

Historical Knitting Needle Sizes

Metric (mm)	Walkers Bell Gauge ¹	Diadem ²	Columbia (1918)	Good Shepherd (1918)	Fleisher, A.J.K, VB&H (1918)	'Standard' Wire Gauge (BWG) ³ [inches] ⁴	American Wire Gauge [inches]
2.0 mm	14	1	0	-	-	14 [0.083]	14 [0.072]
2.5 mm	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
3.0 mm	11	3	2	-	-	12 [0.109]	10 [0.12]
3.25 mm	10	-	3	1	3	-	-
3.5 mm	-	4	-	-	-	10 [0.140]	-
3.75 mm	9	-	4	2	4	-	8 [0.148]
4.0 mm	8	-	5	-	-	-	-
4.5 mm	7	5	6	4	4 ½	8 [0.18]	-
4.75 mm	-	-	7	-	-	-	-
5.0 mm	6	7	8	6	5	-	-

¹ [article, paper, chart](#)

² [Photos Referenced](#) for all other brands

³ [Source](#) British Wire Gauge

⁴ The sizes are also in inches as both wire gauges were designed around imperial units, so inches is more exact than the approximate/ rounded metric size. They are placed according to approximate mm for ease of charting.

5.5 mm	5	9	9	7	5 ½	-	4 [0.22]
6.0 mm	4	10	10	-	-	6 [0.238]	-
7.0 mm	2	10 ½	10 ½	8	6	-	-
8.0 mm	-	11	11	10	7	-	-
9.0 mm	-	13	13	11	8	-	-
9.5 mm	-	-	-	-	-	2 [0.375]	0 [0.375]
10.0 mm	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
11.0 mm	-	15	-	-	-	-	-

Historical and Modern Knitting Needle and Crochet Hook Conversions

Metric (mm)	Walkers Bell Gauge ⁵	UK (older)	US (modern)	Standard Crochet Hook (US)	Steel Crochet Hook (US)	Japanese [mm] ⁶
0.5 mm	24		8/0 ⁷		-	-
0.625 mm	23		-		-	-
0.75 mm	22		6/0		14	-
0.85 mm	21		-		13	-
0.9 mm	20		-		-	-
1.0 mm	19		5/0		12	-
1.15 -1.25 mm	18		4/0		11	-
1.3 mm	-		-		10	-
1.4 mm	-		-		9	-
1.5 mm	17		000		8	-
1.65 mm	16		-		7	-

⁵ [article, paper](#)

⁶ Japanese needles increase by 0.3mm per size so the actual size is in brackets. They are placed according to the closest mm for ease of charting.

⁷ HiyaHiya has/ had a set of 8/0, I don't know if they still make them and I'm unsure of what other brands have.

1.75 mm	15		00		-	-
1.8 - 1.9 mm	-		-	-	6/5	-
2.0 mm	14	14	0	0	4/3	0 [2.1]
2.25 mm	13	13	1	B-1	2	-
2.5 mm	-	12	1 ½	1 ½	-	1 [2.4]
2.75 mm	12	11/12	2	C-2	1	2 [2.7]
3.0 mm	11	11	2 ½	2 ½	-	3
3.25 mm	10	10	3	D-3	0	4 [3.3]
3.5 mm	-	9	4	E-4	00	5 [3.6]
3.75 mm	9	-	5	F-5		6 [3.9]
4.0 mm	8	8	6	G-6		7 [4.2]
4.5 mm	7	7	7	7		8
5.0 mm	6	6	8	H-8		9 [4.8]/ 10 [5.1]
5.5 mm	5	5	9	I-9		11 [5.4]/ 12 [5.7]
6.0 mm	4	4	10	J-10		13

6.5 mm	3	3	10 ½	K-10 ½		14 [6.3]/ 15 [6.6]
7.0 mm	2	2	-	-		-
7.5 mm	1	1	-	-		-
8.0 mm	-	0	11	L-11		-
9.0 mm	-	00	13	M/N-13		-
9.5 mm	-	-	14	-		-
10.0 mm	-	000	15	N/P-15		-
12.0 - 12.75 mm	-		17	17		-
15 - 16 mm	-		19	P/Q-19		-
19.0 mm	-		35	S-35		-
20.0 mm	-		-	-		-
25.0 mm	-		50	50		-

Historical And Modern Steel Crochet Hook Size Conversions

Metric ⁸	US steel size	French size ⁹	English size ¹⁰
0.75 mm	14	26	7
0.85 mm	13	25	6 ½
1.0 mm	12	24	6
1.1 mm	11	23	5 ½
1.3 mm	10	22	5
1.4 mm	9	21	4 ½
1.5 mm	8	20	4
1.65 mm	7	19	3 ½
1.8 mm	6	18	3
1.9 mm	5	17	2 ½
2.0 mm	4	16	2
2.1 mm	3	15	1 ½
2.25 mm	2	14	1

⁸ The metric sizes are based on the assumption that the US hooks are the same size today (this is normally correct)

⁹ [Source](#), from a "Shrimpton's" catalogue, post 1915

¹⁰ I am still looking for a source on the sizes of Penelope Crochet hooks which are referenced in many British patterns from the late 1800's