



KARCEM TEKSTİL · KNOWLEDGE HUB

Knitted Fabric Selection Guide

The right knitted fabric defines a collection's hand, fit and shelf life as early as the first sample stage. This guide brings together the knit families and how to decide between them on a single page.

KARCEM Tekstil — Vertically Integrated Dye House

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A T-shirt drooping off the shoulder after washing, a polo collar that ripples in its first season, or a hoodie whose inner face turns out thinner than expected; almost all of these are the result of an early decision made during fabric selection. In knitted fabric, the choice of type, GSM, yarn and composition are interlinked: change one and the hand, dimensional stability and cost change too. This pillar guide classifies the families in the [fabric catalogue](#), shows which one is right in which situation, and points you to the relevant comparison articles when you want to go deeper.

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Knitted fabric families

Knitted fabrics divide into a few main families according to needle arrangement and knit structure. Each family offers a different hand, stretch and GSM window. The short introductions below are a starting point; for detailed comparisons, see the linked articles.

Single jersey (süprem)

[Single jersey](#) is the most basic structure, knitted on a single needle bed: smooth on one face, looped on the other, lightweight and breathable. It is the backbone of T-shirts and underwear, typically working in the 120–180 g/m² range. With added elastane it becomes elastane single jersey and holds its shape in body-hugging patterns. We address how it differs from interlock and which is suited to which end use in our [single jersey vs interlock comparison](#).

Interlock

Interlock is a double-bed structure in which two needle beds work interlocked; both faces are smooth and full, and it does not curl. Because it is more stable and more opaque than single jersey, it is preferred for quality T-shirts, babywear and underwear. Its typical GSM is 180–260 g/m².

1×1 rib (ribana) and 2×2 rib (kaşkorse)

1×1 rib is an elastic knit in which one face stitch and one reverse stitch form the wale; it stretches considerably across the width, which is why it is used in collars, cuffs and waistbands. 2×2 rib, by contrast, is a derivative knitted with a two-by-two wale arrangement, with more pronounced texture and usually containing elastane; it stands out in pieces such as bodysuits and fitted dresses. The two structures differ in wale density, stretch behaviour and field of use; we explain the distinction in the [2×2 rib vs 1×1 rib differences](#) article.

Two-thread and three-thread fleece

Two-thread fleece is a durable, lightweight, [raisable/brushable](#) knit; it is the basis of the sweatshirt and tracksuit-top group (typically 220–320 g/m²). Three-thread fleece gains a thicker inner face thanks to an extra binding thread; when raised it becomes soft and warm, which is why it is used for heavier hoodies and sweatshirts (typically 280–420 g/m²).

Piqué and jacquard

Piqué, with its honeycomb-like textured surface, is the classic fabric of polo shirts and corporate wear (typically 180–240 g/m²). Jacquard is a structure in which the pattern is worked directly into the knit; with its mélange effects and fluid hand it finds a place in fashion-led womenswear. Both structures lead with their surface character.

The same fabric type can give very different hands depending on the yarn count and GSM. Do not make a final decision before you have held a sample in your own hand; numbers are only half the hand.

Decision framework: four axes

Once you have chosen the family, getting clear on four axes will lead you to the right specification. These axes affect one another; when one changes, review the others again.

Axis	What to ask	Practical impact
GSM (g/m ²)	What is the finished g/m ² target?	Determines lightness, opacity, drape and cost. For choosing a range, see the GSM guide .
Composition	100% cotton or a blend?	Changes the hand, moisture management, dimensional stability and fastness behaviour.
End use	What is the product, and how will it be worn?	Underwear, outerwear, polo or bodysuit each call for a different structure.
Stretch	Is elastane needed, and how much?	Decisive for how the pattern hugs the body and recovers. For detail, see the elastane guide .

In practice the sequence usually starts from the end use: you define the product and the way it is worn, from which the family and stretch requirement follow, and then you fine-tune the hand with GSM and composition. For a T-shirt, the choice between 150 g/m² single jersey and 220 g/m² interlock is not just weight; it is a difference in opacity, drape and perceived quality.

Finishing and fastness expectations

A knitted fabric's story does not end on the machine. The [greige fabric](#) that comes off the machine acquires its colour and final hand in the [finishing](#) process: pre-wash, dyeing, finish and, where needed, raising. Setting the chain up correctly ensures the fabric both stays as it looks and behaves in the wash as expected.

- **Colour consistency:** In reactive or disperse dyeing, the aim is to keep within-batch and batch-to-batch colour deviation under control in terms of ΔE (Delta E). At KARCEM this tolerance is run with a $\Delta E < 1$ target; in practice this means that on a repeat order the colour remains visually indistinguishable.
- **Fastness:** Wash, rubbing and perspiration fastness show how permanent the colour stays over the product's service life. Fastness expectations vary by end use; the threshold is higher for babywear

and frequently washed underwear.

- **Dimensional stability:** Shrinkage and width settle during the finishing and sanforising steps. The tolerance is typically framed as $\pm 5\%$ in GSM and a few centimetres in width.

Guides in this pillar

Confirm colour approval with a physical sample *and* a spectrophotometric measurement. Approvals given by looking at a screen alone produce surprises in production because of differences in light source and calibration.

Which fabric for which collection

The pairings below are a starting point; the final choice is always settled on a sample.

Collection / product	Primary family	Typical GSM
Basic T-shirt, underwear	Single jersey, interlock	120–220 g/m ²
Body-hugging T-shirt, bodysuit	Elastane single jersey, 2×2 rib	160–300 g/m ²
Collar, cuff, waistband	1×1 rib	180–260 g/m ²
Sweatshirt, hoodie, tracksuit	Two-thread, three-thread fleece (raised)	220–420 g/m ²
Polo, corporate wear	Piqué	180–240 g/m ²
Patterned / fluid fashion	Jacquard, mélange	160–220 g/m ²

Go deeper

The pillar guide gives an overview; we have deepened the points that most often trip people up during a decision in separate articles:

- [Single jersey vs interlock comparison](#) — single layer or double bed?
- [2×2 rib vs 1×1 rib differences](#) — wale arrangement and stretch behaviour.
- [GSM guide](#) — which g/m² range for which product.
- [Elastane and knitting](#) — choosing the right stretch ratio.

For technical terms encountered for the first time, you can refer to the [Glossary](#).

With KARCEM

KARCEM is a vertically integrated operation combining knitting, dyeing, printing and finishing under one roof; this means the fabric is controlled by a single hand from its greige state to its finished hand. We make the family you choose concrete in a sample → approval → production flow, and confirm colour consistency with a $\Delta E < 1$ target and fastness tests. With our commission (CMT) capacity we can develop custom compositions and GSMs. To clarify the fabric suited to your collection, [send us your sample and quotation request](#); let our team guide you so you start with the right specification.