

# November Spinning & Dyeing Sample by Peggy Doney

## Dyeing Sample

I pondered how to dye some Ashland Bay Merino roving without felting it and came up with this idea. I had window screening made out of fiber glass for my silk fusion work so I laid out a long length of screen that was cut to fit into my dye pot. Laying the roving out width-wise between the edges of the screen (don't go to the edges but stay back an inch or so) in a sine wave pattern lets you put more fiber in place. Bring both ends of the screen together and either (1) pre-soak in a water/ vinegar solution (approximately 20 minutes), (2) put into a dye pot with water, dye stock, and vinegar and push under and let it wet through (approximately 20 minutes), or (3) put screen into dye pot with water and dye stock and push under but add vinegar later for a different strike (approximately 20 minutes). If pre-soaked in water and vinegar, remove the screen and roving and place in dye pot and begin heating slowly. Follow acid dyeing directions. Let roving cool in pot and wash and rinse in the screen. Spin out excess water and hang to dry.



What was fun was to see how the dye components would break and dye the roving into sedimentary type layers. What I loved is that I had Merino roving that stayed intact and did not felt!

## Spinning Sample

The Beehive Coil yarn is spun from an Ashland Bay Merino roving that I hand-dyed. I split the roving length-wise into thumb-sized widths (this has a direct factor on the size of the beehive coil) but did not pre-draft. Using the smallest whorl, I put in a high amount of twist into a slubby singles (known as the effect yarn), knowing the amount of plying that would happen could cause structural failure if there wasn't enough twist. To make the slub, pinch the fiber with your forward hand and pull a staple length of the fiber out from the rest of the roving, making sure that it still stays connected to the roving. Treadle to tighten and spin a thin section and repeat the slub motion. Remember to add extra twist throughout!



On a second bobbin, spin a fine, high-twist singles. Attach both singles to a third bobbin and ply in the opposite direction. Upon reaching the slub, anchor the end by wrapping the slub singles with the fine singles several times. Hold the effect yarn in the right hand and let it wrap around the singles. At the end of the slub, push it towards the wheel orifice to make a coil and anchor the trailing end of the slub. Wet finish the yarn and enjoy the texture! Sampling is important to learn just how much twist the yarn needs.



**WHITE RABBIT  
BEADS, LLC**

2421 W. Colorado Ave.  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904  
(719)635-0035

**15% OFF WITH THIS AD**



**LADYBUG HILL**  
quilts

955 East Fillmore Street  
Colorado Springs CO 80907  
Phone 719-593-5949  
Toll Free 1-866-593-5949  
[www.ladybughillquilts.com](http://www.ladybughillquilts.com)