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The Intentional Spinner



Synopsis

Offering a blend of technical knowledge, history, and easy-to-use tips, this inspiring collection of spinning wisdom deftly explores the three fundamental areas of yarn production: understanding fibers, managing yarn structure, and making yarns that precisely meet the spinner's needs. The rich, historic traditions of plant and animal fibers are fascinatingly juxtaposed with recent advances in synthesized fiber and mankind's use of fibers in the past, present, and future, while detailed, image-laden instructions for four intermediate projects demonstrate the range of possibilities, from sturdy, plied yarns to playful, novelty yarns. Spinners are also offered guidance on planning a project from start to finish, as well as how to care for and store completed projects.

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Customer Reviews

"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](#) "Not just a collection of information, but to a large extent a collection of wisdom." [Cast-On.com](#) "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" [AllAboutYou.com](#) "Of course it's good! What did you expect? Judith MacKenzie-McCuin + Interweave = spinny goodness." [Knitty.com](#)

Judith MacKenzie McCuin is a textile artist with more than 20 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 Augusta, Montana.

This book does a great job of taking the next step from the many beginning spinner books out there. She clearly addresses the technical/mechanical aspects of spinning and helped me understand how to step back from the "intuitive" yarn I've been making (which is pretty good yarn) and pay attention to the details so I can repeat my successes. A lot of the information she provided on fibers is excellent and the details there answered several questions I had. She has raised a storm in the spinning community with the sideways drum carding idea... but that is NOT addressed in this book.

One of the must haves for anyone interested in spinning or fiber arts. The author writes with great insight and makes learning a real joy. She has that rare quality of a storyteller that sparks an interest in the how and why of the subject. You will learn much more than how to spin a particular fiber. I would own anything Judith MacKenzie has written, even if it was only the introduction to someone else's work.

This book will save you airfare and hotel costs. It discusses everything she teaches in her classes. You have to read it slowly and carefully because it is so packed with information. I don't recommend reading it from cover to cover...pick out the sections that are relevant to the spinning question you are asking, and read it at the wheel. Know also that there are other ways to do the things that Judith doesn't teach that are good alternatives. Most of us do a short woolen draw that isn't forward. She doesn't endorse that. But it works. She is one of the most knowledgeable spinners of our time. Her book is a necessary addition to the spinner's library.

This is an excellent book if you want to learn how to spin. And even after you've learned a lot it'll keep teaching.

This is the spinning book I'd been looking for: detailed descriptions, lots of information, and the author's pleasant, personal perspective on spinning. The book could probably use more pictures, particularly for the newest of spinners, but I learn best from words and find the writing style particularly effective in communicating techniques. I'm very happy to have this in my small, but

growing, spinning library.

This is a must have for spinners, written by the master spinner Judith MacKenzie. She has a gifted way of showing and teaching. With this book I can learn from reading and the great photos. I don't have to learn by making mistakes. I would recommend this book for any beginning to advanced beginning spinner.

If you want tons of detail on processing everything and history stuff this is the book for you. The pictures are good and detailed close up where needed. If you want just the basics look elsewhere.

I've had my copy for years, this recent purchase is a gift for a friend who's a new spinner.

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