

8ply Acrylic Yarn Test 2017



This is an independent assessment of 30 different acrylic yarns currently available to purchase in September of 2017.

While there are more brands on the market, the ones chosen are the most readily available to Australian shoppers from both in-store and online yarn suppliers.

Each brand is being evaluated based on a single ball of yarn. While a brand should strive to ensure every ball is made equal, it is probable that there is some difference between yarn of the same brand from a different dye lot.

Every effort has been made to ensure this test remains unbiased and to ensure each part of the test is completed equally without any change in conditions.

The test has been broken down into 3 parts with an overall summary at the end.

PART 1 (Value)

PART 2 (Feel & Flaws)

PART 3 (Wash & Wear)

Each yarn was purchased in a different colour for the sole purpose of being able to distinguish them in the event they became mixed up in the wash.

The results should not be interpreted as definitive proof that one brand supersedes another. There are a lot of similarities between the brands and the differences are often very minor.

This test is intended to both outline that they have much in common as well as help guide you to choose a yarn that best fits your needs. If value is what sways your yarn choice, part A will be of use to you. If workability is your priority, part B can help you choose a yarn that suits your needs. If you need a durable yarn able to withstand a lot of wash and wear, then the results of part C may interest you. Please consider all of the qualities of a brand for yourself.

This test was conducted in October of 2017. The results will be available to download online from

www.lismorecrochet.com

8ply Acrylic Test - PART 1

- (a) **COST:** In Australian dollars. This was the retail cost to me to buy each yarn at the time. Where a yarn was on special, the RRP was used. Some brands were purchased online, others in store. Those shipped in from outside Australia had the cost converted to AUD. Shipping costs were not counted.
- (b) **WEIGHT:** All yarns were weighed without the paper band, on the same day, outdoors in 24 degree weather. Where a yarn weighed exactly 100g, a score of 0 was noted. Those weighing more or less were noted by the number of grams under or over. +2g -1g
- (c) **LENGTH:** Where a paper band stated the meterage, the length was recorded. Those written in yards were converted to metres. The brands that did not state a length were not able to be included in this part.
- (d) **\$ per m:** Cost per metre. The price of 100g worth of each yarn was divided by the number of metres you would get in 100g to find out the cost per metre of yarn.
- (e) **Value Rank:** Only the yarns with a length were included in this ranking. Based on the price per metre, the yarns were ranked from cheapest to most expensive. Where 2 yarns achieved the same price per metre, the weight was used to decide which to rank higher. (+2g beats 0).

The cheapest 5 brands have been highlighted.

This part of the test only evaluates the quantity of yarn you are getting. Value for money is important when purchasing a yarn, but cheaper often does not mean better.



8ply Acrylic Test

PART 1 - Value

	a	b	c	d	e
	PRICE (AUD)	WEIGHT (g) +/-	LENGTH (m)	\$ per m	Value Rank
PANDA Acrocraft	3.50	-1	200	.0175	20
BERGERE Barisienne (50gx2)	6.60	0	280	.0235	24
PANDA Magnum	4.00	+4	-	-	-
YATSAL Knitting Yarn	2.00	-1	-	-	-
JAMES C BRETT Top Value	3.00	0	-	-	-
PAINTBOX Simply DK	3.85	0	276	.0139	14
CARNIVAL 8ply	3.50	-2	271	.0129	11
HAYFIELD Bonus DK	3.85	+3	280	.0137	13
LINCRAFT Double Knitting	4.00	0	270	.0148	17
HOME & CO 8ply Acrylic	3.50	+2	271	.0129	10
ALDI Cosy Collection	2.50	0	-	-	-
FIDDLESTICKS Superb 8	4.30	+2	250	.0172	19
SCHEEPJES Colour Crafter	4.50	+1	300	.0150	18
SACHENMAYER Bravo Originals (50g x 2)	5.70	0	266	.0214	21
4 SEASONS Marvel Soft	4.99	0	230	.0216	22
4 SEASONS Stallion	2.79	+2	230	.0121	8
STYLECRAFT Special DK	3.16	0	295	.0107	4
MALLI Knitting Yarn	2.00	-6	-	-	-
4 SEASONS Marvel	3.99	+2	283	.0140	15
PANDA Thorobred	4.00	+2	270	.0148	16
CRUCCI Olympus	4.90	0	-	-	-
CARNIVAL Soft 8ply ((80g ÷ 4) x5)	4.38	0	192	.0228	23
ROBIN Double Knit	3.06	0	300	.0108	5
BIRCH 8ply acrylic	3.00	0	270	.0111	6
DERAMORES Studio DK	3.30	+3	273	.0120	7
MILANO Classic	2.40	0	300	.0080	2
KINGCOLE Price Wise	3.06	+7	290	.0105	3
HEIRLOOM Dazzle	4.15	0	310	.0133	12
NEEDLES 8ply	2.00	-2	310	.0061	1
KOALA Myrtle	3.95	-2	310	.0127	9

