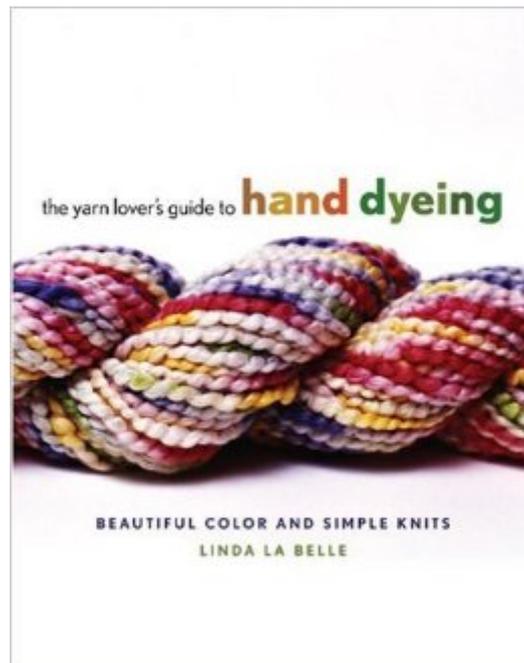


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# The Yarn Lover's Guide To Hand Dyeing: Beautiful Color And Simple Knits



## Synopsis

Take your craft to the next level. For rich, unique yarns of your very own creation, *The Yarn Lover's Guide to Hand Dyeing* is your essential go-to guide. Now you can create gorgeous, unique, handpainted yarns in your very own kitchen. In this practical guide to dyeing yarn at home, you'll learn simple techniques for creating beautiful, colorful yarns—and pick up some new patterns to highlight your new hues along the way. Fiber artist, knitter, and teacher Linda LaBelle provides her own valuable expertise and insight and gives readers a peek into a typical day in the lives of seven professional hand dyers through lush photographs and personal interviews in which they share their thoughts, advice, and sometimes dyeing secrets! You'll learn a variety of hand-dyeing processes, including faux ikat, used to create a fun tie-dyed effect; quick stovetop techniques that yield tons of color; space dyeing, which uses several colors to create a pattern; a way to dye already knitted pieces; and trouble-free methods for immersion and handpainting. There's also info on different types of dye—from Kool-Aid and food coloring to Jacquard Acid and PRO One Shot. Once you're finished, show off your rich and quirky new hues with 20 original knit and crochet patterns. Designs are easy yet sophisticated, and include everything from ponchos to scarves and hats to arm warmers. You'll find clear instructions, entertaining projects, and plenty of how-to tips.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book with zero knowledge of yarn dyeing. I got past the beginning with the parts about

tools, dyes, etc. As I started looking at the projects, I noticed that there were "ingredients" such as synthropol and soda ash, which I hadn't remembered seeing anything about. I assumed I had missed that part, but I kept looking and couldn't find anything about the chemicals used in dyeing. I ended up being very confused about the whole thing. I paid to take a class at my local yarn shop instead. After the class, I found the book made much more sense and was quite useful. I did get confused with one part -- she said to make a 10 yard in diameter skein, but I thought that was awfully long. I actually contacted her and she said 5 yards up, 5 yards down. That's more like "circumference" than "diameter," and it makes a really big difference. In searching the Internet, I found a book reviewer who was also confused by the lack of information on the chemicals, just like I was. She contacted the publisher, who told her that the author agreed she needed to add a chapter on that next time around. I feel kinda sad that I bought an incomplete version of the book. All that said, I am taking on one of the projects in the book -- from dyeing to making a sweater, and it's been fun. That's one thing I really like about it. It doesn't just give general technique, it gives a finished yarn and then shows you exactly how to get there, including the exact yarns used. Then it gives you a project you can make out of the yarn. I also think that in addition to the specific projects, it would be nice to get very general use of the dyes. For instance, Jacquard acid dyes. Give an explanation of how they work, what you need and how to generally use them. Then give specific projects and explanations for achieving them. I do like the book, despite it's shortfalls, and the author was very nice when I contacted her.

I completely disagree with the previous review. I have bought a few yarn dyeing books over the past year and quite frankly, got rid of them immediately. Too in depth, too confusing and only included acid dyes. I thought I found all the information I needed on the internet for free. However, I think this book included many methods-steam, mason jars, stove top, as well as hand painting and soaking. I liked the fact that Kool-Aid and other alternative dyes were discussed. The patterns were simple patterns, but nice that both knit and crochet were included. I also found the methods of various "professionals" very interesting. To me, this is a keeper. I have used different dyeing methods, including Kool-Aid and this book will be on my reference shelf!

The past several years have seen an explosion of hand dyers offering their yarns to knitters. Many knitters are tempted to try their hand at designing unique colors, but have no idea where to begin. Linda Labelle's new book, *The Yarn Lover's Guide to Hand Dyeing: Beautiful Color and Simple Knits* is the perfect introduction to this complex art. Beginning with an introduction to color theory,

yarn preparation, and the basic techniques used throughout the book, the book is organized according to dye type. Moving from Kool Aid and food coloring to commercial dyes, each dye method is reviewed and illustrated using lots of pictures. The dye technique is followed by a pattern designed to utilize the newly created yarn. Although the patterns are fun, their main purpose is to illustrate how the newly dyed yarn looks once knit up, showcasing the dye's effect. Patterns include socks and hats, ponchos/shawls, gauntlets and even a lace sweater. Scattered throughout are interviews with seven professional dyers. The beautifully photographed sections show the dyers at work in their studios, surrounded by stunning yarns. Labelle discusses dyeing with some of the yarn world's luminaries: Cheryl Schaefer from Schaefer Yarn and Karen Selk of Treenway Silks. Darlene Hayes of Hand Jive Knits shares her techniques and tips with her instructions on using eucalyptus, a product available to anyone (by order through a local florist), to create a beautiful natural dye. Labelle assumes her readers are absolute beginners and provides instructions on everything from choosing the right gloves to complex dyeing methods. It is this careful instruction which makes *The Yarn Lover's Guide to Hand Dyeing* an excellent choice for anyone interested in learning dye methods. *Armchair Interviews* says: A good geared to beginners and up.

This is a very practical guide to the various dye products available and ways to use each type. The dyes are specifically referred to by brand name and the book is VERY helpful.

This book actually arrived a few days ahead of schedule and I was pleasantly surprised! I have purchased other books on dyeing, but this one has simple, basic instructions and FINALLY some good info on cotton dyeing and microwave dyeing. Cute patterns too!

How inspired I am by the new dyeing book by Linda Labelle, owner and spirit of the yarn Tree in Williamsburg, Brooklyn! I already picked out two patterns that I feel I could have success with, the Cat Hat and Half Mitts! As a novice dyer, I found the instructions clear and easy to follow. The set ups are easily doable at home. But my favorite part is the layout with its great photos and colors; They are both informative and insightful. The interview sections with dyers, knitters, store owners, etc across America were fascinating to read. In reading through the book, I get the same welcome feeling that I experience visiting Linda's store. This book is definitely a resource and enjoyment that I'll return to again and again.- Barbra Frankel

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