

Fine Wool Handspun Yarns

Intermediate, 1 day

Do you look longingly at other spinners super fine yarns and wonder how they are created. . Learn the secrets of fine spinning, and then plan to create that special shawl or scarf from spider weight yarns that you spun yourself. This class, geared for intermediate spinners, will start you on your way. We will work with fine rovings, merino locks, and Optim™ stretched wool. We will practice scouring locks, combing and spinning with a worsted draw to achieve those superfine lightweight yarns.

Wool Spinners Tune Up

Intermediate Beginners, 1 day

We often don't understand exactly how our wheel works or how it is different from our best friend's wheel even though we can spin and ply wool with it. This class reviews the different types of wheels, drive ratios, take-up issues, and maintenance hints. We will also review various preparations, drafting, and plying techniques. Added together you will understand many of the dynamics affecting your spinning and your yarns.

Woolen & Worsted

Intermediate Preparation and Spinning Skills, 1-2 or 3 days

Learn the secrets to spinning soft fuzzy yarns for creating lightweight warm knitted garments and smooth faultless yarns perfect for weaving or intricate knitted patterns. As you concentrate on carding, combing, long draw and worsted drafting, you will be challenged to work toward yarns of different sizes and amounts of twist including fine and thick with different fleece. Take charge, and learn to spin the yarn that you want now.

Beguiling Blends on Hand Cards, Blending Boards, and Drum Carders

1-2 days

Wonderful options begin with the blending process. The workshop focuses equally on hand-carding and drum-carding. Sampling with hand cards shows how various factors affect the blending process. Drum carding is used to understand the different dynamics that come with blending fibers in quantity. A large batch of fibers is blended by two partners, pooled together and divided among all students. You will learn how to sample and record the processes for future reference.

Bouclé - Beautiful Yarn: Plying with Thread Binders

1 day

Bubbly, bouncy, bewitching, and beautiful! Break out of the spinning doldrums and put some excitement back in your projects. Bouclé yarns add that special spark to your knitted or woven creations. You will be taught techniques to spin wild and imaginative or reproducible and warp-able bouclé yarns. Explore the possibilities and spin the most expensive, fancy, bouclé-style yarns. You'll learn techniques for record keeping, allowing you to repeat the yarns you wish to spin again.

Color Options for Handspinning Painted Rovings

1-2 days

Wondering how to get the most out of your painted rovings? This class encourages and teaches you how to explore a variety of options and yarn styles with painted rovings. Learn to anticipate and spin toward your desired goals. Spin tweedy or colorful yarns, or perk-up or tone-down the roving colors. You can create thick or thin or fancy yarns for accents, plus you can spin coordinating yarns for a project. We will explore, spin, and discuss many options.

Cables & Crepes Handspun Yarn

1 day

A distinctive interlocking cable or braided look differentiates cable or crepe yarns from all of the other 4-ply yarns. Cabled yarns are very decorative, round and fascinating. Plying a plied yarn on itself creates it. A few easy to learn techniques guarantee success. They can be made thick or thin, multicolored or solid, smooth or textured. Spend a day learning all of the ins and outs of cabling and making crepe yarns.

Decoding, and Matching Designer Yarns **1-2 days**

How CAN I make that yarn? Inquiring minds want to know. Start with Patsy's secret yarn decoder! Student pairs will decode fancy yarn samples to understand the variety of structures utilized and how they affect later usage. You will be ready to spin the yarn you want once equipped with the structure information and wheel mechanics. Worksheets, a decoder, yarns and fiber will be provided. You may bring a commercial yarn and fiber for matching. Open to all textile students.

Illegal Yarns – An Incredible Plying Option **1 day**

Amazingly resilient and strong, spiral yarns can be created by breaking the cardinal rule of always plying together singles that were spun in the same direction. Isn't it illegal to ply an S and a Z together? Learn the important factors and avoid the problems spinning teachers warn against. Master this yarn construction and adapt it to several different fibers. This construction is favored by students who spin soft yarns.

