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*Everything You Need to Create One-of-a-Kind Yarn for Knitting*

**SPIN TO KNIT:  
THE KNITTER'S GUIDE TO MAKING YARN  
Shannon Okey**

Loveland, Colo: Sleeping Beauty would not have pricked her finger on a spinning wheel if she'd had Shannon Okey's **SPIN TO KNIT: THE KNITTER'S GUIDE TO MAKING YARN** (Interweave Press, October 2006, \$21.95) at her fingertips. This book is the essential handbook for any knitter who wants to explore making 100% original yarn for knitting. But beware: you will become a fiber fanatic! Knitters turn spinning into their newest obsessive hobby at the drop of a spindle.

City grrl Shannon Okey, also known as the author of *Knitgrrl*, starts from the very beginning, discussing the basic tools needed to dive into the world of spinning. From drop spindles to wheels, even uncoordinated folk will be spinning in no time. Knit with energized singles straight off the bobbin or ply your yarn for different effects. Dye fiber in your dishwasher or make it sparkle with beads and thread. It's all about creating an original masterpiece, and Okey leads the way with clear instructions, photography, and illustrations. She'd be happy to hold hands as well, but you'll need them both to spin! Okey promises all knitters can learn this fascinating art—just give it a try.

**SPIN TO KNIT** includes a multitude of patterns designed to make the most of your handspun, from those first few yards of "designer" yarn to entire bobbins full. Beginning knitters will love her take on the humble garter scarf and lace knitters will race for their needles to knit the Copper Moose Shawl. Knitters of all skill levels will appreciate the Mind's Eye Hat, Laurabelle Swedish Heart Shrug, and the Beauty School Dropout Pullover, spun from hairdresser's rayon. From socks, tea cozies, raglan sweaters, and ski headbands to wristlets, hats, and a jaunty felted bag, there is a pattern in this book for every personality and every type of handmade yarn.

Once a knitter becomes a spinner, they venture into a new community, welcomed first-hand by Okey. Not every spinner has sheep, rabbits, or a cotton crop on the back 40 acres. They're sitting on balconies twelve stories up, spinning in the urban air. **SPIN TO KNIT** offers in-depth profiles of urban spinners across the United States and Canada. Learn how these spinners got started and their insider tips for spinning with style.

Trust Okey, spinning is easy to learn. And with handspun fiber so hot, **SPIN TO KNIT** is everything you'll need to create whatever yarn YOU desire. Inventive patterns and step-by-step directions make this book a winner for newbie spinners. Dare to be different—commercial yarn is so last year.

**SPIN TO KNIT:  
THE KNITTER'S GUIDE TO MAKING YARN  
by Shannon Okey**

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150 photographs • 25 illustrations

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**About the Author:** Shannon Okey learned to spin in 2002 after many years as a knitter and artist. She has appeared on the DIY Network's *Uncommon Threads* and *Knitty Gritty*, and HGTV's *Crafters Coast to Coast*. Her books include *Knitrrrl* (Watson Guptill, 2005) and *Knitrrrl 2* (Watson Guptill, 2006), as well as a forthcoming felt book (Interweave, 2007). She is a city coordinator for national indie craft show *Bazaar Bizarre* and lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

**About Interweave Press:** In business since 1975, Interweave Press LLC publishes magazines and books related to fiber, thread, needlework, and beads. Throughout Interweave's evolution, its publications have focused on natural materials and processes, a respect for doing, and an appreciation of the fine, simple things in life. Interweave publishes six magazines including *Beadwork*, *Handwoven*, *Interweave Knits*, *PieceWork*, *Spin-Off*, and *Fiberarts*. Interweave is dedicated to creating a resource for its readers to find the best information in the field of interest, the latest news, the best products, the newest techniques, and the history behind the techniques.

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## Get to Know Shannon Okey, the spinner and Shannon Okey, the knitter

**Q:** How did you get into spinning and knitting?

**A:** I knew the basics of knitting already, but in 2002 both came to a head when I moved to Boston . . . conveniently around the corner from a yarn store! Lucy Lee of Mind's Eye Yarns in Cambridge, MA, was instrumental in taking my knitting skills to the next level, and teaching me how to spin. I had been halfheartedly attempting to knit a scarf for ages, but when I signed up for lessons Lucy asked me what I really wanted to knit. "A cardigan," I said, and she pointed me to the yarn wall. Her only suggestion was that I make it gray, rather than black—easier to see the stitches! I had it finished within a month. Not long after, I walked in and asked her to order me a wheel. She did. When it arrived, I signed up for another lesson. "You just ordered a wheel and you don't even know how to use it?" asked Lucy. No, but five minutes later she had me spinning. I owe Lucy a great debt for her intuitive teaching, encouragement, and for introducing me to Eddie . . . a sheep!

**Q:** Which is your favorite pastime?

**A:** Depends on my mood: if I'm tired and want to crash on the couch, it's knitting, but if I have a new fiber to try, spinning wins every time.

**Q:** How have your skills evolved over the years?

**A:** I've added to my repertoire by learning various methods of dyeing, plying, and other yarn customizations. And I've really learned to let beautiful handspun yarns shine on their own. You don't need a lot of fancy yarn to make a powerful statement in a garment or accessory; that's why the patterns in *Spin to Knit* work so well.

**Q:** How do you stay inspired?

**A:** Sharing tricks and techniques with other spinners, and inspecting interesting yarn that crosses my path, even if I don't know who made it! This is one reason I insisted on traveling to meet the featured spinners who appear in this book—it really helps to see a person's daily inspiration, from their city to their friends and family to their studio and material. Not one of them were alike but for the love of fiber! If you aren't in love with your art, you can't be inspired to grow, improve, and share it with others.

**Q:** What's the best advice you can give to a new spinner? New knitter?

**A:** Experiment! It's only wool . . . it's only dye, it's only a stitch. You can tear it out or overdye it or mix it with something else if you don't like the first results. Does a pattern call for purple and you hate purple? Change it! Over 75% of all knitters knit a pattern in the same color as the sample in the magazine or book. As a spinner, you have the chance to make yarn no one's ever seen before . . . and by that same token, knit a pattern in a way it's never been knit before. So do it!

**Q:** What's your favorite project in *Spin to Knit*?

**A:** I treasure the Cooper Moose Shawl that Crystal Canning made, and I'm happy she lives on to inspire other spinners and knitters despite her sad and untimely death. Of my own patterns in this book, I'm pleased with the Swedish Heart shrug, though I'm already itching to make it in a different weight of yarn.

**Q:** What's your favorite spinning project that you've done?

**A:** The Eddie sweater! My original spinning teacher Lucy Lee met me in Maine on her friend's farm, where I was introduced to Eddie, a gorgeous Romney ram. More like a big dog than a sheep, Eddie had a real personality . . . and so did his fleece! I bought it, took it home to Boston, and proceeded to teach myself how to wash a fleece properly, how to card it, and how to spin it from the ground up. I didn't start with a soft, well-prepared roving for my first project, I started with Eddie. It eventually became a very treasured handknit roll-neck pullover, which you can see in the introduction of *Spin to Knit*.