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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

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Customer Reviews

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.

Judith is one of my favourites, simple, stylish and unpretentious. What I learned from Judith - Movement. I love to watch her effortless style at the wheel. Her fluid and harmonious movements as she manipulates the fibre are a pleasure to watch on the accompanying DVD. Many spinners have asked me to help them 'understand' the tensions and ratios on their wheels. Judith's exercise in making minute adjustments reminded me of playing musical scales; absolutely essential for anyone in getting to know their instrument. Her plying technique is rhythmic and smooth, to the point that she can read whilst she plies! Judith's tips on finishing are terrifying, telling us to do all the things we have been very careful not to. Now I give all the yarns I spin and sell a really hard time, ending with a thoroughly good beating against the wall. Judith is absolutely right, the yarn does blossom. If I could have one spinning book only, this would be it.

I was disappointed in this book, expecting that it would be mostly about spinning from a real master. Instead, over half is only about fiber prep. While I agree that properly prepared fiber is the first and most important requirement for good spinning, I have lots and lots of other sources for the information contained here on that subject--and what I needed was a really, really good detailed and focused book on the actual spinning methods so that I can hone what my fingers are doing. I long ago had to decide that I didn't have time to do a lot of fiber prep myself so I focus on buying good materials. This glossed over what I needed most, what to do with sliver or top when it's in my hands and, again, it seemed like it was assembled from a few articles extracted from Spin-Off magazine rather than expanded and comprehensive discussion. The pictures only gave a so-so idea of what you should be doing with your hands. It just wasn't up to my expectations.

Not what I was expecting. My low rating is not for the book as it was and still is exceptional as was the first release without the DVD but for the DVD. I was expecting spinning techniques on the DVD. The DVD contains excerpts from the Gentle Art of Plying DVD's which I highly recommend and are extremely detailed and well done. If you already have this book, do not buy the book with the DVD expecting spinning techniques or you will be disappointed as well. If you have the book already get the Gentle Art of Plying DVD's instead and you will be pleased. If you have neither then I recommend buying this package with 5 stars. Now, on another note. The book was received with the

upper corner damaged like it was dropped on the corner. The DVD was all scratched which really ticked me off. It is supposed to be a new product therefore spotless. This has nothing to do with the product but whoever packed it. Disgusting.

I did already have this book, and love it, but wanted the DVD also. It might not be a comprehensive spinning DVD but I do think it is a lovely addition to the book. If I didn't have the book I would absolutely buy the combination!!

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!

Nice book, but maybe I got a defective disc, because two of the chapters on it were exactly the same! This is not really a "learn to spin" DVD -- much is missing that needs to be there. It's pleasant to watch, but don't buy it if you expect a comprehensive lesson in spinning and plying.

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.

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