



YARN-I-TEC-TURE, A KNITTERS GUIDE TO SPINNING: BUILDING EXACTLY THE YARN YOU WANT

by Jillian Moreno.

*Storey Publishing, 210 MASS MoCa Way, North Adams,
Massachusetts 01247. 2016. Softcover. 240 pages. \$29.95.*

They're everywhere: Fiber fairs, Etsy, Dyed-Batt-of-the-Month Clubs, perhaps even lurking in the back of your closet. Spinners have snatched them up like candy, but like sweets, too much of a good thing can be overwhelming. Where do you start? In this book, Jillian Moreno guides you through the process of choosing, sampling, and eventually knitting a garment out of the colorful fiber that you just couldn't resist buying, but weren't quite sure what to do with once you got home.

This book is aimed at spinners who are confident enough to spin a consistent yarn, like to work with dyed fibers and are ready to spin for a specific knitting project. The book focuses on two areas: controlling your yarn to match the pattern you want to knit, and controlling color in dyed tops, roving, carded batts or punis.

There are many photos including samples of different fibers, examples of drafting techniques, and various color combinations. The chapters in the book cover a broad territory: wool breeds, fiber preparation, plying, finishing and evaluating your yarn, and knitting your project.

Included in the book are twelve patterns using handspun yarns. Patterns are varied and include notes from the spinner, an assortment of fibers and finishing techniques, and easy-to-follow knitting directions. After seeing the available color effects in the swatches, I was a little disappointed that most of the yarns in the patterns used basic color choices: almost solids, or straight forward color changes. The most interesting sweater combines the unique properties of handspun yarn (non-repeating color sequences) with an unusual construction, showing off the color changes in the yarn.

I wish the editing had been a little tighter as there are several inconsistencies in the book such as photos that do not match descriptions in the text, identifying a worsted yarn as long draw or suggesting a technique but not describing how to accomplish it. The author mentions twist direction in relation to knitting, but did not describe it accurately and did not mention twist direction for crochet although there is one pattern that includes crochet.

Overall, this is a lovely book, with lots of ideas to inspire spinners to spin and knit those colorful fibers that are overflowing out of their spinning baskets.

*Reviewed by Lynn Ruggles
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