

Do you want to know more than a ball of yarn? ... there is wool and wool!



'I believe in wool'

The 'texture' in short, of 'noble fibers', in a light reality about the material world.

The study and research in the choice of yarns are linked to the needs of the final result of the product. The most versatile fibers that make up the yarn are natural and noble, warm and fresh linked to seasonality.

Pure wool in a blanket, the real "**evergreen**" of home textiles!

It all starts with yarn: the world of knitwear, known and appreciated over the years and which I have not left, then dedicating myself to knitting furnishing accessories, leaving aside the topic of handmade (taken up by many and a bit fashion).

When we talk about blankets and cushions we think of the fabric (woven) in the various types of tied weaving: weft and warp with jacquard and printed processing. The knitted fabric (as well as the jersey) is constructed differently (always using electronic machines or by hand). The row of 'loops' one inside the other, on the predisposed needles in motion, building the stockinette stitch and if you pull the thread ...

In knitwear we start from the yarn to design and create a product (and not from the fabric already made). This is the problematic beauty of this world. It may seem secondary and linked above all to the accessory, but the shirt, despite its limits, is an 'elastic' reality that adapts nicely, using the right yarn and is functional to the various needs of our 'living well'! Here is an essential and functional beauty: if you want to protect a human or animal puppy, the memory of the 'dear sweater with a precise colour', with its strange smell-perfume of moments, the shawls of the old grandmothers of the past (such as were necessary) and other 'pieces' of the garments to wear ... if I think back to the strange effect I felt when I saw my grandfather's costume: it was knitted, made of felted wool.

Wool has its small place in the history of different ethnic groups, in stories, in fairy tales and in mythology itself, in wealth and poverty: it has a past, a present and will continue its path, always leaving a trace ...



Brief notes related to the type of animal that provides us with the raw material ...

-extra fine merino wool-

There are 2 types: worsted and carded (also applies to cashmere). The combed have a typical shaved appearance, are the lightest and finest and not 'hairy'. The carded ones are heavier but with a softer, swollen appearance and are warmer (for the application of finishes). With fulling and raising (compacting and brushing) the characteristics of the fibers are highlighted which, coming out of the yarn, give the typical hairy appearance. In the realization of my products I have deliberately chosen carded wool, appreciating the final result!

Among the different types (fineness and fiber length), merino is the one of superior quality. Obtained from the merino sheep, it is the wavy fiber, very soft fluffy fine. There are various parameters that determine the quality and value of wool. Each yarn has in the technical language, a "title" the relationship between length/weight: the higher the title, the thinner the yarn. The white and shiny new zeland merino wool fiber has special technical characteristics in length, strength, elasticity and unlimited colour opportunities.

In addition to the different types of sheep from which the wool is obtained, one of the elements of value is the “Pure Virgin Wool” brand (managed by Woolmark) which certifies 100% non-regenerated fleece wool.

-Shetland wool-

I like its rough hand and its simple, dry yarn look, suitable for the classic rustic country sweater. A very different fiber from merino wool (Merino sheep are puffy clouds of fleece, Shetlands are

wild animals, accustomed to the cold Scottish climate), it is fine and dry to the touch: as soon as it is processed, it is rough and hard (from the first shearing of the lamb around 4 months). The magic happens as soon as it is washed: it transforms and felts slightly, making the surface soft and light. It is a type of yarn that lends itself to colours: all the nuances are intensely beautiful!

-goat wool cashmere-

Noble yarn (status-symbol in the concept of luxury and comfort) with specific prerogatives: precious, very light, with an ultra-soft and very warm hand, it lends itself to colour dyeing in a unique and exceptional way. A truly super fiber! It can be both carded (preferred by me) and combed. Cashmere comes from the fleece of the Tibetan goat (*Capra Hircus Laniger*) whose habitat is characterized by strong changes in temperature (day / night). Its name derives from Kashmir, exported to Europe since the early nineteenth century. There are various quality levels: the undercoat hair, called duvet, soft and woolly, the outer coat called giarre, with stiff and rough hair. During the moulting season (spring) through the manual combing of the coat the finest part of the hair is collected, on average 100-200 gr. Natural white color is the most valuable and expensive. Then there is the one tending to brown to reddish and gray. Baby Cashmere comes from the first shearing of puppies (30 grams of fiber) of extraordinary finesse and softness.

