

Hand Sewing Needle Guide

Select an eye size that is large enough to work with the thread, yarn or ribbon you'll be using.

Needles are labeled by type and size. *The length and thickness of the needle increases as the size gets smaller.*

Example: A size 1 needle is thicker and longer; a size 12 needle is fine and shorter.

| Needle Type | Description | Usage | Sizes |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Ball-point | Rounded point | Needles are used for knit fabrics. They have a rounded point that goes between the yarns instead of through them. | 5 to 10 |
| Beading | Long, thin needles | These needles are used for sewing beads and sequins to fabric | 10 to 15 |
| Quilting | Shorter needle with a small, rounded eye | The shorter length of these needles enables you to stitch quickly and accurately. They are for quilting, making fine stitches in heavy fabrics and other detailed handwork. | 1 to 12 |
| Darners (Cotton) *Long * Yarn | Long needle with a long eye and sharp point | Used for darning work (mending holes) *Long for larger holes *Yarn for mending yarn (blankets, etc.) | 1 to 18 |
| Easy- or Self-Threading | All-purpose, sharp sewing needle with a slotted top instead of a standard eye | These are easy to thread by pulling the thread through the top of the needle. | 4 to 8 |
| Embroidery needles | Same length and point as an ordinary sharp needle, but with an elongated eye | Used for hand embroidery using floss. The elongated eye is designed to accommodate strands of embroidery floss. | 1 to 10 |
| Sharps | Medium length with a round eye and sharp point | Ordinary sewing needles for miscellaneous hand-sewing projects | 1 to 12 |
| Tapestry | Large eye, blunt tip | For needlepoint, embroidery and decorative stitching on loosely woven fabrics. These needles have a large eye to accommodate yarn, several strands of floss or decorative threads; its blunt tip passes through the fabric without damaging it. | 13 to 28 |
| Upholstery | Heavy, long and straight or curved needle | For sewing thick upholstery fabrics, tufting and for tying quilts. Curved needles are used wherever a straight needle is awkward or impractical. | 3" to 12" long (curved 1 1/2" to 6" long) |