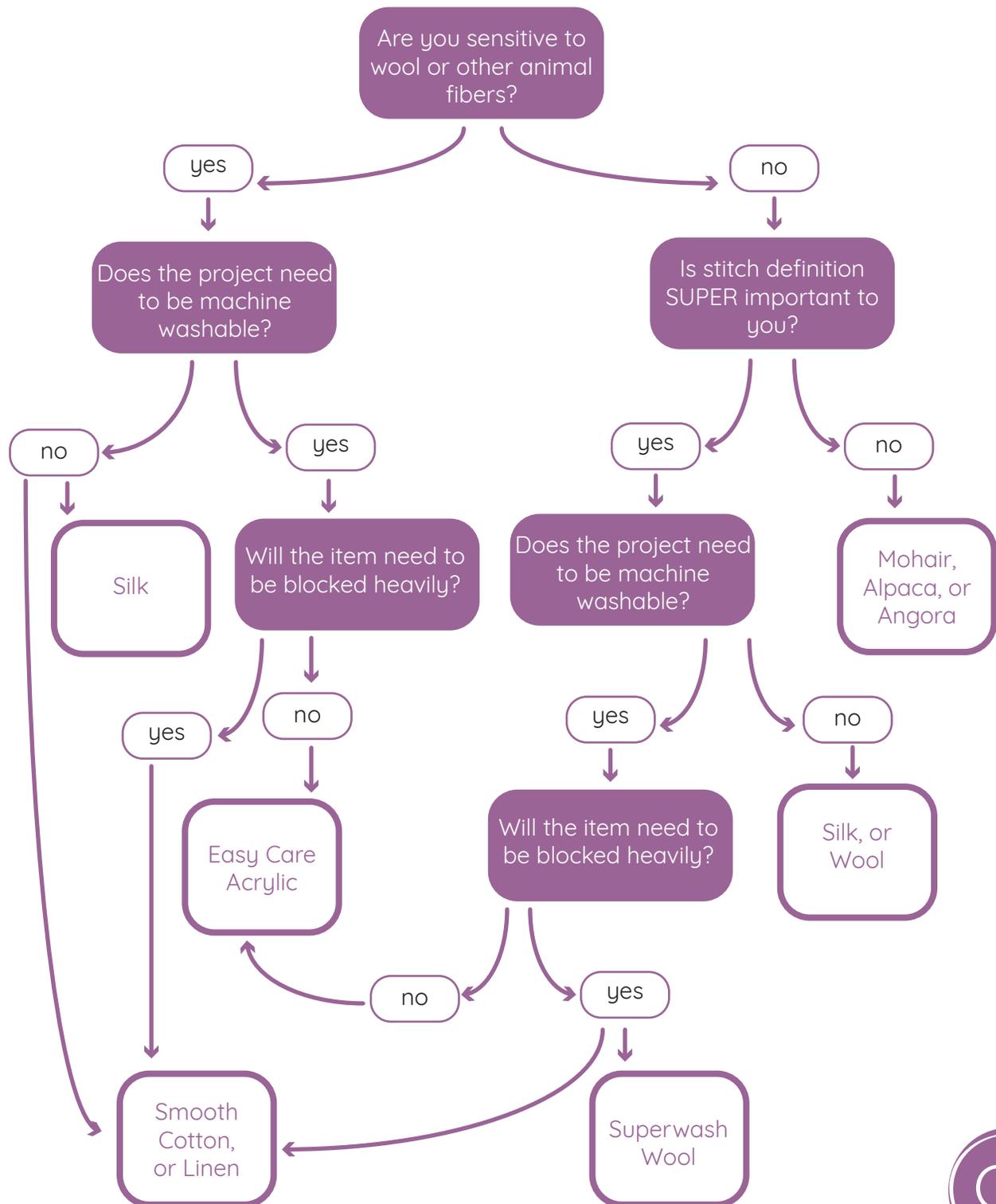
- The PREFERRED yarn for many designers for knitting lace
- Blocks BEAUTIFULLY
- Gives beautiful stitch definition
- Soft on the hands
- Warm & lightweight

- Can be irritating to the skin for some people
- Machine washable only if treated to become “superwash”

Choosing Your Yarn Flow Chart

The most important factor in choosing yarn is that YOU like it. If you hate working with your yarn, you will hate the project, so always choose yarn you love.

If you need a little help choosing a suitable fiber, though, use the following flow chart.



“More than any other type of
knitting, lace offers the greatest
scope for individual ingenuity
and creativity”
- Barbara Walker