-mohair wool-

The beauty of this yarn is the characteristic of the long pile, which also represents a limit in use. Let's say that it is often proposed in 'fashion' trends. It tends to be mixed with other wools and it is in its texture that the beauty of the colour is intensified. From the fleece of the Angora goat (not a mistake) a very long, soft and shiny fiber is obtained. It is bred in Turkey, South Africa and Texas. The most

valuable type has a milky coat but there are black, brown and pink varieties. Kid mohair is obtained from Angora kids: its fiber is slightly thinner than mohair, while the fiber of adult specimens is used to weave rugs.

A clarification: **angora wool** is obtained from the fur of the angora rabbit with even longer and softer hair. In this regard, I remember a suggestion: if you have an angora 'sweater', before wearing it, leave it for a few minutes in the freezer.

-bovine wool **Yak**-

I was able to use it, conquered by the austere beauty of natural and neutral colours, especially in thick yarns, with a nice yield and a soft hand. It is a yarn that is rarely offered on the market.

Native to the Tibetan highlands such as the Cashmere goat, the Yak is an imposing cattle with thick fur with long dark hair. Adapted to the extreme climates (4000/6000 m) of the altitudes of Central Asia, the Yak plays a fundamental role in rural subsistence economies. The fur is made up of three coats: the innermost one, thin, warm and fluffy, a fine wool that develops as winter approaches, losing it in late spring.

-Asian **camel hair**-

A most frequently used yarn in fabric. It is a fine hair with a good appearance and good hand, used in its natural colour of origin: the camel color! It comes from the two-humped camelid that lives in the deserts of Central Asia, between Siberia, Mongolia and China. To be shorn is the very soft duvet, usually reddish and brown undercoat, with thermal properties. The Camelus genus has always been used also for wool (it is a water-repellent textile fiber). They produce a woolly and fine hair that begins to fall in tufts during the spring and is collected with the help of special combs. The young of the camel up to the age of one year are 'blond' or almost white and their hair is particularly soft and precious. It is a yarn with its own functional preciousness, which is also well suited for use in the most classic fabric blanket ...

-The South American camelids: alpacas, guanacos, llamas and vicuña-

The Lama genus have been part of the life of the Andean populations for many centuries. Living between 3000-5000 meters above sea level, with high temperature ranges, they have always represented an important resource for the population (transport and food). Soft, light and warm fine fibers need to be treated with some

care as they are delicate. Due to their high cost they are also processed with other natural fibers.

-Alpaca-

A yarn that is enhanced in the mixture of other fibers, for its shine. It comes from the fleece of a type of llama raised in the Andes. The average yield is 300 gr, the outer fleece is coarse, while the undercoat is soft. The "Baby Alpaca" is obtained from the fur of the puppies, prized for its finesse and brilliance. There are two breeds of alpaca, the Huacayo and the Suri (rarer) which has a thick and silky coat, whose color varies (white, brown, gray, black). Shearing takes place once a year.

-Near-

Called since ancient times "Princess of the Andes" for its elegance and nobility - it has its natural habitat in the High Andean Cordillera (3500-5000 m). It lives in the wild and an adult specimen produces just over 250 grams of wool in a year. It is one of the thinnest fibers in the world: it is used in its beautiful natural shades (deep beige-fawn). The vicuña is included in the species protected by the CITES (Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species).

-rabbit wool-

Angora wool is obtained from the fur of Angora rabbits, mainly raised in China. Shorn every three months, 300 g of fiber, they produce a long, soft, fine, shiny and precious hair. It is associated with cashmere or sheep's wool, creating composite yarns because they are unable to withstand the stress of weaving.

Pros and cons of knitwear ?!

Pros:

the characteristic linked to the construction of the open and therefore elastic weave, makes it sensitive to use (rubbing and washing), developing what is commonly identified with the word 'pilling' on the surface (especially in carded wools). The other problem, which is also relative, is the classic 'tight wire'. The specific washing with water (30 degrees) does not ruin the product, if in doubt, we use the dry one

Cons:

Being able to choose the type of yarn in the various proposals: composition and thickness, plain and fantasy. Versatile in coloring, using yarns such as cashmere, mohair, shetland, the result is exceptional!

Following the various design phases starting from the yarn is a stimulating work, dictated by experience and passion. Research and study of 'knitting tests in the various processed points', how they react to washing, drops and yield, with the necessary changes and improvements. From the small sample to the counts (by the technician) interpreting the right 'voltage' to increase or let go, considering the importance of managing electronic machines capable of making sheets (which come down from the machine) that only at the end, after other steps of expert hands (finishes also by hand) you will understand if it will be OK! ...

On the site you can make beautiful discoveries and download a mini-catalog!



Working as a designer-artisan means investing in resources that make the difference. My message is to tell and intrigue those who, like me, are looking for an essential, elegant, refined taste, for an object that is only apparently banal ...