

# Spinning with a Purpose- Yarn Thickness

## Course Outline

If you can't find a particular article then you can search with in the Space using the search bar at the top of the page.

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Begin Here

A basic introduction, and information about the materials you'll need for the exercises in this workshop.

#### 1.2 Course Outline

If you've found this pdf then you've found this article. This is your road map for the workshop. If you're not sure what to read or watch next then refer to this document, or that post.

### 2. Measuring Yarn Thickness

#### 2.1 Introducing WPI

What is WPI, and how do we measure it.

#### 2.2 Measuring WPI

Video demonstration of how to use a WPI tool, and the issues you can run in to.

#### 2.3 Practical Exercise- Measuring WPI

The best way to learn about a hands on activity is to do it. . . .

#### 2.4 Further measures of yarn thickness

Introducing the head tilting-ness of ypp.

### 3. Controlling Yarn Thickness

#### 3.1 What actually makes a yarn thicker?

Oh it seems so obvious. . . but it's the fundamental to this section of the workshop.

#### 3.2 The mechanics of twist

Your wheel is a tool, how do you control it to make the yarn you want?

#### 3.3 Feet and Hands

Controlling twist and therefore thickness is a matter of coordinating your feet and hands.

#### 3.4 Practical Exercise- Spinning Slubs

Watched the video, tried to put it all in to practise, this trick is often the way that I get peoples brains to realise what they're trying to do.

#### 3.5 Spinning Finer Yarns

After you've learnt to spin thick yarns this part may well feel pretty easy!

## 4. Putting it all together

### 4.1 Practical Exercise- Spinning Scales

Putting our skills in to practice, we're aiming for certain yarn thicknesses now, not just "thicker" or "thinner"

### 4.2 Practical Exercise- Matching Commercial Yarn Thicknesses

Most of the time we're spinning yarns to use in patterns written for commercially spun yarn, it makes sense to work on matching our handspun yarns to the correct thickness.

### 4.3 What Next?

This course is a building block in becoming a better spinner. It's hard to talk about yarn thickness without talking about twist, or learning about consistency.

**Here's your guide to commercial yarn thicknesses and their corresponding WPI. This is not a set-in-stone list, and you will find other sources with different numbers, but it's a guide that has worked well for me.**

Lace 30+

Fingering 19-22

Sport 15-18

DK 12-14

Worsted 9-11

Aran 8-10

Bulky/Chunky 7-8

Super Bulky <6

Please share pictures of your samples in the course discussion threads. At the bottom of each article there's the ability for you to leave comments and ask questions. I will try and answer any questions you have promptly, but by working hours are 9-5 Monday to Friday, and I also run a dyeing business, you will get an answer, but it won't be immediate.

Please share generously. Pictures of what you've worked on in the exercises are of huge help to other workshop participants. If someone asks for constructive feedback please be honest and kind.

This workshop is a paid-for course. I think the cost is very reasonable, I believe that experts deserve to be paid for their time, and I hope you think it's good value for money. As I wrote in my Hand Dyed Fibre book, p

utting together projects like this takes a considerable amount of time. As a self-employed fibre artist I need to charge for that time. If you choose to share this content with people who have not paid for it you are, in effect, stealing. It would be very hard for me to know that you've done it, but in order to produce more of these workshops this one needs to pay its way.

If you are part of a group of spinners and you're all interested in this topic then get in touch, I offer online workshops at a really reasonable price.