8ply Acrylic Test - PART 2

- (a) **SMELL:** Each brand of yarn was allowed to rest on an open table for more than 2 weeks to allow it to breathe before being sniffed to evaluate if it still had a 'factory' smell. A rank of 1 means there was no notable smell. A rank of 5 means there was a strong smell of dyes/machinery from manufacture still on the yarn.
- (b) **TOUCH:** The brands were divided into 5 groups. Group 1 was the softest to touch to cheek as an un-worked ball and as a crocheted rectangle. Group 5 was the roughest to touch both as a ball and to work into a square. The brands in each group were of a similar texture.
- (c) **FLAWS:** Imperfections in the yarn were noted as the yarn was being worked up. Any knots, variation in thickness, fluffy bits and colour imperfections were noted and each given a ranking from 1= flaw free up to 5 = multiple flaws. The yarn was only evaluated on the flaws for this component, softness was not taken into account, so a yarn may be rough but consistently rough.
- (d) **HAIR:** After being worked up, each sample square was tested by adding a handful of black & white cat fur to each square. The hair was rubbed into the square and given 5 rapid flicks of the wrist to shake off some of the hair. All samples were then compared to determine which ones attracted the most hair and which ones the hair did not stick to as much. Ranked 1 = minimal hair up to 5 = lots of hair.
- (e) **F & F RANK:** The results of the 4 above tests determined the final value ranking system. The yarns that scored the lowest number out of a possible 20 were ranked the best.

The nicest 5 brands to work with were highlighted.

This part of the test only evaluates the pre-wash consistency and softness of yarn you are getting. It does not take into account the value or durability of a yarn.



8ply Acrylic Test

PART 2 - Feel & Flaws

	a SMELL 1-5	b TOUCH 1-5	c FLAWS 1-5	d HAIR 1-5	e F&F Rank
PANDA Acrocraft	1	3	2	3	14
BERGERE Barisienne (50gx2)	1	5	1	4	18
PANDA Magnum	1	4	3	3	20
YATSAL Knitting Yarn	2	5	5	5	30
JAMES C BRETT Top Value	1	2	2	5	15
PAINTBOX Simply DK	1	2	1	1	3
PANDA Carnival 8ply	1	3	1	2	10
HAYFIELD Bonus DK	1	3	1	2	7
LINCRAFT Double Knitting	1	5	3	3	24
HOME & CO 8ply Acrylic	2	4	2	3	22
ALDI Cosy Collection	1	2	2	3	12
FIDDLESTICKS Superb 8	1	1	1	1	1
SCHEEPJES Colour Crafter	1	2	2	2	5
SACHENMAYER Bravo Originals	1	5	2	5	26
4 SEASONS Marvel Soft	1	3	1	2	6
4 SEASONS Stallion	2	2	4	5	25
STYLECRAFT Special DK	1	2	1	2	4
MALLI Knitting Yarn	1	5	4	5	28
4 SEASONS Marvel	2	4	1	4	19
PANDA Thorobred	2	3	1	2	11
CRUCCI Olympus	1	3	3	4	21
PANDA Carnival Soft 8ply	1	2	2	3	9
ROBIN Double Knit	3	2	1	1	8
BIRCH 8ply acrylic	1	3	2	4	16
DERAMORES Studio DK	1	1	1	2	2
MILANO Classic	2	4	4	4	23
KINGCOLE Price Wise	1	3	2	4	17
HEIRLOOM Dazzle	1	3	1	4	13
NEEDLES 8ply	2	5	4	5	29
KOALA Myrtle	2	5	3	4	27