Novelty Yarns, Basic Recipes **1-2 days**

Novelty yarns are usually the first yarns to catch our eyes with their alluring textures. Although there are untold variations to these yarns, there really are five basic recipes – that shape most of the hand spin-able yarn types. Learn to do a cable yarn, a knotted yarn, a lopi-style singles, a textured spiral, and a core-spun bouclé. Then you can vary each type by fiber, color and sizes spun. The worksheets for this class focus on wool and mohair fibers.

Plying & Finishing Smooth Yarns **1 day**

Simply ply! The task sounds so easy, but this last step can make or break a handspun plan. Hidden in many closets, poorly plied yarns reside with a corresponding fear of ruining the whole project. Over-plying and under-plying can be easily recognized and corrected. Banish your fears and learn various ways to ply and finish smooth lovely yarn.

Thick & Quick Handspun Yarn **1 days**

Thick, soft, fuzzy yarns make quick projects and have a special charm. Claims that thick yarns are harder to spin as you gain experience, can be put out to pasture. A few easy techniques and some intentional practice will have you spinning thicker yarns. Bring your spinning wheel with the largest orifice, to improve your techniques. Blending boards and drum carders are the excellent preparation tools. Learn how to use both and fatten up your yarn stash.

Cotton: The Handspinner's Last Great Frontier **1 day**

Take charge; don't feel intimidated by cotton anymore. This notoriously short fiber is easily tamed and mastered by changing a few simple techniques. Cotton is always soft, easy care, washable and machine dryable. It's a great yarn for weaving, crochet and lacey knits. It is available in a variety of natural colors, and preparations. Learn how to gin, card and prepare a puni - the perfect short fiber spinning package.

Flax a Very Old Spinning Challenge **1 day**

Flax is a classic fiber, albeit very different than wool. It'll easily become another joy of spinning after you learn new techniques to manage its particular characteristics. This class teaches you quick ways to dress a distaff with long-line flax, wet-spin line or roving, and scour finished yarns. While fibers are provided, you'll bring a spinning wheel or medium-weight spindle. Distaffs can be attached to your wheel, free-standing or one of several improvised creations from directions sent with supply lists.

Hemp, Ramie, Bamboo and Tencel: Cellulose Fibers Old & New 1-2 days

Hemp, ramie, Bamboo, and Tencel™, are all important cellulose fibers for today's spinners to understand. Three are very old and two are very new. We will prepare, dye, spin and ply all of them to fully understand their differences. Blends, novelties and combination yarns will be taught so you will know how to spin the ultimate cellulose yarns for summer shawls, tops and scarves.

High Tech Manufactured Fibers 2 days

Today's spinners have a wide variety of manufactured fibers available for spinning alone or enhancing natural fibers by plying or blending. Learn the fascinating history of manufactured fibers that began with a quest to reproduce silk like a silkworm. Work with rayon, nylon, shiny Mylar fiber and even the newest fibers: Tencel, SOYSILK®, bamboo rayon, Ingeo™ fiber and Optim™ stretched wool. This class will help you decide why, when and how you might want to use these exciting fibers.

Banana, Corn, Milk & Soy: Spinning Your Lunch Fibers 1 day

In the early 1900's, science had shown the way to regenerate cellulose fibers This encouraged the next quest to create fiber from a protein, and led to the creation of fibers from items we recognize as foods – soy, milk protein, corn and banana (not the fruit but the stalk). These fibers are sold now as Soysilk, INGEO™ Silk Latte, and banana fibers. These are very soft, fine fibers, which mimic silk and cashmere. Learn the differences between these fibers as you spin and ply to make the most of their natural beauty.

Optim Wool Fibers, the Most Select Fibers from Australia half day

Which fiber has silk's luster, cashmere's softness, and wool's spinning ease? Optim™ Wool Fibre. This 2004 Australian break-through process – permanently stretches fine wool fibers, reducing them to the diameter of cashmere, creating a very luxurious fiber with excellent qualities. Learn to spin and make the most of this exquisite fiber.

