

The Spinner's Book of Yarn Designs Book Study

Part 1: Back to the Basics

Chapters 1-3 : January-April 2024

Welcome to the Wool n' Spinning two-year book study of *The Spinner's Book of Yarns* by Sarah Anderson. This syllabus is to help you know what to expect from the Wool n' Spinning team during this season, so you can plan how you want to engage with the study. Your feedback is welcome; please let us know if you have any questions, or if you find this helpful.

Text: *The Spinner's Book of Yarns* by Sarah Anderson (Storey, 2012)

Tracks

You can engage with the book however you want, at whatever depth you want. However, if you find structure helpful, I've made suggestions for how you can participate in this study with your own spinning.

Track 1: Samples

Make a selection of samples for your own learning and records.

Materials: Any commercial wool top, 5-10 oz. For the simplest, most accessible option, choose a medium wool like Corriedale, in white or a light, easy-to-see solid colour.

Sample cards. E.g. index cards, dry cleaning labels, cut cardstock.

A way to store your samples: Sample card sleeves, cardstock binder pages, a journal, etc. These options will be discussed; no need to choose in advance.

A suggested list of samples to spin can be found on page 3, which is your customized schedule.

Track 2: Single Project

Dig deeper into some aspects of these chapters with a larger project over several months.

Materials: Fiber for a single project, of a realistic amount for you to complete within a few months.

If you wanted to do a capstone project for the Year of Colour but didn't have a chance, this would be a great choice. You could also work from your stash, or not! Choose a yarn structure from chapters 1-3 of the book.

A suggested timeline for the project can be found on page 4, which is your customized schedule.

Track 3: Choose your own Adventure

On page 5, we have included a schedule with the "assignments" area blank, so you can make your own plan, or skip the planning and use that page to record your explorations as you follow your own path.

Content & Meeting Times

Meeting times are subject to change. The following is current as of January 1, 2024.

Spinning Purls

Patreon level: 5\$ USD

Release dates: Thursdays, 2am Pacific

This is a curated collection of Rachel's past teaching content, pulled not only from past Spinning Purls videos, but also from the early seasons of the Wool Circle (originally called the Wool Stream), and other teaching content. These will be themed to coordinate with the book study topic.

The Wool Circle

Patreon level: 10\$ USD

Release dates: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 10 am Pacific/1 pm Eastern/6 pm GMT/Wednesday 4 am AEST

Rebecca records new demos twice a month, discussing the techniques covered in this month's book study, and sharing her own projects, samples, and finished yarns.

Spinning Staples

Patreon level: 35\$ USD

Meeting times: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 12 pm Pacific/3 pm Eastern/8 pm GMT/Thursday 6 am AEST
Meet in a live zoom discussion to discuss the book, answer questions, and share your projects as you spin along. Led by Rebecca.

The Studious Spinner - Staples & Queries Zoom Groups

Patreon level: 70\$ USD

Join both the Spinning Staples group, and the Queries & Explorations zoom group led by Rachel.

Meeting times: 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 9 am Pacific/12 pm Eastern/5 pm GMT/Sunday 3 am AEST

The **Live Stream**, the heart of Wool n' Spinning, will continue unchanged: Live on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, at the same time as the Wool Circle above. This schedule does not include the wealth of grassroots **Zoom meetings**, including Fiber Prep, Weaving, Virtual Spin Group, and Book Club.

Access to each of these levels is available on patreon.com/woolnspinning/join.

Topics ahead (Subject to change):

- June-August 2024: Singles, Spindles, and Sightseeing (1-3 cont.)
- September-December 2024: Ply Structures: 201 (ch 2, 7)
- January-May 2025: Ply Structures: 301 (ch 2, 4, 5, 8)
- June-August 2025: Basic Breed Intros
- September-December 2025: Texture! (ch 6, 8, 10)

Track 1: Spinning Samples

Suggested Materials: 5-10 oz. of commercial top, medium wool.