8ply Acrylic Test - PART 3

- (a) ORIGINAL SIZE: Each yarn was crocheted by the same person with the same 4mm hook. 27 trebles x 20 rows. The size of the finished rectangle was measured while resting from edge to edge by placing it on a large metal ruler. Measurements were rounded to the nearest 5mm. (Width x Height)*
- (b) WASH PILLING: The yarn squares were washed 6 times in a cold front-loader machine. They were allowed to dry resting in the shade on a fine day, between wash loads. At the end of the 6 washes, they were grouped in to 5 piles based on the visible pilling (clumps, fluffing, fraying). A lower score of 1 = minimal signs of pilling. A score of 5 = shows the most pilling.
- (c) POST-WASH SIZE: The squares were then measured again to compare the original size to the post-washing size. The change in size was noted as 0 for unchanged and + / - and the amount of the change. (width height)
- (d) POST-DRYER SIZE: The squares were then measured again to compare the post-wash size to the post-dryer size. The change in size was noted as 0 for unchanged and + / - and the amount of the change. (width height)
- (e) W & W RANK: The yarns were then ranked by comparing each of the qualities from the above 4 tests.

COLOUR FAST: Prior to machine washing, the squares were all placed into individual bags with a square of white cotton to see if the yarn dye would run in the wash. All brands showed no signs of colour running.

*SIZE NOTE: Different sizes can be indicative of individual characteristics of yarn to suit different uses.

WIDTH : Wider = thicker (Amigurumi) 14.5-16cm Narrower = thinner (booties) 12-14cm

HEIGHT : Rigid = taller (rugs) 15-16cm Stretchier = shorter (beanies) 14-14.5cm

Yarns with a similar original size should be suitable to combine into a single project.

Those with greatly differing sizes would not work as well if combined on a project.

The most durable 5 brands were highlighted. This part of the test only evaluates the washability of the yarn. It does not evaluate the value or softness of the yarn covered in parts 1 & 2.



8ply Acrylic Test

PART 3 - Wash & Wear

	a	b	c	d	e
	ORIGINAL SIZE	WASH PILLING	POST WASH SIZE	POST DRYER SIZE	Value Rank
PANDA Acrocraft	13x15	2	0 0	-1 0	6
BERGERE Barisienne	14x15.5	3	0 0	-1 -0.5	22
PANDA Magnum	14.5x15	2	-0.5 -0.5	-1 +0.5	18
YATSAL Knitting Yarn	13x14	4	-1 +0.5	-1 0	28
JAMES C BRETT Top Value	14x15	2	0 -0.5	-1 0	15
PAINTBOX Simply DK	13x14	2	-0.5 -0.5	-0.5 0	14
CARNIVAL 8ply	14x15	2	-0.5 0	-0.5 +0.5	17
HAYFIELD Bonus DK	14x14.5	2	-0.5 0	-0.5 0	13
LINCRAFT Double Knitting	14x15.5	2	0 0	-1 -0.5	9
HOME & CO 8ply Acrylic	14.5x15	2	0 0	-1 +1	8
ALDI Cosy Collection	14x15	2	-0.5 0	0 +0.5	12
FIDDLESTICKS Superb 8	14x15	1	0 0	-1 +1	2
SCHEEPJES Colour Crafter	13x13.5	3	0 0	-1 -0.5	23
SACHENMAYER Bravo Originals	15x15.5	3	0 0	-1.5 -0.5	25
4 SEASONS Marvel Soft	14x14.5	3	-1 0	-1 +0.5	26
4 SEASONS Stallion	14x15	3	-1 -0.5	-1.5 +0.5	27
STYLECRAFT Special DK	13x15	1	0 -1	-1 0	4
MALLI Knitting Yarn	12x14	5	0 0	-0.5 0	30
4 SEASONS Marvel	14x15	2	0 0	-0.5 +1	7
PANDA Thorobred	14x15	3	0 0	0 +0.5	21
CRUCCI Olympus	15x16	2	-0.5 -0.5	-0.5 +0.5	19
CARNIVAL Soft 8ply	13.5x16	2	+0.5 0	0 0	5
ROBIN Double Knit	14x15	2	-0.5 0	-0.5 0	11
BIRCH 8ply acrylic	15x16	2	-1 -0.5	0 +1	20
DERAMORES Studio DK	14x15	1	-0.5 0	-0.5 0	1
MILANO Classic	14x15	5	0 0	-1 -0.5	29
KINGCOLE Price Wise	13x14.5	3	0 0	-1 -0.5	24
HEIRLOOM Dazzle	14.5x15.5	2	0 -0.5	-1 +0.5	16
NEEDLES 8ply	13x15	1	-0.5 0	-1 0	3
KOALA Myrtle	13x15	2	0 0	-1 -0.5	10

8ply Acrylic Test - RESULTS

The results table gives an overall ranking of all 30 yarns based on personal experience with the yarn over the course of this test and gauged by looking at the results of all 3 parts of the test. It is a personal opinion based off this assessment only. You may have a different experience with the same yarns as each ball or colour lot can differ.

