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# Hand Spun: New Spins On Traditional Techniques



## Synopsis

In her newest book, *Hand Spun*, art-yarn pioneer and Pluckyfluff creator Lexi Boeger offers yet another exciting collection of new and innovative spinning techniques. This well-rounded book also covers a handful of traditional styles for the spinner to master and then turn on their ear. The many uses of these beautiful one-of-a-kind yarns are demonstrated in Boeger's trademark, surprising, and inventive projects. Learn the basics of fiber prep, from washing raw fleece to carding techniques. Find out how to adapt basic spinning styles to create cutting-edge forms. Be inspired by a stunning gallery of hand-spun yarns that combine various techniques shown in the book. Get complete instructions for 20 fashion-forward, yet accessible, projects including chunky scarves, fabulous hats, a belt, a rug, boas, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Pluckyfluff creator Lexi Boeger has forged a new genre in the craft of handspinning. With the publication of *Handspun Revolution* (self-published) in 2003, and *Intertwined* (Quarry, 2007)) a small cult interest has literally become the revolution it was rumored to be. Lexi Boeger has been a working artist, writer, and designer for twenty years and brings the perspectives and knowledge gained in these fields to the craft of spinning. She has brought creative spinning to the attention of the international art world through art yarn exhibitions and workshops, and has helped to permanently blur the line between art and craft. Boeger currently produces new works from her studio in California.

**Crazy Carding** Crazy carding is the perfect way for spinners, including novice spinners, to make highly unusual and creative yarns easily. The concept is to put as many different colors, textures, and materials as possible into one batt, then spin it into a simple thick-and-thin single. Very little skill is needed on the spinning end, and creating the batt is a fun and liberating exercise. Crazy carding integrates absolutely any fiber or material that will fit through the carder's drums, including silk waste, felted wool, tinsel, sequins, fabric bits, plant fibers, yarn, sparkle, silk noil, cotton, or anything else you could imagine. Be prepared to push your carder's capabilities to the limit. It is normal for the machine to card very clumpy at first, and it will be hard to crank. **Make a sandwich!** The basic process for crazy carding is to combine several different ingredients at a time and send them through the carder in a thick clump. This will cause the materials to be minimally blended together and will preserve many heavy textures. Short-fiber materials tend to get caught up in the teeth of the small drum and usually do not make it into the batt. To avoid this, sandwich all the short fibers, or other unusual materials, between layers of longer-stapled fibers such as mohair or processed roving. Visualize making a sandwich: spread a flat layer of mohair or roving out first as the bread, add uncarded locks (lettuce), semifelted wool (tomatoes), sparkle and silk noil (salt and pepper), top with another layer of mohair/roving (bread), and send it through the carder! Repeat this process adding different fixings in each sandwich. Sandwiches should be about 3" to 4" [7.5 to 10 cm] thick. Card until the large drum is full. **Spin!** Remove the crazy-carded batt from the carder. Starting from the outside edge, pull off spinnable strips and spin a simple thick-and-thin single; do not overdraft. Allow the lumps, bumps, tangles, and textures to remain. **Tip:** Card the batt only once. Overcarded batts tend to lose their interesting textures.

If you are looking for some new spinning techniques this book has some new ideas. It builds on the techniques found in the previous book by Boeger called, "Intertwined" by adding some twists on the techniques in that book. Handwoven is full of "how to" details with great photography and illustrations. I admit I was a bit disappointed seeing several sections from the Intertwined book were printed in "Handwoven" with the same exact photos. Upon closer inspection, I saw the reprinted sections do offer more tips on spinning that yarn and expanded techniques were added (great indepth details for "how to")...but they could have at least changed the photos! I am sure Lexi Boeger has mounds of beautiful yarns laying around to show off! Handspun is full of beautiful photos and lots of tips and techniques. I recommend this book to anyone wanting to spin art yarns! It is an EXCELLENT addition to my library.

I think this is a good book for people interested in art and textured yarn creation. There are books out there that are more instructional, but the photographs are fantastic and the interviews with other spinners is helpful. Sometimes it's not so much technique from other spinners that helps you learn more, it can be attitude and approach. For me, the attitude and approach were the selling points.

Book is great for art yarn ideas. Have had success in selling my yarns.

My first spinning teacher showed me how to ply and double ply. Lexi Boeger with her book, Hand Spun, took me way beyond that! My favorite is the ripples, beehives (cocoons?), and inclusions. Pictures and inspirations abound in this book. Want to get creative? This book is waiting for you to open it. It's a cookbook of spinning inspiration.

This is a glorious book! The photo illustrations are luscious! I have Lexi's previous book, "Intertwined" which I thought could never be outdone, but this does. If you already are not addicted to artist yarn's beware of this book, as you will be even if you have never involved yourself.

Enjoyed!

no issues- thank you

A great book full of wonderful ideas. Hand spinning at an Art yarn level. I liked the innovative way in which many fibres were used to make fun and fabulous yarns. Illustrations clear and large, a joy to browse.

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