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# Spinning Around: Spinning, Dyeing & Knitting Elizabeth Zimmermann's Classics



## **Synopsis**

Jeannine Bakriges is a master spinner, dyer, and knitter. The book includes three sections, one on each discipline. Bakriges discusses spinning in-depth, gives instruction for solar dyeing, and knits her handspun using Elizabeth Zimmermann's designs. The book includes instructions for twenty Elizabeth Zimmermann and Meg Swansen knitting designs including: the Moeibus scarf, the Sock-Toe Scarf, the Watch Cap, the Jogger's Mitts, I-cord gloves, the Very Warm Hat, the Mananita Shawl, The 3-Cornered German Shawl, the Bohus Sweater and Hat, the Knit Stitch Sweater, Epaulet Jacket, Moeibus Vest, a Halter Top, Knee Socks, Moccasin Socks and more.

## **Book Information**

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Knitting

## **Customer Reviews**

Spinning Around is wall to wall information. The first section covers spinning equipment--how it works and explains the differences in drive systems. There is great in-depth information about how to choose a fleece, washing and processing. Jenny Bakriges' techniques are very useable and approachable. She shows how to use handcards, pickers, combs, flickers and dog rakes. And then you get into the spinning instruction. All of the major drafting techniques are covered with great photos. Then we get to plying and balanced yarn discussions and plying techniques on a wheel and spindle as well as a very nice discussion about S and Z . That is just in the 1st section. The dyeing section is lovely with lots of great tips and good information about natural dyeing as well as some information about setting up a dye studio. Finally--the patterns. These are patterns written the way a spinner wants--with photos of the original fibers and then photos of the spun and dyed yarns and

with wraps per inch and gauge included as well as spinning technique used for the sample. --The Spinning Loft

This book combines all three of my loves: natural dyeing, spinning and knitting and clearly explains the methods that were used to achieve the final result which is clearly illustrated. I can't stop reading this book! I haven't gone to bed as early as I have been since I got this book since I was a kid. When I see these patterns in EZ's books, I want to make them but they don't seem like the type of items I would really wear. I hate to make something that won't get used, no matter how fun the knitting is. These finished items look totally updated. Maybe it is the cute model but you really want to make them! There is nothing much in the book as far as technical info that I haven't got in another book but the way everything is integrated into one book makes it a pleasure to review. If I could write just one book in my lifetime, this would be what I would want to produce.

This is a very well written text with lots of photos. Her approach is straightforward but thorough. She also makes use of some tools that I hadn't seen anyone else cover. Could have done without the patterns, but that's me.

This book is a must for those working the fabric world. It's informative, humourous and touching as well. The gentle personality of the author shines through and her expertise is beyond words. I would highly recommend this book if you are a home spinner and dyer or just like good stories.

Spinning Around book reviewAs an elementary computer teacher, I taught my students not worry if they didn't remember how to do it, just remember you can do it. As a new spinner with maybe a whole 5 hours worth of spinning and 1 hour lesson with Amy Mielke. I was worried I may not understand a lot of the information in this book, especially since there were things being covered I had never heard of, who knew there were so many things to consider when choosing fleece. Jeannine covers a vast amount of information on all aspects of picking and preparing the fleece to the knitting project.. I thought I was going to barely keeping my head above water while reading this book. However, this book is like a stitch dictionary, you may not need all of it all of the time but it is going to be the gem of your reference library for all aspects of preparing, spinning, dying and knitting fleece. Yet each section is a book within it's self...if you never want to card the fleece you can go to the next section of spinning, if you don't want to spin then there is the dying section again books with in a book. While reading the book there were things that went flying by me at supersonic

speed, due to my low level of experience, there was so much information, what saved me were the extremely clear photos in the book to use for reference for what I had read, that I found my self understanding the information. The entire book is filled with beautifully, well defined pictures to back up what you're reading. As I worked my way through the book towards, spinning I was able to hang in there and found this section full of helpful information to take me to the next level of my spinning education, and there is still so much more I can go back to include, when the time is right.. I can't wait to try some of the techniques that Jeannine presents in this section...all so exciting. There are several drafting techniques to try, along with plying and joins. Jeannine fills this book with tips and "how to", and stress's several times...EZ and Meg Swansen's phase "Knitter's Choice" use as you wish. When I got to the dying section I wanted to run out to buy supplies for my new dying studio, a new frontier for me. Not sure I will be able to find a boy to pee in a jar, but there are many other things in this section to keep everyone happy.

I've knitted since I was a kid, but I have also been hand spinning since the early 90's and it's a fun activity. I take it up from time to time in order to relax; the whirring of the spinning wheel or the hypnotic twirl of a drop spindle are very soothing. The yarn you end up with is often a surprise--and it's amazing to go from fluff to a beautiful plied yarn with colors dancing in the skein. I've had a number of reference books that go over all the aspects of the craft from fiber preparation to dyeing to spinning, plying and then knitting. This book was a complete surprise. I was expecting a bit about spinning yarn and a lot on how to use in with the adaptations of Elizabeth Zimmermann and Meg Swansen's patterns found in their books and in their newsletter "Woolgathering." Instead, I found a very complete reference, that had info on carding, using forks to process fleece, picking a fleece out (what to avoid, how to test the fiber), spinning methods, plying methods including both Navajo and Andean and a lot more. I was amused to see my "unvention"--postage stamp sized samples of spun yarn (efficient in using not too much precious handspun but giving you a good idea of how a handspun yarn will knit up in a project) called exactly that--Postage Stamp Samples. I thought I'd invented that, but you know, nothing new under the sun! The lavish photos are VERY GOOD and let you see what's going on. I can't believe the spinning part of the book is only 90 pages--it is VERY rich in photos and very complete. If I had to recommend one text for someone who is taking up spinning and has advanced past the first course in spinning, this would be the book.

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