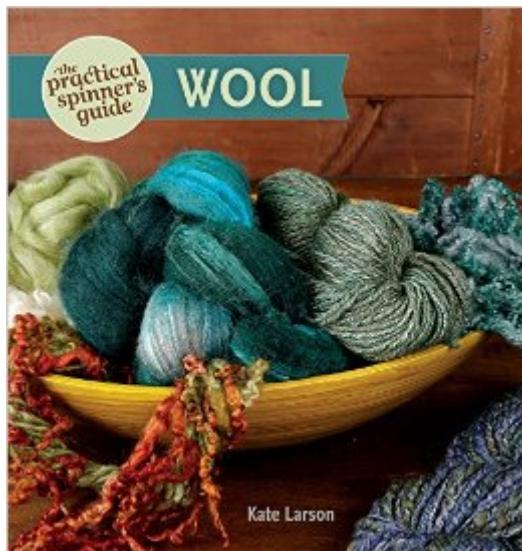


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# The Practical Spinner's Guide - Wool



## Synopsis

All you need to know about spinning wool--from sheep to knits! Spinners have been creating beautiful yarns from wool for thousands of years, but we still have unanswered questions. How do you choose a fleece? Should you process your fleece by hand or send it to a mill? What kind of prepared fibers are available, and what should you do with them? Fiber artist and shepherdess Kate Larson answers these and many other questions in *The Practical Spinner's Guide: Wool*. Topics include:

- An overview of sheep breeds and the characteristics of their fleece
- Washing, carding, combing, and blending fibers
- Purchasing and working with prepared fibers
- Techniques for spinning and plying wool to achieve the right yarn for your projects
- Advice on caring for fibers to protect them from unwanted pests and other problems
- Whether you're working with fleeces sheared from your own flock or spinning indie dyed fibers, you'll find a wealth of useful, valuable, and practical information in *The Practical Spinner's Guide: Wool*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kate Larson is such a gifted shepherdess, spinner, designer, knitter and all around wonderful person. Now add author to the list. This is a wonderful resource for "wool crafters" at all levels. Highly recommend

If I could give it 100 stars I would. I have taken spinning classes from Kate and she approaches this book like she does everything. She puts so much love and excitement in what she does. Many

times in class I just listen to her talk about all the things she has done and about all the different yarns. Her enthusiasm is contagious. Buy this book. It is a great read.

There are lots of spinning books out there but Kate Larson's approach is firmly rooted in, and showcases, her knowledge and experience as a shepherd as well as a spinner and crafter. The wealth of information in this book is just what a handspinner needs by providing an in-depth look at how to deal with unprocessed wool from guiding a purchase to finished object. But, Kate doesn't stop there. She also deftly addresses the widely-available mill-prep wool fibers by giving us a look inside the mills and showing us how the fibers are processed at scale, defining the different levels of processes and even ways to deal with problems. Naturally, Kate devotes a substantial portion of the book to the spinning process itself - from lock treatment (carding, combing, flicking) through spinning and even how to wind a center-pull ball. This is not a project book in the traditional sense of the word. Kate includes four - a jumper, bag, cowl and embroidered gloves - but they are a canny way to entice the reader into learning about the unique qualities of particular fiber preparations and, in the case of the gloves, take a step off the well-trodden knitting path to discover yet another use for handspun wool. It is rare to find a book that is so full of information that's presented in such an accessible, engaging way. With her stories of shepherds and their efforts in raising and caring for heirloom breeds of sheep, and her well-researched and well-tested approach to enabling the reader to make the yarn she wants, Kate sets a new bar for this genre. You'll not only learn enough to be successful with your first projects, it'll propel you forward into a lifetime of self-study and experimentation with wool.

Kate Larson is one of the most talented yarn-wizards I have ever met. And she is a generous teacher and such a kind-hearted individual. Her book is all of these things. Wonderful information, lots of great hints for managing your spinning practice, and fantastic information about using wool for fiber art. I am a fairly new spinner and Kate's tips--everything from picking a fleece (I'm reviewing that right now for a fleece-buying excursion) to carding and combs to actually spinning--is so helpful. Beautiful photos. Indispensable information. I love this book.

I am a beginner spinner and found Kate's book a wealth of information. She shares about different breeds, skirting and washing a fleece, different ways to prepare the fleece for spinning, using prepared fibers and the difference between worsted and woolen spinning. The photos are very helpful and inspiring. She is a talented spinner, knitter and weaver.

This is a beautiful book that was clearly written by someone with a deep knowledge and love of her craft. I am relatively new to spinning and working with wool, but I think this is one of those books that I will return to again and again for a long time. It is very readable and easy to understand (the great photographs also really helped me visualize everything that she is describing), but it is also packed full of well-researched information and thoughtful tips that will be interesting and helpful to newbies and seasoned handspinners alike. This book has already taught me so much about the practical, how-to aspects of preparing and spinning wool, and I was pleasantly surprised at how much it has also enriched my understanding of the wider context: sheep breeds and why they matter to handspinners, how woolen mills operate, etc. I'm so thankful to have this by my side as a reference guide when I am working, and when I'm not using it, I am happy to leave it sitting out on my coffee table (there are some seriously gorgeous fleeces and yarns in the photos!).

Seriously...buy this book! I LOVE this book! WOW! Let's just start with the way it's organized, which is total perfection. Every possible thing you can think of regarding wool, how fiber is made commercially, why people choose to make their own and how to do so. And how to do that really, really well. And it's all organized in a very logical manner, which is certainly \*not\* always the case with these kinds of books. Now let's talk about the level of explanation and instruction. You get clear, written instruction and...wait for it...actual pictures showing you what it should look like when you are actually doing this at home. Crazy, I know! And then there are the colors. Oh, the colors...the gorgeous, gorgeous colors...the knitting samples showcased...I could go on. But, really, just buy the book and see for yourself.

Very well organized, great information. I've been spinning for about six years now, and got a lot of good information from this book. Mostly because of her clear explanations and great illustrations. As both a spindle and a wheel spinner, I absolutely loved the woolen and worsted drafts illustrated both for wheel AND for spindle. There are subtle drafting differences with the spindle. Highly recommended.

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