

Why knit with suri? What can I expect?

- Fine suri yarn is a beautiful lustrous yarn,
- Like cashmere in its softness and silk in its drape and luster.
- It takes color as beautifully as silk or kid mohair.

What are the properties of suri yarn?

- Its drape and weight make it perfect for garments that drape rather than cling.
- Fine and open work garments are warm.
- Not as elastic as wool but more elastic than silk, cotton or bamboo.
- Suri blocks and holds its shape, that is it is resilient if it is not made of heavy yarn and not knit loosely.

What does fine mean?

- Fibers are classed by micron. British cashmere is < 19 microns. Vicuna <14 microns.
 - Alpaca, including suri, includes a wide range of fineness and the fleece is classed accordingly. The Suri Network, along with the Australians, the Canadians, and Peruvians class fibers as follows:
 - Grade #1, Suri Ultimate, <20 microns (μm),
 - Grade #2, Suri Superfine, 20 -22.9 μm ,
 - Grade #3, Suri Classic, 23-25.9 μm ,
 - Grade # 4, 26-28.9 μm .
 - Grade #5, 29-31.9 μm , G6 32-35 μm .
- Classing provides guidelines for sorting fiber into micron, color and staple length. The fibers' micron grade will determine how the yarn is used as well as its price.
- Fine suri, Grades #1 or #2 can be worn next to the skin, a Grade #3, if it is carefully sorted with few fibers over 30 can make a comfortable garment— coarser fiber is best used for rugs or felting.

How do I use my fine suri yarn? How do I find patterns?

- Suri — fine, lustrous, sound, consistent in handle and staple length is a luxury fiber.
- This yarn is ideally suited to shawls and scarves but also lace sweaters, christening bonnets and dresses, and wedding veils.
- Whether spun in a fine lace weight (250 yds/oz) or a light fingering (75 – 100 yds.oz) it should adapt easily to patterns for such garments. Attention to needle size is important.
- Go down a needle size or two from a pattern created for wool. Always check gauge!
- Patterns for silk and fine cotton should behave much the same as suri as these yarns do not have the elasticity of wool. Patterns for huacaya fall somewhere in between — not as elastic as wool, not as silky as suri or silk. So again, check the gauge.

What do I do with my stronger (coarser) yarns?

- Heavier garments of stronger (coarser) fiber do not work well when made of pure suri.
- Lovely drape in a finer yarn is a weighty drag unless care is taken to knit very firmly.
- Pure suri in the heavier weights of yarn, worsted and bulky, becomes rather like string.
- Suri can be blended with wool, preferably a wool of similar staple length and micron count and one with some luster. This makes the yarn lighter, more resilient, suitable for outerwear.
- Patterns for this weight are most likely to be for wool so checking gauge and needle size is important.

What needles should I choose?

- For knitting suri yarn smooth wooden or bamboo needles are good; for lace projects *addi* lace needles are wonderful. As suri is a slippery yarn, the *addi* lace needles have just enough drag to hold the yarn on the needle and are still fast and *addi* lace needles now come in a full range of sizes.
- The size needle can vary according to the project. The finer the needle the more stable the finished piece.