

The WOOLERY®

Your Fiber Journey Starts Here!

Tame The Rainbow

Color Management for Spinning Hand Dyed Fiber

Hand dyed fiber is beautiful and lovely to work with but if you spin from it without planning you can create a muddy mess. Learn how to prep your hand dyed fiber to create a Fractal Style Yarn and Gradient Style Yarn. Practice chain plying to keep your colors together.



Woolery Spin Along Facebook Group

We will be hosting discussion and spinning along with you on our Woolery Spin Along Facebook Group. Come introduce yourself and share photos of your spinning progress with us!

Join Here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/455950598840395>

Note that it is a closed group to minimize spam, but you will be automatically accepted once you answer the question that pops up.

Facebook Office Hours

We will be most active in the Facebook group Monday - Friday from 12pm - 5pm EDT

Important Links:

Camp Woolery Info Page:
<https://woolery.com/camp-woolery/>

Tame The Rainbow Kits:
<https://woolery.com/tame-the-rainbow-kit.html>

Tame The Rainbow YouTube Playlist:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpmnt-0F93C5j_DiBjL9Z86Jcr-a-1Wuon

Woolery Shop:
<https://woolery.com>

The Woolery YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpVqe1fzws0Zg39GiAyawzw>

Tools and Workshop Purpose

The Woolery Spin Along Kits Include:

- Frabjous Fibers BFL Hand Dyed BFL Top in Calypso, 4oz
- Printed Tame The Rainbow Info Packet
- The Woolery Fabric Tape Measure



Additional Tools You Will Need:

- Spinning Wheel, E-Spinner, or Spindle*
- Bobbins
- Niddy Noddy

*To fully participate you will need a spinning tool. This can be a spinning wheel, e-spinner, or hand spindle.

Class Schedule

July 11th - 24th

Facebook Live Q&A July 13th 2pm Eastern

Week 1: Fractal Spin

Week 2: Gradient Spin and Chain Plying

Tame The Rainbow Welcome Video:

<https://youtu.be/rs1CRnPJ1Ac>

Why Color Management Matters

You can absolutely just spin hand dyed fiber without planning out your color placement before hand. If you've worked with hand dyed fibers before you have probably already done this! Letting the colors do their thing can be a fun experiment but once you have done that a few times you might want to plan the type of yarn you're getting!

We used Frabjous Fibers BFL in Desert Rose to create a sample of what we are calling "Chaos Yarn" to show the type of yarn you will get if you don't plan your colors.



As you can see there is a lot of random barberpole yarn and color mixing in this sample. If you want that look, that's great, but sometimes you want to plan what your yarn is going to look like.

We will be covering how to create a Fractal style self striping yarn and a gradient self striping yarn!

We used 2oz of fiber each for our Fractal and Gradient spin. Split your braid in half length wise. One half will be used for Fractal and one will be used for Gradient.

Fractal Spin

What is Fractal Spinning?

Fractal spinning is a way to control the color of hand dyed top or roving in a way that creates subtle self-striping yarn. It's a pattern within a pattern. In the traditional fractal spun yarn, you take a braid of fiber, split it in half lengthwise, spin one half of it as is, then split the second half into 2, 3, or 4 sections and spin those end to end onto another bobbin. Then you ply those bobbins together for a 2-ply yarn. A fractal is a pattern that is self-similar, and repeats itself in different scales. You achieve this pattern, by dividing the fiber in a strategic way to create a repeating factor.

Fractal Spin Video: <https://youtu.be/yRddjw248X8>



The long color repeats interact with the shorter color repeats to create an almost ombre effect as the color changes move through the yarn.

This effect can be seen in the knit sample where the pink is concentrated in the middle of the sample and the blue/green is concentrated on the outside. This color sequence will continue to repeat itself over the entire length of our plied yarn to create a self striping yarn.

Fractal Spinning Prep

Remember, we are using half of our 4oz braid for our Fractal Spin so we are using 2oz of fiber.

1. Split in half lengthwise.
2. Split one of your halves into 3 long lengthwise strips.
3. Split your other half up by color repeat to create short single color repeat strips of fiber.
4. Spin your long strips from Step 2 into 1 single. Set aside this bobbin.
5. Spin your short single color repeat strips onto another bobbin.
6. Ply both of your bobbins together into a 2 ply yarn.



Gradient Spin

What is Gradient Spinning?

Color gradients, or color transitions, are defined as a gradual blending from one color to another. This blending can occur between colors of the same tone (from light blue to navy blue), colors of two different tones (from blue to yellow), or even between more than two colors (from blue to purple to red to orange). Here we are blending hand dyed fibers together from a braid.

Gradient Spin Video: <https://youtu.be/HqzX1ED7BYw>



Gradient Spinning Prep

Remember, we are using half of our 4oz braid for our Gradient Spin so we are using 2oz of fiber.

1. Find your color repeat. For the Calypso kit color it is yellow, pink, purple, burgundy, purple, pink.
2. Rip your fiber after each color repeat.
3. Spin each of these ripped sections into a single. Be sure to keep your color sequences in the same order each time!

We chose to chain ply our Gradient single so we could ensure our color repeats stayed together. Check out the next page for more info on Chain Plying.

The gradient prep creates a lovely smooth transition from each color of our hand dyed braid. This will continue to repeat for the entire length of our yarn and create a predictable consistent self striping yarn.



Chain Ply

What is Chain Ply?

Chain Plying (also referred to as Navajo Plying) is a way to make a three-ply yarn from only a single strand. Spinners often use this method when they have spun singles from a multicolored top and want to avoid creating “barber pole” yarn as they ply. Chain Plying preserves the color changes of the original singles, giving you a striped yarn rather than a marled one.

Chain Plying the singles does shorten the run of color by two-thirds but generally preserves the color pattern and solves the balance problem of using the yarn as a single. It has a couple drawbacks: the little nubs where the chains intersect can disrupt the color flow, and when the color begins to shift, it can look jerky from one chain to the next unless you finesse the loops. If your priority for your yarn is to preserve your color changes then choose to chain ply!

Chain Plying Video: <https://youtu.be/y14JTCVKuzY>

Tips for Practicing Your Chain Plying

Always always – yes always – ply in the opposite direction from which you spun the single. Just because we are chain plying doesn't mean we forget this important rule! If you spun your single using a Z twist, you need to ply using an S twist. Conversely, if you spun the single using S twist, you need to ply using Z twist.

GO SLOW! And we do mean slowwwwwwww. Even once you get the hang of it, take your time.

Do not yank the single off the bobbin, pull slowly as you make your chains/loops.

Don't turn your tension too high because you want to be able to feed the plied yarn into the wheel when you are ready!

Wrap Up Video: <https://youtu.be/Ls5meLSGtOA>