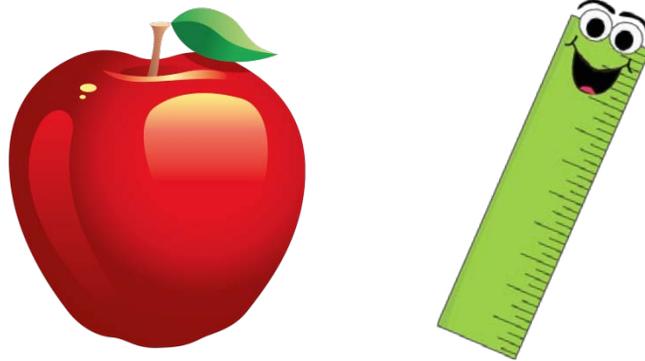


# “How Much Wool Do You Need?”

An Easy Cheat Sheet Created by  
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One of the most difficult things about rug hooking is calculating how much wool you need. All kinds of things affect how much wool you will use, including how high your loops are and how close together you place them. But let's generalize and make things easy!

Let's say, for instance, you are hooking a big red apple:



First, “square off” your apple, meaning measure it by multiplying its general rough width and length. In this case, our apple is roughly 6” wide by 6” high, or 36” squared off ( $6 \times 6 = 36$ ). Now, depending on the “cut” of wool you are hooking with (we learned about cuts in the previous section), multiply 36 by the corresponding number in the chart below:

If you are using a #2, #3 or #4 cut, multiply the area by 4  
If you are using a #5 or #6 cut, multiply the area by 5  
If you are using a #7 or #8 cut, multiply the area by 6  
If you are using a #9 or #10 cut, multiply the area by 8

In our example of the apple, if you are using a #8 cut (1/4” wide strips), you would multiply 36 by 6 to arrive at a total of 216 inches of wool to hook your apple ( $36 \times 6 = 216$ ).

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We're almost finished, I promise. We now know how many inches of wool it will take to hook our apple (216 inches), but how do we know what this means in actual "yardage terms"? We'll use another handy little chart to find the yardage we need. These estimated measurements are based on wool that has been pre-washed, pre-shrunk and fully felted (meaning it's shrunk as much as it ever will). To be safe, I always calculate in a little more wool than I think I will need, especially if I am hooking a background. Most suppliers of hand-dyed wool sell it in quantities called "fat-eighths", "fat-quarters", "half-yard" or "full yard", and they measure (very roughly) as follows:

A "fat-eighth" contains approximately 198 to 240 inches of useable wool
A "fat-quarter" contains approximately 396 to 480 inches of useable wool
A "half-yard" contains approximately 792 to 960 inches of useable wool
A "full-yard" contains approximately 1,600 to 1,920 inches of useable wool

In our apple example, we know we need about 216 inches of wool. Based on the chart above, I would be sure to have a "fat-quarter" piece on hand to hook my apple!



Have questions? Need more information? Please Visit Me at American Pie Designs:

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