

Shuttle/Thread Capacity Chart

When trying to wind shuttles CTM, wouldn't it be nice to know how much each shuttle will hold of the thread you are using? You would not have to measure as you are winding the first shuttle and try to remember how much you have pulled off so far, not to mention the tangling!

I like to measure thread by my "wingspan", the distance from fingers to fingers across my chest. My wingspan is approximately five feet. So I just pull it off and measure it that way and multiply the number of wingspans by five to get the number of feet. That way, I know to divide by five to get the number of wingspans I need. When a pattern lists the number of yards/meters needed on each shuttle for a pattern, I know to multiply by three and divide by five to get the number of my wingspans I need. Because everyone's "wingspan" differs, I decided this chart would be more useful to others if I put it into the number of feet, so that everyone can use their own method of measuring a foot. If you prefer to measure by yards/meters, simply divide by three.

About the bobbins mentioned on the chart: The Aero shuttle's bobbin is almost the same size and shape as the bobbin for the Singer 221 (old "Featherweight") sewing machine. In fact, the 221 bobbins can be used in the Aero shuttle. Both can be wound on the machine! These are also the same bobbins used for the Shuttle Brothers' GR-8 *double-bobbin* shuttle. While the Singer 221 bobbin will hold *slightly* more thread than the Aero bobbin, it is better not to overfill these bobbins. I suggest using these same measurements.

The "Class 66" bobbin is the one I chose to use for the column "Sewing Machine Bobbin" as I believe that is the one many people use in their metal shuttles (after some "adjustment" to the shuttle to accept it, as it's larger than the original bobbin). This bobbin holds the same amount as the Husqvarna, which is the bobbin used in the GR-8 *single-bobbin* shuttle.

The Susan Bates bobbin is the same as the bobbin that goes into the Pelc double-bobbin shuttle.

This chart may also be used as a conversion chart, of sorts. When a pattern calls for a particular brand/size/type of thread and you don't have it, or you want to substitute a different brand/type, you can simply find the specified brand/size/type thread on the chart and search the same column of the chart to find which sizes are comparable by matching the shuttle capacities. For instance, suppose a pattern calls for size 20 DMC Cordonnet, but I want to use Finca Perle Cotton for the color I want. I look at the chart and find that 30 feet of size 20 DMC Cordonnet will fit on my Clover shuttle. I then look at the Clover shuttle's capacities for Finca threads and find that the capacity is 25 feet for size 8 and 50 feet for size 12. The size 8 Finca is the closest to size 20 DMC Cordonnet, so I will use the size 8.

Shuttle/Thread Capacity Chart

Thread Brand	Shuttle Brand	Debbie A Comfi	Plastic Bates/Clover	Plastic Boye	Bobbin for Aero	Sewing Machine Bobbin	Metal Susan Bates	Metal Boye	
Manuela Size 5		±16	±13	±16	±12	±14	±11	±14	
DMC Baroque		±19	±14	±19	±13	15	±12	15	
Manuela/ DMC Cebelia/ Cordonnet Size 10		25	20	25	±21	±22	±13	±22	
Size 20		40	30	40	24	±26	±22	±26	
DMC Cebelia/ Cordonnet Size 30		60	50	60	±38	40	30	40	
DMC Cordonnet Size 40		70	55	70	45	50	35	50	
Size 50		85	60	85	50	55	45	55	
Size 60		90	70	90	55	60	50	60	
Size 70		100	85	100	65	70	55	70	
Size 80 ("tating" thread)		105	90	105	75	80	60	80	
Size 100		150	125	150	85	90	75	90	
Coron Cotton Size 120		200	170	200	130	140	110	140	
Size 160		280	220	280	180	200	140	200	
DMC Perle Size 3		±13	±10	±13	±8	±9	±7	±9	
Size 5		±23	±18	±23	±16	±19	±14	±19	
Size 8		40	30	40	24	26	±22	26	
Size 12		70	55	70	45	50	35	50	
Finca Perle Size 8		35	25	35	20	±24	±17	±24	
Size 12		60	50	60	±38	40	30	40	
Size 16		85	60	85	50	55	45	60	
Kreinik Braid Metallic Size 4	Full spool – 11 meters (36 feet) of this size fits on each shuttle.								
Size 8		*	30	*	24	26	±22	26	
Size 16		20	15	20	±14	±16	±13	±16	
Size 32		too tight	±5	±7	±4	±6	±3	±6	
McCall's Ribbon Floss		25	20	25	±21	±22	±13	±22	
YLI Candlelight		40	30	40	±24	±26	±22	±26	
Coats Button, Carpet & Craft		70	55	70	45	50	35	50	
Gold Rush 33% Polyester 67% Rayon		25	20	25	±21	±22	±13	22	
Gold Rush 48% Polyester 52% Viscose		20	15	20	±14	±16	±11	±16	
Trebizond Silk		*	30	*	±24	±26	±22	±26	
GlissenGloss Braid Ribbon 2 100% Metallic Polyester 2mm wide		too tight	±5	±7	±4	±6	±3	±6	

* Full Spool – 10 meters (33 feet).