

***Spin•Off* Contributor's Guidelines**

Spin•Off is a quarterly magazine devoted to the interests of handspinners at all skill levels. Informative articles in each issue aim to encourage the novice, challenge the expert, and increase every spinner's working knowledge of this ancient and complex craft. If you are not already familiar with the style and tone of the magazine, please read a few issues before submitting a proposal. We review both proposals and full manuscripts. If you'd like to get our thoughts before you start writing, please send us a note via email and tell us about your project or idea. Make sure to include visuals (JPEGs are fine).

- If you are not a spinner, it will be difficult for you to write effectively for this magazine.
- If you are a spinner whose idea interests us, but you're an inexperienced writer, we will work with you on presenting your thoughts.
- Your projects and/or samples must contain handspun yarns as an essential component; commercial yarns may be used only in supporting roles.
- *Spin•Off* is many things. As a contributor, think of it as a forum where you can share your experiences and knowledge with your community. Consider how your contribution will serve the reader.

Articles in a typical issue may include the following subjects:

- Spinning tips: what little tips and tidbits can you share with our readers that will delight and enlighten them—this is a short feature—400 words or less.
- Spinning basics (1,200 words):
 - Fiber preparation:** handcarded rolags or batts, drumcarded rolags or batts, flick carding locks
 - Drafting techniques:** long draw, short draw, on the fold, semi-worsted long-draw, etc.
 - Creating yarn qualities:** soft yarns, hard yarns, active-twist yarns, balanced yarns, yarns for knitting, weaving, crocheting, etc.
 - Finishing your yarn:** washing, steaming, blocking, etc.
- Armchair Traveler (800 words): Review areas of interest to a handspinner in a 100-mile radius—visit shops, farms, museums, etc.
- Behind the Scenes (800 words): The story behind the shop—we want to know the history and day-to-day inner workings of the spinning businesses that provide us with such wonderful tools and fiber for spinning.
- Back page essay (650 words): Wax poetical, tell us a funny story, plum the depths of spinning in a short essay.
- Methods of dyeing with natural and chemical dyes (always include safety information).
- Tools for spinning and preparing fibers. Teach us about their history, how to use them safely and effectively, and how to maintain them.
 - Spinning wheels and spindles
 - Handcarders, drumcarders, flick carders, combs, and other fiber-preparation equipment

- Fiber basics (2,000 words): Focus on a particular fiber and tell us all about the history and characteristics that are appealing to handspinners; tell us how to choose the most appropriate fleece and how to use it effectively. Include samples of fiber, yarn, and swatches.
- Ideas for using handspun yarn in a variety of techniques (knitting, weaving, crochet, felting, rug hooking, lace, etc.)
- Profiles of people who spin: why and how
- A gallery of your work, either with instructions or just as inspiration
- Tips on blending fibers
- The history and/or cultural role of spinning
- Something a little bit surprising
- New approaches to familiar topics are welcome.

Technical Matters

You should display a thorough command of your topic; technical accuracy is a must. Make your information accessible to the reader. Strive for a personal and informal style of presentation. Please submit your article electronically via e-mail to SpinOff@interweave.com or send a hard copy and a disk to the address below.

If you include references to other published sources or if your idea is based on or was inspired by someone else's work, please provide a complete bibliography. You can photocopy the title and copyright pages of each book for us or make a list. For a book, we need full title and subtitle, complete name(s) of author(s), publisher's name, place of publication, date of publication, and pertinent page numbers. For a magazine article, we need full title and subtitle, complete name(s) of author(s), magazine title, volume number, issue number, and pertinent page numbers.

We reserve the right to edit material as necessary to fit the magazine's style and available space. We will ask you to review the edited article before it is published. Please let us know if you will be out of town or unavailable during the cycle of the magazine that your article will appear in.

Submitting Manuscripts or Ideas

If you have already written an article, enclose a copy of the manuscript, supportive images or drawings, and a brief personal biography. If you are at the idea stage, send a detailed proposal of your subject, with any sketches or images you have. Clear snapshots are always useful. If you send the actual handspun item(s), we like to see them but may need to keep them for longer than you'd wish. *Keep a copy of everything you send.* Please include your name, address, e-mail address, and telephone and fax numbers in your cover letter.

