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Spinning And Dyeing Yarn: The Home Spinners Guide To Creating Traditional And Art Yarns



Synopsis

Ironically, as we move toward a more technologically advanced world, the simple domestic crafts of old are making a comeback. People of all ages are discovering a deep love for weaving, knitting, crocheting and other fiber arts. Along with that has come the desire to create their own one of a kind, artisan yarns. When it comes to yarn, fiber lovers know that spinning and dyeing go hand in hand. Yet many books on the yarn craft cover only one topic or the other. In *Spinning and Dyeing Yarn*, fiber artist Ashley Martineau covers both subjects with rich, illustrative detail and step-by-step tutorials. Simply put, this book is a must have for fiber enthusiasts of all levels. Inside, four sections cover:

- Fiber Identification and Preparation** Explains the various fiber types--from animal wools and plant fibers to silk and synthetics-- how to clean and store them, and preparation techniques for spinning.
- Dyeing Techniques** Richly illustrated and easy-to-follow tutorials cover dyeing techniques such as hand painting, dip dyeing, gradient dyeing, solar dyeing, and more for animal and plant fibers.
- Spinning Techniques** Both drop spindle and wheel techniques are included, along with instructions on how to build drop spindles and a spinning wheel and setting spun yarns.
- Going Professional** When readers are ready to share their craft, they'll find helpful advice for buying wholesale supplies, preparing for shows, and marketing and selling their work. You will also find instructions for creating novelty yarns, spinning with fabric and feathers, advice from professional yarn designers, tips on improving work process, and more. With breathtaking images throughout, *Spinning and Dyeing Yarn* is one of the most comprehensive volumes on yarn design our editors have seen.

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Customer Reviews

When I didn't know a lot about spinning or dyeing, I thought this book was helpful. I do admire the book's focus on DIY, low-cost ways to get started, since this can be such an expensive hobby. It's beautifully put together and is really inspirational. The more I learned, though, the more I grew frustrated with the lack of detailed instruction in some areas. Instructions for dyeing are basically "put dye in a pot with wool--see what happens!" Not even any guideline measurements to get started. How much water? How much fiber? How much dye? I also find it a bit troubling that a book with little technical detail would include an entire section on marketing your work as a professional spinner/dyer. For example, in the section on hand-painted roving, the heating instructions just say to microwave the fiber. Well, yes, that will adhere some dye to the fiber. But heat needs to be applied to fiber for at least thirty minutes, give or take, for the dye to be as washfast as possible (and even then a lot of dyes have issues). So if someone microwave dyes their roving and throws it on an Etsy shop, someone's going to get roving that bleeds and fades way faster than something prepared more appropriately. This is just one example of techniques that are absolutely fine to use at home, but probably not appropriate for product intended to sell. I ended up wondering if the author uses these techniques in her own product. It's hard to imagine she doesn't have more knowledge than this, and that just makes me wonder why she didn't share some of it. You don't need to give away trade secrets to make the instructions complete. This is a good starter book, but honestly you can pretty quickly find books that surpass this, depending on what you're looking for.

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