An over all ranking A, B, C, D was given based on the overall performance of each brand.

A = Exceptional

B = Good

C = Average

D = Disappointing

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Almost all of the yarns felt much softer after going through the dryer on a low heat setting. Almost all of them did come out of the drier with increased pilling.

Some even showed signs they had lost some of their thickness. (Olympus, Aldi, Acrocraft)

3 brands curled up in the dryer and would not lye flat any more. Yatsal (dollar shop 'knitting' yarn, needles & malli)

The group A & B yarns I would recommend washing and putting through the dryer even before gifting. They wash well and soften even more in the dryer making them luxurious and are very low-pill so you would never know!

While some of these brands are Australian owned, it appears that the Australian companies do not produce these acrylic yarns in Australia. Where the band stated the origin of manufacture, it was noted on the last page.

Comments have been added to the final table of results on the next page.

8ply Acrylic Test RESULTS

	GRADE	MADE IN	COMMENTS
PANDA Acrocraft	C	China	Furry flaw. Width inconsistent. Nice low sheen.
BERGERE Barisienne	D	France?	\$\$ Avg. Furry after washing.
PANDA Magnum	C	India	Sticks to it's self. Fluffy knot. Not soft. Matte.
YATSAL Knitting Yarn	D	China	Cheap & nasty. Too shiny. Harsh to touch.
JAMES C BRETT Top Value	C	UK	Avg. Matte. Fluffy after washing / dryer.
PAINTBOX Simply DK	B	Turkey	Soft, tad furry. Pretty nice.
CARNIVAL 8ply	C	India	Avg. Pills in wash / dryer.
HAYFIELD Bonus DK	B	Turkey	Thick. Matte. Washes well.
LINCRAFT Double Knitting	C	China	Thin. Avg. Rough.
HOME & CO 8ply Acrylic	B	?	Avg. Not bad after a wash. Thinned a tad.
ALDI Cosy Collection	C	India	Avg. Not particularly soft. Thinned in wash, no pilling.
FIDDLESTICKS Superb 8	A	Turkey	Nice low sheen. Great to work with.
SCHEEPJES Colour Crafter	C	NL	Stretches thin as worked. Splitty. Pills.
SACHENMAYER Bravo Originals	D	Turkey	\$\$ Rough on hands to work. Thick. Furry.
4 SEASONS Marvel Soft	C	Turkey	\$\$ Avg. Fluffy. More fluffy after washing.
4 SEASONS Stallion	D	China	Yarn burnt finger! Glossy. Pills.
STYLECRAFT Special DK	A	Turkey	Glossy, smooth to work with.
MALLI Knitting Yarn	D	China	Glossy. Stretches as worked.
4 SEASONS Marvel	C	India	Avg. Washed fairly well. Still not very soft though.
PANDA Thorobred	C	India	Avg. Thick. Tough.
CRUCCI Olympus	C	NZ	\$\$ Imperfections galore! Matte.
CARNIVAL Soft 8ply	B	Turkey	Very thick. A tad splitty. Nice sheen. Washes well.
ROBIN Double Knit	B	UK	Quite thick. Avg.
BIRCH 8ply acrylic	C	China	Really thick. Avg.
DERAMORES Studio DK	A	US?	Divine & decent value. Nice low sheen. Favourite!
MILANO Classic	D	?	Very furry. Grippy. Matte. Does not wash well!
KINGCOLE Price Wise	C	Turkey	High gloss. Scratchy. Furry after a wash.
HEIRLOOM Dazzle	B	?	Avg. Matte. Decent wash durability.
NEEDLES 8ply	C	China	Knot. Inconsistent thickness. Glossy. Thick.
KOALA Myrtle	C	China	Low sheen. Splitty.