

Fiber Fineness: Bradford Count and Micron Count

International Fleeces uses both the Bradford Count and Micron Count whenever possible when describing our fibers. These are terms that refer to the fineness of the fiber. Having a numerical idea of what project a fiber might be suited for may help a spinner select an appropriate fiber. Of course, we are artists and may want to leave the numbers to the mathematicians.

Bradford Count

The Bradford count was developed in England in the town of Bradford as a way to determine the fineness of fleeces when all people had to rely on was their eyes. The Bradford count refers to how many 560 yard skeins can be produced from one pound of combed top.

Micron Count

A micron is actually a micrometer, which is one millionth of a meter. This measurement is used to describe the diameter of a single fiber of wool. A small sample of wool is analyzed in a Laserscan or some such device. As this is a physical measurement, the results should be very accurate.

Fiber Fineness Table by Bradford Count and Micron Count

<u>Fineness</u>	<u>Micron Count</u>	<u>Bradford Count</u>
Fine Wool	17-20	64s
Medium Wool	22-29	62s-50s
Coarse Wool	31-34	48s-44s
Very Coarse Wool	36-40	40s-36s

Sheep Wool Fineness Table by Bradford and Micron Count

<u>Sheep Breed</u>	<u>Micron Count</u>	<u>Bradford Count</u>
Arapawa	17	80s
Balwen Welsh Mountain	32	56s
Beulah Speckled Face	26-31	56s-50s
Black Welsh Mountain	28-31	54s-50s
Blue Faced Leicester	24-28	60s-56s
Bond	23-28	60s-56s
Border Leicester	37-40	48s-36s
Borderdale	30-35	54s-48s
Bowmont	17	80s
British Bleu du Maine	27-32	56s-50s
British Charollais	24-28	60s-56s
British Friesland	28-31	54s-50s

<u>Sheep Breed</u>	<u>Micron Count</u>	<u>Bradford Count</u>
British Oldenburg	27-28	48s-46s
British Vendeen	23-28	60s-56s
Blue Texel	27-28	46s
California Red	28-31	54s-50s
California Variegated Mutant	21-25	64s-60s
Cheviot	28-33	56s-48s
Clun Forest	25-28	58s-56s
Columbia	24-31	60s-50s
Coopworth	35-39	48s-44s
Cormo	21-23	64s-58s
Corriedale	26-33	58s-50s
Cotswold	34-40	46s-36s
Dartmoor	36-40	40s-36s
Debouillet	19-24	80s-62s
Derbyshire Gritstone	27-31	56s-48s
Devon Closewool	28-34	54s-46s
Devon Longwool	36-40	40s-32s
Dormer	23-25	60s-58s
Dorset Down	26-29	58s-54s
Dorset Horn	27-32	56s-50s
English Leicester	37-40	46s-40s
Exmoor Horn	28-32	54s-48s
Finnish Landrace	24-31	60s-50s
Galway	24-33	56s-50s
Gotland	28-32	52s-48s
Gromark	28-34	54s-46s
Hampshire	26-30	58s-54s
Hebridean	29-36	50s-44s
Herwick	36-40	40s +
Hill Radnor	28-33	54s-48s
Icelandic (thel)	19-22	70s-64s
Icelandic (tog)	28-31	54s-50s
Ile de France	23-28	60s-56s
Jacob	26-33	56s-48s
Kerry Hill	26-29	56s-52s
Lincoln	36-38	40s-36s
Llanwenog	25-28	58s-56s
Lleyn	26-31	56s-50s
Lonk	28-34	54s-46s
Manx Loaghtan	28-32	54s-46s
Masham	29-34	50s-46s
Merino	17-24	70s-60s
Montadale	25-30	58s-54s
Mule	28-34	54s-46s

<u>Sheep Breed</u>	<u>Micron Count</u>	<u>Bradford Count</u>
Navajo-Churro (outercoat)	38+	36s +
Navajo-Churro (undercoat)	22-23	62s
NZ Halfbred	25-31	58s-50s
Norfolk Horn	26-29	56s-54s
North Ronaldsay	26-31	56s-50s
Oxford Down	28-34	54s-50s
Panama	25-30	58s-50s
Perendale	28-35	56s-48s
Polwarth	21-26	64s-58s
Polypay	22-28	62s-56s
Portland	26-31	56s-50s
Rambouillet	18-24	80s-60s
Romanov (outercoat)	40+	36s +
Romanov (undercoat)	16-22	80s-64s
Romeldale	21-25	64s-60s
Romney	33-37	50s-46s
Rouge de l'Ouest	23-25	60s-58s
Rough Fell (mixed coat)	36-40+	40s +
Ryeland	26-32	56s-50s
Scottish Blackface	36-40+	40s +
Shetland	23-30	60s-50s
Shropshire	26-30	58s-50s
Soay	29-36	50s-44s
South Dorset Down	25-28	58s-56s
South Hampshire	25-28	58s-56s
South Suffolk	23-28	60s-56s
Southdown	23-28	60s-56s
Spelsau (outercoat)	37-40	46s-40s
Spelsau (undercoat)	19-22	70s-64s
Stansborough Grey	28	56s-46s
Suffolk	26-28	58s-56s
Swaledale (mixed coats)	36-40+	40s-30s
Targhee	22-27	64s-58s
Teeswater	30-36	50s-44s
Texel	26-34	56s-46s
Tunis	25-30	58s-50s
Welsh Half-Bred	26-31	54s-46s
Welsh Hill Speckled Face	29-33	50s-48s
Welsh Mountain	32-40	48s-36s
Welsh Mountain Badger Face	26-34	56s-46s
Wensleydale	30-36	50s-44s
White Faced Woodland	28-31	54s-50s
Zwartbles	26-29	56s-54s

Other Fibers Fineness Table by Micron Count

<u>Fiber</u>	<u>Microns</u>
Alpaca	17-35
Angora	12-16
Bombyx Silk	10-13
Camel	15-22
Cashmere	14-18.5
Cotton	13-21
Guanaco	14-18
Hemp	18-23
Linen	15-17
Llama	22-29
Mohair	25-45
Quiviut	14-19
Tussah Silk	28-30
Vicuna	13-16
Yak	18-20