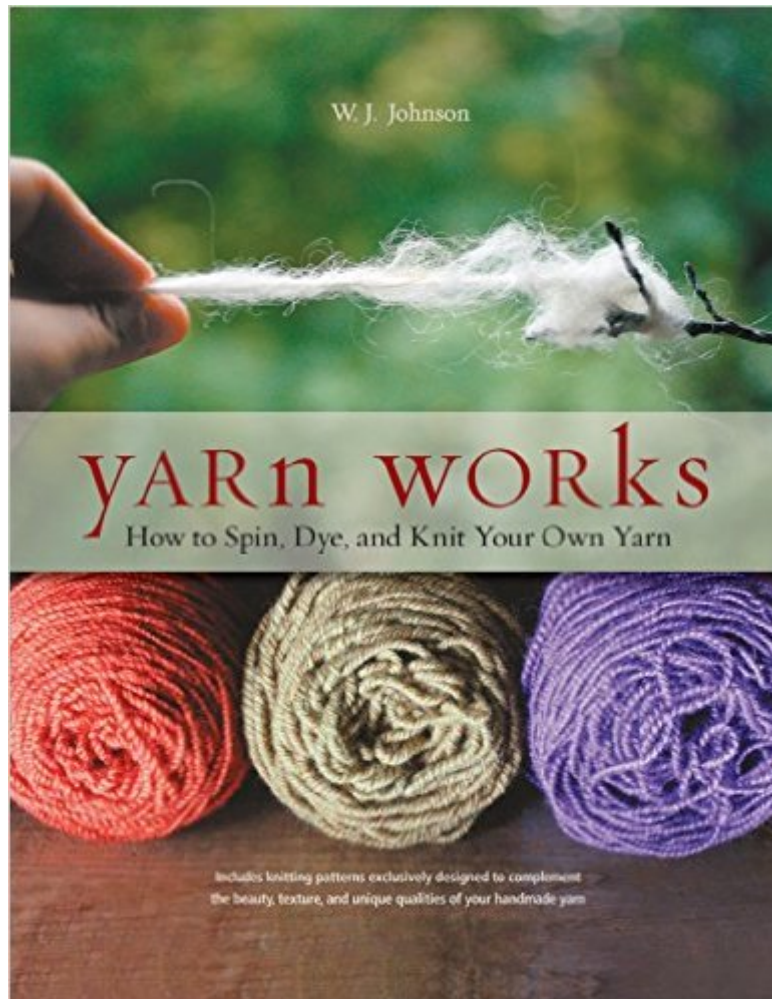


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# Yarn Works: How To Spin, Dye, And Knit Your Own Yarn



## Synopsis

Yarn Works is the ultimate sheep to sweater reference book for fiber enthusiasts everywhere. Have you ever wondered what the best spin method is for a chunky yarn? Or how to dye fiber to the color you want? Or perhaps your yarn isn't holding its shape when you knit... This how-to book answers all of those questions and more in a detailed, behind-the-science manner. The better you understand the science behind the subject, the better you'll be at applying your creative inspiration to spinning, dyeing, and knitting your own yarn. This book is divided into four main sections - Fiber Workshop, Spin Workshop, Dye Workshop, and Knit Workshop - and includes a brief history on each subject. Each short, informational workshop takes you through the essential learning activities for spinning, dyeing, and knitting, giving you the hands-on experience you'll need to master the subject. Follow yarn from its fiber beginnings, through the process of spinning, to dyeing the spun yarn with natural and synthetic dyes, and finally finish off by using your new yarn in fun projects. Whether you're a knitter interested in learning to spin and dye your own yarn; or a current spinner or dyer looking for inspiration, you'll find everything you need to know about the subject of yarn in this book, along with some great exercises to get your creative juices flowing.

## Book Information

Flexibound: 192 pages

Publisher: Creative Publishing int'l (January 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1589237889

ISBN-13: 978-1589237889

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.1 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #120,450 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Spinning](#) #15 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Dye](#) #32 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Nature Crafts](#)

## Customer Reviews

If I buy one reference book for spinning and dyeing, this will be it. It's a great overview for spinning and dyeing at the amateur-to-preprofessional level. If anything, this book covers too much, and could easily be split into separate books on spinning and dyeing. Thankfully, she assumes the

reader knows how to knit at an intermediate level, including chart-reading, double-knitting, lace and cables. The knitting section is a series of patterns, complete with exact specifications for her spin and dye techniques. In the past few weeks, I've read a lot about dyeing; this book hits the spot for acid- and fiber-reactive dyeing. It's a perfect mix of how to do things and the basic chemistry behind them. Other books tell you to use, say, soda ash because that's the best way; this one tells you the difference between soda ash, washing soda and baking soda, and why to use one over the other. The spinning information was less useful to me, mostly because I have enough fiber hobbies (so far). I'm sure other spinning books have greater depth than this one can due to its size. "The Knitter's Book of Yarn" covers fiber types in great depth, and this book contains a nice review of all fibers with an eye toward both spinning qualities and dye qualities. I love that Ms Johnson assumes the reader is intelligent. She doesn't condescend, repeat instructions, or say the obvious (such as, "The dye bath will be hot, and the steam can burn you ..."). She encourages the reader to be a complete artist, dyer and spinning-wheel mechanic, rather than presenting the answers. She also encourages the reader to use the internet for topics outside the scope of the book (e.g., dyeing with food colors). She doesn't ignore the topic; she gives you the tools.

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