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Hand Dyeing Yarn And Fleece: Custom-Color Your Favorite Fibers With Dip-Dyeing, Hand-Painting, Tie-Dyeing, And Other Creative Techniques





Synopsis

Discover the colorful joys of hand dyeing your own yarn and fleece. It's easy, fun, and can be done right in your own kitchen! Self-taught dyer Gail Callahan shows you a variety of simple techniques to turn plain, outdated, or leftover yarn into vibrant new fibers using ovens, crockpots, frying pans, and other standard kitchen equipment. Detailed advice on color theory, self-striping, grocery store dyes, and handmade multicolor skeins make successful dyeing a cinch, even for complete beginners.

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Customer Reviews

As we're heading into the bleak winter months here in the northern hemisphere, Hand Dyeing Yarn and Fleece is really a great companion to keep the color in your life. Following Callahan's steps to create a safe dye studio, you could work your way through her exercises all the way to spring and keep yourself content with all the good stuff coming out of your dye pots.

Gail Callahan discovered weaving in the 1990s, leading her to a small business called The Kangaroo Weaver. A few years later, she began dyeing for personal use. The following year, Valley Yarns asked her to dye yarns exclusive to WEBS, America's Yarn Store, in Northampton, Massachusetts. She now teaches dyeing at WEBS, and continues to dye for them as well as for her own business, The Kangaroo Dyer. She is the author of Hand Dyeing Yarn and Fleece.

I bought this when I decided I wanted to start dying my own yarn at home. This book gave excellent instruction on exactly what supplies would be needed, as well as covering several different techniques. I have tried a few of them now with great success. I LOVE that this book is spiral bound so it can lay flat when I'm using it in the middle of a dye session. Strangly enough, I usually find note sections added to books to be pointless and this is the one instance that I wish a notes section had been added so I could write down formulas as I was dying. I just keep a small pad of paper in the very back for that purpose.

I have been dyeing yarn and fiber for a few years and have many books about dyeing. I just received this book and was VERY surprised! It has become my favorite dyeing book. The book has excellent step-by-step directions for many methods of dyeing. The photography is great. There is a small section on color theory that is excellent. The spiral binding allows the book to be open flat allowing you to refer to the directions as you are dyeing. I have never reviewed a book before, but had to make a review for this one. If you can only buy one book about dyeing, buy this book!

I have almost every book on spinning, weaving and dyeing that's out there and thought this sounded good to add to my library. Little did I know that it would become my all-time FAVORITE book on dyeing!! I started reading it one morning then had to stop to do other things, but it was so good I went back to it in the evening and didn't put it down until I finished it near midnight!! It is very well written, clear, easy to understand and "friendly". You almost feel as if you are there experiencing the dyeing process right along with the author. There are many terrific tips to make dyeing easier and pleasing. The photographs are outstanding and her method of teaching about color with her ingenious color grid and grains of rice is fantastic! Much easier to use/understand than the common color wheel. Not to mention, with the book you get the terrific color grid to use from then on. Another positive thing about the book is its binding. It is a spiral-bound hardback with the spiral wired spine underneath the outside hardback spine. This allows you to open it flat to use when working and also keeps the book from getting caught on things as exposed spiral-bound books often do. There are eight interesting knitting projects (spanning various levels of experience) with directions and a full color picture of the finished item. I have been dyeing fiber for a couple years now, yet still found several of the things she mentioned to be new and helpful. I am going to request that it be added to the library at the art college that I attend. This book is truly outstanding and I am ordering another copy today for a Christmas gift for a friend! KUDOS to the author, Gail Callahan!!!

When I got near the end of the book and saw the pattern for kangaroo mittens, it finally clicked - this woman must be The Kangaroo Dyer!! I've bought a lot of yarn from Webs and love the variegated yarn dyed by "The Kangaroo Dyer"

I love this book. It has helped me a great deal in learning out to dye the fiber I get off my goats, as well as the yarn I spin, or the fiber I use in my needlefelting projects. It has step by step directions on dyeing fiber in several different ways to get certain effects. It is well written. The instructions are easy to understand and follow. It is illustrated with photos of the techniques and the results. I love the spiral binding which makes really easy to read hands free and not have to worry about losing your page as you work. I have made some beautiful yarns and rovings with the techniques in this book. If you're new to hand dyeing, I wholeheartedly recommend this book.

All kinds of fun and creative ways to break into dyeing are presented in this amazingly comprehensive and easy to read book. I love the logical layout of the book as it has chapters on equipment (readily available in most homes), fibers, types of dye, colors, huge section of techniques (my favorite section) and some lovely patterns for small items on which to practice. I would say the focus is on dyeing animal fibers and yarn, especially wool although others are discussed as well. Numerous full color pictures throughout reinforce the directions and text. The book has a nice enclosed spiral binding so it lays flat and the text, headings, highlights are printed in such a readable font with nice contrast to the background--so eye friendly! Most importantly, the author encourages fearless creativity and very practical, hands-on methods with readily available supplies. A novice would feel comfortable getting started, but I also think there is much to be explored by a more experienced person. I can't wait to dive in!

This is a good book and explains how to sample color dyes on yarn or other fibers. Then it also explains how to dye yarn with multiple colors and get something that looks great and not like mud. Hand dyed multiple color yarns look complicated until you go through this book. I need a free weekend to try some of these projects.

The first half of the book is very basic -- if you are an experienced dyer, it will be repeated info. The second half gives a lot of information about HOW to put together colorways, which is very helpful if you don't have an art background and want to make sure your colors "go together" before you put them on yarn. Also includes a few free patterns that really show off dyed yarn (especially multis).

Overall, it's a good book.

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