

The Spinner's Book of Yarn Designs Book Study

Part 3: Ply Structures

Chapters 2, 5, 7, 8 : September 2024 - April 2025

Welcome *back* 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 suggestions.

It's time to dig into a topic many of us have been waiting for: ply structures. We will actually spend the next *six* months talking about ply structures, and this syllabus will cover the first half.

Whenever ply structure comes up, a side issue is the use of these yarns in socks. Socks are the ultimate durability test, and ply structure is a major variable in a yarn's durability. Sarah discusses this in her book, so we will spend time discussing socks as well.

However, *you* get to choose the best way for you to sample for *your* study: think about what weight and quantity of yarn is right for you to get through the number of samples you want to try. If you wish to spin a number of small samples, 15-30g of a worsted weight might be more sustainable for you.

Stay tuned, though: We *will* be applying these learnings to socks in early 2025 with something special!

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

Schedule

You can engage with the book however you want, at whatever depth you want. However, if you find structure helpful, I've made a schedule of what samples you could spin that would correspond with our content.

See page 3 for a complete schedule.

Materials:

- Any fiber you find easy to spin - 240-480 g / 8-16 oz. *for the next eight months.*
 - **Try a medium wool.** Most of these yarns have 3-4 plies, which means a lot of singles to spin! So choose a fiber *you* find fairly forgiving and easy. We're not studying fiber here, so keep it simple. A medium wool like Corriedale is a great choice.
 - **Try colourful braids.** We're not studying colour per se, but ply structure is one aspect of colour handling, so it's fun to see how the same colourway acts over a few different structures. If you have some pretty handpainted braids with no specific plans, use them!
- Sample cards. E.g. index cards, dry cleaning labels, cut cardstock.
- A way to store your samples: Sample card sleeves, cardstock binder pages, shower rings, a journal, etc.

Content & Meeting Times

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

Spinning Purls

Patreon level: 5\$ USD

Release dates: Sundays, 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 Thursdays, 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, 8 am Pacific/11 am Eastern/4 pm GMT/ Sunday 1 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, updated April 2025):

- May-July 2025: Interlude: Break from study, various topics
- September-December 2025: Novelty yarns (ch 6, 8, 10)

Topics behind:

- January-April 2024: Getting Started, Drafts and Plying (ch 1, 2) Syllabus [here](#)
- May - August 2024: Stunning Singles (ch 2 - 3) Syllabus [here](#)

Sampling Schedule

Date & Topic	Reading	Purls	Wool Circle	Staples	Suggested Samples & Notes
September: Chain-Ply	Chpt 2: p 82 – 91	Intro to Chain Plying here	Ep. 125: What Makes a Durable Sock?	Sept. 12: Intro to socks, chain ply demo	None (start on your singles)
		More on Chain Plying & Multi-Ply Yarns here	Ep. 126: Chain plying demo	Sept. 26	Chain Ply
October: Hawser	Chpt 2: P. 92 – 95	Chain-Ply demo (Live Stream, ep. 120) here	Ep. 127: 4-ply	Oct. 10	4-ply
		Intro to Hawser here	Ep. 128: Hawser	Oct. 24	Hawser
November: Cabled	Chpt 7: P. 154 – 165	Cabled Yarns: Tips & Tricks here	Ep. 129: Cabled	Nov. 14 – Cabled Yarns	Basic Cable
		Cabled Yarns Continued here			
		Cabled Yarns: Socks here Cabled Yarns (51 Yarns) here	Ep. 130: Cable Variation	Nov. 28 – Thread Cabled Yarns	Cable Variation: (Textured, with Thread, or Beaded)
December: Wrap-Up		Longwool Revolution! here	Ep. 131: 6-ply?!?! (p. 75)	Dec. 12	None (catch up, or work on singles)
		Year-End Wrap Up here	Ep. 132: Year in Review	Dec. 19: Year-End Party!	None (catch up, or work on singles)

January: Crepe	Ch. 8: pp. 166–175	Intro to Crepe here	Ep. 133: Crepe yarn	Jan. 9	Crepe yarn
			Ep. 134: Crepe Variation	Jan. 23	Crepe variation (Bubble, Slubbe, Chained, Spiral, or Beaded)
February: Opposing Ply	Ch. 5: pp. 122–129	Intro to Opposing Ply here	Ep. 135: Opposing Ply	Feb. 13	Opposing ply (recommendation: 3-ply)
			Ep. 136: Opposing Ply Variation	Feb. 27	Opposing ply variation (2-ply, 4-ply or pigtail)
March: Gimp	Ch. 4: p. 118	Intro to Spiral Ply here	Ep. 137: Basic Gimp yarn	Mar. 13	Basic gimp (2, 3, or 4-ply)

	Ch. 2: p. 74	Spiral Ply here	Ep. 138: Mitts samples	Mar. 27	None (catch up, or more variations)
April: Wrap Up	Sock experiment: Pp. 89-91, 129, 161		Ep. 139: Spiral Ply with Beads	Apr. 10 MOVED to Apr 3	None (catch up, or more variations)
			Ep. 140: Swatches from January-April	Apr. 24	None (catch up, or more variations)
May: Break Begins	none		Ep. 141: Community Participation	May 15	
			Ep. 142: Socks So Far	May 29	