



Inspired by Speckles

Two Techniques

KATE LARSON

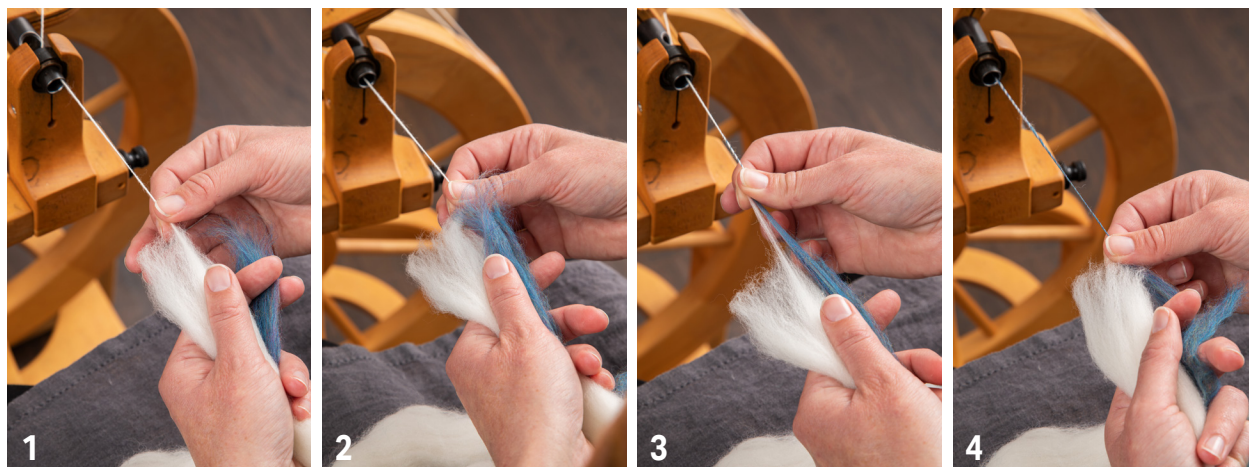
When I first saw Joanna Johnson's Striated Handspun Hat in the Spring 2023 issue of *Spin Off*, I was delighted by the short bursts of saturated color that she added intermittently to natural white. As Joanna explained, she was looking to create "visual breathing room" in her yarns.

I also think this is a great approach to incorporating those vivid, shocking colors that we love only in

tiny amounts: aggressive fuchsia or unapologetic spring green. Just imagine the undulating black and white of a nice Jacob wool roving that has been studded with scarlet. Go grab your wheel and give this a try.

Both methods are shown using a short-forward draft (worsted) with combed fibers of the same staple length, but these methods could be adapted to other drafts and preparations.

Photos by LMatt Graves



METHOD A

1 Begin spinning with main color (MC), which is white in this case. Hold your contrasting color (CC), blue here, in the fiber hand out of the drafting zone.

2 When ready for CC, move it closer to the tips. On the next draft into the fiber supply, incorporate some CC.

3 Draft forward.

4 Before sliding the forward hand back toward the fiber supply, remove CC from the drafting zone. (I insert the first finger of my back hand between MC and CC as shown.)

Resume spinning MC and repeat the CC technique as often as desired.



METHOD B

1 Prepare several tufts of CC by pinching the tips of the combed top and drawing out a staple length. Keep these within easy reach and begin spinning with MC. When ready for CC, place one of the tufts on the MC.

2 On the next draft forward, incorporate the tips of CC.

3 Slide the forward fingers back toward the fiber supply, smoothing the length of CC into place, and resume spinning MC. Repeat the CC technique as often as desired. ●

Kate Larson is the editor of *Spin Off* and author of *The Practical Spinner's Guide: Wool*. Find her most recent video course, *How to Spin on a Charkha*, at learn.longthreadmedia.com.