Bring a spinning wheel or lightweight spindles; learn how to prepare your wheel and your hands to spin and make the most of this exquisite fiber.

Angora Bunny, the Awesome Fuzzy Fibers 1 day

Angora bunnies are cute, fluffy, fiber producers. This fascinating fur fiber is in a category of its own, not wool, down or hair. The fiber can soften a yarn, create a fuzzy halo or imitate fur. Learn about the breed types and the special characteristics to consider when choosing and spinning this readily available fiber. Spend a day learning techniques for preparing, carding, blending and spinning angora.

Downy Fibers Dealing with Downright Daunting, Expensive, Undercoat Fibers 1-2 days

Take control of your daunting precious fibers. Buffalo, cashmere and cashgora from goats, angora bunny, yak and camel down are downright daring after you paid the price. They can be spun with relative ease after learning how to properly tune-up your wheel, improve your preparation techniques and execute correct drafting styles. Learn which expensive fibers you like best. Add tussah silk for the final luxurious note

Alpaca & Llama: Fiber of the Gods and The Peasants 1-2 days

What is regal, expensive, and reserved for the king? Alpaca! These fine, smooth fibers come in a multitude of colors, from two very different animal types huacaya and suri. What is light weight, warm, soft or strong? Fiber from the loveable llama! This friendly, personable, strong, brother-like, animal was part of the family carrying their heaviest loads. Today these wonderful fibers are available to spinners as fleece, roving, and cleaned top. Explore these fibers in class and choose your favorite.

Mohair the Marvelous Diamond Goat Fiber 1-2 days

Mohair is one of the most intriguing and confusing fibers on the market. The fiber comes in many grades and forms; has body and luster; plus charisma and cautions. This class is designed to help the spinner understand which grade of mohair, and which style of spinning is suitable for the desirable project, and what techniques are truly helpful. Starting with dirty mohair learn how to wash and dye the fibers before spinning.

Pygora Goats and Their Positively Pleasing Fibers 1 day

Pygora is a marvelous fiber that is making a comeback with heavenly clouds of fiber and glowing rovings. The result of crossing two breeds of goats had been a precarious ranching venture. Today the breed has a strict structure to insure 3 different quality fibers for spinning. Learn how to optimize your wheel for fine spinning as you learn how to make the most of this fine fiber.

Silk, Always the Queen of Fibers 1-2 or 3 days

Not hair, down, or wool! Silk, a gift from the lowly caterpillar, is perhaps the most mysterious of our fibers. Degumming hard cocoons into soft, spin-able fibers is the first task. Then spin a comparison study of the silk fibers currently for sale. Explore a variety of handspinning techniques spinning domesticated Bombyx as expanded mawata hankies, noils or sari threads. Indian Muga and wild Tussah silk are used in natural and dyed combed tops.

FOUR MORE WORKSHOPS THAT ARE NOT ON THE WEBSITE:

Twist and Grist for Unlimmited Corriedale, 2-day:

I can teach you how to make multiple yarns from a Corriedale fleece by understanding your wheel and the twist and grist as you spin.

Icelandic Wool: 1-day:

Learn how this double coated fleece can be spun and blended several ways

2+2+2, Spinning Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral/Manufactured Fibers, 1-day

This comparative, exploratory workshop, looks at similarities and differences between fibers from three different categories animal, vegetable, and mineral/manufactured. Ahead of time, the students can help with choosing the fibers that the class will focus on.

Charkas and Cotton, 1-day:

Charkas are special tools for spinning cotton. This workshop starts with learning how to set-up, repair, and use your charkas. Then how to prepare or choose cotton for easy spinning.

Spinning for Weaving, 2-day:

A look at my handspun, hand wovens, why and how the yarns were chosen and work. How to know if a yarn is strong enough for warp. Then, I'll teach how to spin turtexed yarns that are sufficiently strong for warp.