| Date & Topic | Reading | Purls | Wool Circle | Staples | Suggested Samples & Notes |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| January: Intro-duction, Twist | Ch 1: pp. 1-18 Ebook: beginning thru "Wraps per Inch" | 7th - Consistency | 9 th - Welcome & Orientation, my plans | 10 th - Welcome & Orientation, your plans | S and Z twist |
| | | 14th - Twists per Inch 21st - Deep Dive into TPI & Plying | 23 rd - My default yarn; Keeping samples | 24 th - Book study; Your default yarns | Default yarn |
| February: Extreme Drafts | Ch 1: pp. 25, 50-52 Ebook: "An Introduction to Woolen..." and "Drafting Techniques" | 4th - Default Yarn 11th - Default Yarn | 13 th - True worsted yarns, drafts demo | 14 th - Book study; worsted drafts q&a | True worsted |
| | | 18th - Worsted 25th - Comparing 29th - Sock Yarn | 27 th - True woolen yarns, drafts demo | 28 th - Woolen drafts trouble-shooting and practice | True woolen |
| March: Semi Drafts | Ch 1: pp. 52-57 Ebook: "Spinning off the Fold" to end of chapter 1 | 3rd - Worsted draft | 12 th - In Praise of the Short Continuous Back Draft | 13 th - Semi drafts, Book study, practice and play | Short-Continuous-Backward |
| | | From the Fold: 10th - Off the tip 17th - Off the top | 26 th - Over the Fold and Comparing Drafts | 27 th - Over the fold, have you tried it? Drafts Q&A | Over the fold |
| April: Singles for Plying | Ch 2: pp. 58-81 Ebook: beginning of chapter, stop at "Perfecting Chain Plying" | 7th - 2-ply 14th - Thru the Rings 21st - Further Plying (fractal & thru rings) | 9 th - Plying 101 | 10 th -trouble-shooting plying | Play with tension (p.71) |
| | | 28th - 4-ply | 23 rd - Juggling many plies; joining singles | 24 th - Book study; what structures interest you? | Traditional 3-ply or 4-ply with size variation, p. 74) |
| May: Stand-alone singles | See Next Syllabus! | | 14 th - Singles Show & Tell, demo | 8 th - Practice and Play with Singles | See Next Syllabus! |
| | | | 28 th - My large project; reflections | 22 rd - Book study; what singles interest you? | |

Track 2: Large project

Materials: Fiber for a single project, of a realistic quantity for you to spin in a few months.

| Date & Topic | Reading | Purls | Wool Circle | Staples | Suggested Samples & Notes |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---------------------------|
| January: Intro-duction, Twist | Ch 1: pp. 1-18 Ebook: beginning thru "Wraps per Inch" | 7th - Consistency | 9 th - Welcome & Orientation, my plans | 10 th - Welcome & Orientation, your plans | Sampling and Fiber Prep |
| | | 14th - Twists per Inch 21st - Deep Dive into TPI & Plying | 23 rd - My default yarn; Keeping samples | 24 th - Book study; Your default yarns | |
| February: Extreme Drafts | Ch 1: pp. 25, 50-52 Ebook: "An Introduction to Woolen..." and "Drafting Techniques" | 4th - Default Yarn 11th - Default Yarn | 13 th - True worsted yarns, drafts demo | 14 th - Book study; worsted drafts q&a | Spinning Singles |
| | | 18th - Worsted 25th - Comparing 29th - Sock Yarn | 27 th - True woolen yarns, drafts demo | 28 th - Woolen drafts trouble-shooting and practice | |
| March: Semi Drafts | Ch 1: pp. 52-57 Ebook: "Spinning off the Fold" to end of chapter 1 | 3rd - Worsted draft 10th - | 12 th - In Praise of the Short Continuous Back Draft | 13 th - Semi drafts, Book study, practice and play | Spinning Singles |
| | | 17th - 24th - | 26 th - Over the Fold and Comparing Drafts | 27 th - Over the fold, have you tried it? Drafts Q&A | |
| April: Singles for Plying | Ch 2: pp. 58-81 Ebook: beginning of chapter, stop at "Perfecting Chain Plying" | 7th - 2-ply 14th - Thru the Rings 21st - Further Plying (fractal & thru rings) | 9 th - Plying 101 | 10 th - trouble-shooting plying | Plying |
| | | 28th - 4-ply | 23 rd - Many plies; joining singles | 24 th - Book study; what structures interest you? | |
| May: Stand-alone singles | See Next Syllabus! | | 14 th - Singles Show & Tell, demo | 8 th - Practice and Play with Singles | Use your handspun! |

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|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | 28 th – My large project; reflections | 22 rd – Book study; what interests you? | |
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Track 3: Choose Your Own Adventure

