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# The Intentional Spinner W/DVD: A Holistic Approach To Making Yarn



## Synopsis

If you are interested in exploring the infinite possibilities of making your own yarns, veteran spinner and teacher Judith MacKenzie McCuin offers insight, understanding, and invaluable information about your craft in *The Intentional Spinner with DVD*. *The Intentional Spinner with DVD* is a compendium of spinning wisdom, with a fun blend of technical knowledge, history, tips, and gently opinionated narrative. Yarn making is approached in three fundamental areas: **Understanding Fibers**: Compare the rich historic traditions of plant and animal fibers with the fascinating scientific advances in synthesizing fibers. **Managing Yarn Structure**: Step-by-step instructions and photographs demonstrate the range of possibilities in yarn, from sturdy plied yarns to playful novelty yarns. **Practical Uses**: Learn how to make yarns that precisely match your needs with decision making and planning to create the exact project you want from the beginning. *The Intentional Spinner with DVD* includes four projects that demonstrate how handspun can be used in weaving and knitting. The projects explain how to choose material, techniques, and finish the processes. The enclosed DVD features detailed information on yarn diameter, plying, novelty yarn structures, and finishing. Blending technical expertise and fascinating lore, *The Intentional Spinner with DVD* is a must-have reference for every spinner.

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Interweave; Pap/DVD edition (October 12, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596683600

ISBN-13: 978-1596683600

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 8.4 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

"Of course it's good! What did you expect? Judith MacKenzie-McCuin + Interweave = spinny goodness." - Knitty.com "In this complete overview of the art and science of creating hand-spun

yarn, McCuin covers characteristics of different types of fiber, techniques for spinning yarns, and caring for hand-spun yarn and includes a few basic projects." - Library Journal "5 out of 5 stars. Fascinating reading. This is an excellent, detailed book with lots of technical information." - Knitting News "If the words 'warp' and 'weft' spark off a dream of sitting by a spinning wheel on a wintry afternoon, this book can make your dreams come true. It explains everything you need to know about fibre types and how to spin, and includes several start-to-finish spin-and-knit projects." - AllAboutYou.com

When I first picked up [this book] I would never have guessed that this relatively small, slim volume held so much information. But then, to design and produce a yarn with the properties you intended, a holistic approach, considering all the factors contributing to a yarn's properties, is desirable. And that's a lot of information. Before moving on to yarn design, this book covers the qualities of many protein, cellulose and manufactured fibres (spider silk, anyone?), methods for analysing existing yarns, and spinning techniques from fibre preparation to singles creation, plying and cabling. The spinning techniques covered in the second part of the book are simply inspirational. The drafting methods alone will keep an improving spinner happily practising for hours, and the wheel adjustment flowchart is definitely a go-to reference. The plying, cabling and design section is so rich, so detailed, that a single reading (or two, or three) simply isn't enough to absorb all it has to offer. Techniques are described clearly and illustrated with step-by-step photographs. Four projects complete the book nicely, each requiring a particular type of handspun yarn, designed to encourage you to put the principles of the book into practice... Overall, I would definitely recommend this book to anyone seeking to improve their spinning repertoire, and I feel it is destined to become a well-thumbed addition to many spinners' bookshelves." Alison Barker (Online Guild) - Journal for Weavers Spinners & Dyers

"If you're a wheel spinner with some experience who wants to take a more intellectual and scientific approach to yarn making, The Intentional Spinner is full of information that can help you take your spinning to the next level." - Sarah E. White, About.com Guide

"If you're interested in the history and theory of spinning as well as the practice, there's plenty of in-depth information to be absorbed." - Inside Crochet

"The Intentional Spinner has a lot to offer spinners wanting to make their yarns more consistent, more like what they envision, or just more fun, you won't want to pass by this book." -- Cindy K, Knitcircus

"Novices will appreciate the easy-to-follow directions, while content on fiber preparation and novelty yarns will attract intermediate and advanced spinners." - Library Journal

"Not just a collection of information, but to a large extent a collection of wisdom. It has taken me 2 years of self taught spinning to gather just a fraction of the wisdom that she has jotted down in her book." - CastOn.com Podcast

"Judith MacKenzie McCuin is practically a legend in spinning circles. As in, she spins circles around

everyone else. If you spin even a little, run, don't walk to your nearest bookstore or library to take a look at this book." - KnittingScholar.com"Fascinating reading. This is an excellent, detailed book with lots of technical information." - Knitting News"If there's any reason to criticize Judith MacKenzie McCuin's *The Intentional Spinner*, it would be because there's so much detail in t

Judith MacKenzie McCuin is a textile artist with more than twenty years of experience. She is the author of *Teach Yourself Visually Handspinning* and has contributed to a variety of industry publications, including *Handwoven*, *Interweave Knits*, *PieceWork*, and *Spin-Off*. She lives in Forks, Washington.

This book is a good overview of the whole spinning process. I gained some confidence from it when I was a beginner, but haven't been back to it now that I've been spinning for several years. She doesn't do a great job of explaining why and when to use certain techniques, and I would have liked larger pictures across the board. Her real weakness is anything to do with wheel mechanics. She either has only a tenuous grasp of the physics involved, or is very careless in her speech and writing. Either way, I find it extremely detrimental to beginners, and irritating beyond belief to anyone with a technical background. *Interweave* really needs to get a good technical editor for her books, and especially her videos. The DVD is just clips from "*The Gentle Art of Plying*". If you thought you were going to get video of the spinning techniques in the book, you'll be disappointed.

When I grow up, I want to be a holistic, intentional spinner. Well written reference and friendly - almost as if she sitting right here talking about the items covered. First part of book discusses fibers and describes characteristics - animal, plant, and man-made. No great details, but lots of interesting information. Last chapter in this section has information about fiber identification, characteristics, and measuring devices. Second part of book covers the basic preparation and spinning techniques in a very user friendly manner. There are a few projects for skill building and a CD that is very helpful to watch along with reading about how to do it. I would highly recommend the purchase of this book.

This is an EXCELLENT book to get if you're wanting to learn how to and more about spinning. If I'd have read the first part about all the different fibers when I was younger, I might have become a scientist! The included DVD gives you a visual on what your hands are supposed to be doing, and she's really easy to listen to, like a good friend talking to another good friend. Your yarn can't help but improve after you've read the book and watched the DVD.

This author is superlative! Her instruction is clear and easy to follow, and the book has helpful supporting photos, making this an easy-to-understand book for beginners and more seasoned spinners alike. Highly recommended!

This is a comprehensive guide for the spinner. I have been spinning for a matter of weeks, and I found much in this book and dvd that was helpful. Judith is a terrific teacher; her gentle voice on the dvd instills confidence. I am reading the book, cover to cover; I don't want to miss a morsel of information. It is that good!

I love this book and DVD. Judith shares tricks about how to spin different fiber from Wool to Alpaca, from adjusting your spinning wheel to holding the fiber. She also explains the difference between 2-ply and a cable ply and everything between. There is also a chapter in this book about Yarn Design aka Art Yarn. Overall this book is a must have book for all spinners.

A wonderful, easy to understand book to keep as a reference. Did you know you can make clothes from fabric spun from nettles? Nettles! Well, not from the stinging part, but from the stalks.

This is a great book and DVD. However the DVD is defective - the content under Finishing (last segment of the DVD) is the same as the content under Novelty Yarns (an earlier segment). Of course, it is 31 days after the book was purchased so won't stand behind the product they sold. Not. happy.

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