

## Knitting Needles Used as Mesh Sticks or Netting Gauges

Knitting needles are often used as mesh sticks in netting patterns. Because knitting needles with the same size number have not always been the same size, it is important to know how to figure out what size knitting needles were used. A chart that compares the different sizes is very useful. One such [chart](http://www.fibergypsy.com/common/needles.shtml) (<http://www.fibergypsy.com/common/needles.shtml>) is located on [FiberLink](http://www.fibergypsy.com) (<http://www.fibergypsy.com>).

Some netting patterns refer to the smaller knitting needles as steel knitting pins.

Old netting patterns did not always indicate whether they were using British or US knitting needles as mesh sticks. One way to tell is to see where the pattern was published. If it was published in the United States, the knitting needle mentioned will probably be a US size. If the pattern was published in England, the knitting needles mentioned will probably be a British size. Another way to determine which needle-sizing method was used, is to look at the needle size given and at the pattern illustration. The chart below illustrates how that can help.

<b>mesh size in pattern illustration</b>	<b>knitting needle</b>	<b>use knitting needle from</b>
small	small number (ie 1-5)	US
small	large number (ie 9-14)	UK
large	small number (ie 1-5)	UK
large	large number (ie 9-14)	US

If there is no illustration of the pattern, you may have to make a guess; try it, and see if it works.