

TRANSCRIPT

Introduction to Self-Striping Yarns

In this lesson, we're gonna talk about self-striping yarn: What is it? Why is it so amazing, and how can we make it? Self-striping yarn is basically a yarn that has been dyed so that a pattern will be produced when you knit it up. So self-striping yarn is most typically available as a commercial sock yarn. So sock yarns that have been pre-printed with different colours, and these colours in the different patterns will start to produce a completely different pattern as you knit it into a sock.

So knitting with a commercial self-striping yarn is super fun because as you're knitting, the pattern and the colours are coming together and pooling in a way that it forms this different pattern. And so for a while there when I was early on in my knitting hobby, I was obsessed with self-striping yarns from different German sock yarn companies. So they would produce a stripe of pink and then two stripes of orange and then a couple of stripes of confetti dots and then another couple of stripes of colour. And it was just fun and engaging, and it just kept you going to the next row, to the next round, to the next round so that kept me really motivated to finish knitting the socks.

Fast forward a little bit to learning how to dye and then trying to figure out how to dye a self-striping sock yarn yourself. Now, hand-dyed self-striping sock yarn is available and is out there, and many dyers are doing it. But it is an extremely, extremely time consuming process. And so that's part of the reason why I've never actually been able to teach this particular technique in a workshop, because there's just not enough time to get everybody to prepare their yarn and then to actually do the dyeing and then to actually reskein it and all these kinds of things.

So I talk about how to dye self-striping sock yarns in the book that I wrote, The Dyeing to Spin and Knit book. But there is so much more that can be done with self-striping sock yarn, and so I want to go through with you guys and show you a couple of different ways to make self-striping sock yarn and how this all works.