| Date & Topic | Reading | Purls | Wool Circle | Staples | Self-Directed Assignments |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---------------------------|
| January: Intro-duction, Twist | Ch 1: pp. 1-18 Ebook: beginning thru “Wraps per Inch” | 7 th – Consistency | 9 th – Welcome & Orientation, my plans | 10 th – Welcome & Orientation, your plans | |
| | | 14 th – Twists per Inch 21 st – Deep Dive into TPI & Plying | 23 rd – My default yarn; Keeping samples | 24 th – Book study; Your default yarns | |
| February: Extreme Drafts | Ch 1: pp. 25, 50-52 Ebook: “An Introduction to Woolen...” and “Drafting Techniques” | 4 th – Default Yarn 11 th – Default Yarn | 13 th – True worsted yarns, drafts demo | 14 th – Book study; worsted drafts q&a | |
| | | 18 th – Worsted 25 th – Comparing 29 th – Sock Yarn | 27 th – True woolen yarns, drafts demo | 28 th – Woolen drafts trouble-shooting and practice | |
| March: Semi Drafts | Ch 1: pp. 52-57 Ebook: “Spinning off the Fold” to end of chapter 1 | 3 rd – Worsted draft 10 th – | 12 th – In Praise of the Short Continuous Back Draft | 13 th – Semi drafts, Book study, practice and play | |
| | | 17 th – 24 th – | 26 th – Over the Fold and Comparing Drafts | 27 th – Over the fold, have you tried it? Drafts Q&A | |
| April: Singles for Plying | Ch 2: pp. 58-81 Ebook: beginning of chapter, stop at “Perfecting Chain Plying” | 7 th – 2-ply 14 th – Thru the Rings 21 st – Further Plying (fractal & thru rings) | 9 th – Plying 101 | 10 th –trouble-shooting plying | |
| | | 28 th – 4-ply | 23 rd – Juggling many plies; joining singles | 24 th – Book study; what structures interest you? | |
| May: Stand-alone singles | See next syllabus! | | 14 th – Singles Show & Tell, demo | 8 th – Practice and Play with Singles | |

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|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | | 28 th – My large project; reflections | 22 rd – Book study; what singles interest you? | |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|

Calendar

This calendar gives you a rough sense of when things are happening during this unit. Topics and dates are subject to change.

January: Introduction, Twist

Spinner's Book of Yarns: Chapter 1, pp. 1-18

| Sun | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat |
|-----|----------|--|--------------|------------------------------|--------|----------|
| | 1: Radio | 2 – Live Stream | 3 | 4 – Purls: Intro | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 – the Wool Circle: Welcome! Orientation | 10 – Staples | 11 – Purls: Consistent Yarns | 12 | 13 – Q&E |
| 14 | 15 | 16 – Live Stream | 17 | 18 – Purls: Twists per inch | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 – The Wool Circle: My Default Yarn, On Making Samples | 24 – Staples | 25 | 26 | 27 – Q&E |
| 28 | 29 | 30 – Week off! | 31 | | | |

February: Extreme Drafts

Spinner's Book of Yarns: Chapter 1, p. 25, pp. 50-52

| Sun | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat |
|-----|--------|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1: Radio | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 – Live Stream | 7 | 8 - Purls: Woolen v. worsted | 9 | 10 – Q&E |
| 11 | 12 | 13 – The Wool Circle: Worsted drafts | 14 – Staples | 15 - Purls: Worsted | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 – Live Stream | 21 | 22 - Purls: woolen | 23 | 24 – Q&E |
| 25 | 26 | 27 – The Wool Circle: Woolen drafts | 28 – Staples | 29 | | |

March: Semi Drafts

Spinner's Book of Yarns: Chapter 1, pp. 52-55

| Sun | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat |
|-----|--------|---|--------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| | | | | | 1: Radio | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 – Live Stream | 6 | 7 – Purls: Semi Yarns | 8 | 9 – Q&E |
| 10 | 11 | 12 – The Wool Circle: Short Continuous Back Draft | 13 – Staples | 14 – Purls: Semi Yarns | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 – Live Stream | 20 | 21 – Purls: Short Backwards | 22 | 23 – Q&E |
| 24 | 25 | 26 – The Wool Circle: Over the Fold | 27 – Staples | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

April: Plying

Spinner's Book of Yarns: Chapter 2: pp. 58-95

| Sun | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat |
|-----|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------|----------|
| | 1: Radio | 2 – Live Stream | 3 | 4 – Purls: Plying | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 – The Wool Circle: All About Plying | 10 – Staples | 11 – Purls: Plying | 12 | 13 – Q&E |
| 14 | 15 | 16 – Live Stream | 17 | 18 – Purls: 2 & 3-ply | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 – The Wool Circle: Joining singles | 24 – Staples | 25 | 26 | 27 – Q&E |
| 28 | 29 | 30 – Week off! | | | | |

May: Singles Yarns: See Next Syllabus for Details!

| Sun | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat |
|-----|--------|---|--------------|---------------------|--------|----------|
| | | | 1: Radio | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 – Live Stream | 8 – Staples | 9 – Purls: Singles | 10 | 11 – Q&E |
| 12 | 13 | 14 – The Wool Circle: Spinning Singles | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 22 – Live Stream | 23 – Staples | 24 – Purls: Singles | 25 | 26 – Q&E |
| 27 | 28 | 29 – The Wool Circle: Capstone, Reflections | 30 | 31 | | |