

September Spinning Samples by Deb Greer

This is a combination dyeing, blending, felting and spinning sample using overdyeed light brown alpaca leg and neck fleece from the Eye Dazzler herd and white mohair locks, carded together in batts. Both fleeces were washed but otherwise raw to start with. The brown alpaca was acid dyed to a deep purple. The mohair was left natural white. Several test batts were blended with varying proportions of the purple alpaca and the white mohair to obtain the lavender color. The purpose of the experiment was to: 1. achieve a certain shade of lavender and 2. test the batt and yarn for felting characteristics for making small felted rugs. The dyed alpaca was run through the picker to divest it of vegetal matter. Then I blended 1 oz. batts of the picked alpaca fluff and hand teased mohair locks on my Ashford drum carder, weighing each fiber to determine a repeatable ratio, once I got the right shade. I had a particular baby girl in mind for the lavender rug, which turned out to be a darling little petunia for Miss Sadie's bedside! The color seems stable and fast, with no fugitive color in washing. I left a strand of the yarn and a piece of the batt out in a sunny window for two weeks resulting in no observable difference compared to the unexposed batt. In felting, the mohair/alpaca blend didn't retain enough loft for my plans, but the remainder of the test batt spun up into a smooth, tight, shining singles which went into the final rug as embellishment. The yarn felted into the wool/alpaca rug beautifully, and I suspect it will outlast the felt, as this yarn is as tough as it is pretty. The best batts for the rug ended up being a blend of the dyed alpaca and an unknown, springy white wool from my Patty Stash. The singles was spun on my Ashford Traveler wheel at a 6.5:1 ratio, in single drive, at 8 wraps/inch. I later Navajo Plied the remainder of the singles using the same ratio, resulting in 10 wraps/inch. The 3 ply yarn is still shiny, but softened, plumped and haloed with washing.



Photos by Deb Greer



President's Notes by Beverly Weaver

We had a great meeting in September. We got a lot of business done, had some wonderful 'show and tell' and a fantastic program. The mini-workshop in the afternoon was a lot of fun, too. Each of us came home with two beautiful bracelets made from black ash.

I am looking forward to the October meeting and hearing from those of you who went to Convergence or Complex Weavers this past summer. What I enjoyed most was seeing all the fiber exhibits on display during the conferences. Please let us know what inspired you.

Until then, keep weaving.....