



Tip of the Month March 2019 - Centre Pulls



I often get asked whether it is better to use a ball of yarn from the centre or the outside. In the overall scheme of things it generally doesn't matter. It will however make a difference when you are using variegated yarn, as it can change the colour order. So if you are using more than one ball, be sure to start them consistently.

Another key reason that centre pulls are favoured is it will stop the balls rolling around all over the floor! (of course you could use some type of bowl to hold your yarn. I have seen some great examples of recycling for this purpose—teapots, cookie containers, Tupperware containers, softdrink bottles....) However finding the centre can be very difficult and often results in 'yarn vomit' - where most of the centre of the ball comes out.



I actually gave up on centre pulls and have been starting my balls from the outside until I started using Whirls again—these have an easy centre pull as the centre is already out to work from (As do many Scheepjes brands). So

I went on the hunt to find out ways to try and find the centre. Here's what I found:



1. Rewind the ball using a ball winder where you have the centre start easily identifiable and ready to begin.

This is okay for small balls, but can be time consuming for large projects and when using large balls.



2. Find the centre of the ball using your fingers. Using these tips I have about a 70% success rate, and find some brands work more than others.

- Usually the outside of the yarn is tucked into one end—pull that out and tuck it under the label.
- Insert your index finger into each end—one end is generally tighter than the other.
- In the 'looser' end, insert your thumb and index finger into the centre and feel around for some 'looser' strands (the centre)
- Pull the centre 'looser' strands out. You will pull out some extra yarn, but it shouldn't be half the ball.



I found several different tips and illustrations for doing this, but the best was by bobwilson123—check out her [video](#)