Rights, Scheduling, and Payment

When your submission is accepted, we will send an acceptance letter and a contract for you to sign, which states that we license for exclusive first time publication rights and subsequent nonexclusive rights for use in print, electronic, or other Interweave publications and promotions. As author, you retain the publication rights for the original materials. Please don't submit your article simultaneously to *Spin•Off* and another publication.

We schedule articles several issues in advance, and we'll let you know the issue your article is scheduled for as soon as we know. Before we go to press, we will send you a copy of your edited

article for review. Payment for articles is \$50 per published page, based on the final published version. If you provide images, we pay you \$10 per published photo.

Deadlines

Spin•Off is published four times a year, in March, June, September, and December. Once we have scheduled your article, we will contact you to make sure that the deadlines for the completed manuscript, projects, and photography are agreeable to you.

Format

Ideally, your article will be computer generated and sent via e-mail in electronic format. If you send it in the mail, please print a double-spaced copy on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper and include a disk with the file labeled with the program you used to create the file (MS Word, Wordperfect, Wordpad, etc.). Titles, headings, and subheadings, and captions for photos should be included in your article. Number the photos and write corresponding captions for photos with all people and textiles clearly identified. Include the photo credit with each photo.

Include Important Details about Spinning

In your article, make sure to tell us all about the fiber (breed, length of locks, etc.), how you prepared the fiber (rolags, batts, combed top, flick carded, spun in the grease, etc.), what tools you used to prepare and spin the yarn (handcarders, combs, spinning wheel, spindle), how you spun the yarn (long draw, short draw, on-the-fold), whether you plied it (two-ply, three-ply) and how (from bobbins, Andean plying). How many yards or ounces did you spin? What is the grist or wraps per inch? How did you finish the yarn (washing, blocking, steaming)?

Simultaneous Submissions

Simultaneous submissions are not acceptable. Please tell us if you would like to make a simultaneous submission of your material elsewhere.

Length

Length depends on the subject; most articles contain between 200 to 2,700 words and will occupy 1 to 6 pages in the magazine.

Visuals

Good, solid visual information is an important feature of *Spin•Off*. If you can provide clear photos or drawings, we may be able to use them directly; even if we choose not to use them, they will help us produce finished artwork. JPEGs, snapshots, and sketches are wonderful resources. Feel free to send us several image versions.

Images must be sharp and clear, with good contrast, clear focus, and a simple background. Make sure to include the photographer's name with the image. If you are unsure whether your digital image is high-enough quality to publish, send us an example and we'll let you know.

Please list captions at the end of the article and reference each photo by the file name.

Drawings and diagrams We nearly always re-render drawings here to be sure they will reproduce consistently. Any type of sketch is helpful, even if it's not in the ideal format. Please provide any necessary labels, captions, or explanations.

Swatches, yarn, and fiber samples should be included whenever possible. Swatches should be a minimum of 4" x 4", yarn samples at least two yards long, and send a couple locks or ounces of the original fiber. **Remember: Handspinning is the focus of the magazine and the articles.**

Editorial Guidelines

Tone: Our readers range from those who have a fairly sophisticated knowledge of the field to newcomers who are just learning about spinning. Please explain terms and techniques that aren't familiar to the general reader. We prefer an accessible rather than scholarly tone. Notes and references should be incorporated into the text rather than footnoted.

Accuracy: Writers are responsible for accuracy of facts and correct spelling of names, places, titles, etc. Please fact-check your article before submitting it.

Format: The text of assigned articles can be accepted by e-mail as Microsoft Word attachments or incorporated into the body of the e-mail.

Style: We use *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* and *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

Contributor bio: Authors of assigned articles will be asked to send a short one- to two-sentence author bio and an optional picture of themselves to be published at the end of the article.

Editing: Articles will be edited for clarity, organization, grammar, and magazine style. In our editing, we strive to preserve the author's voice. Authors will have a chance to review the edited text. The editor may request revisions of the article, and final editing of the material is at the editor's discretion.

Acceptance: The editor reserves the right to refuse, without a kill fee, any articles that are not submitted by the agreed-upon deadline, that vastly exceed the assigned word count, or that differ substantially from the requested content.

Payment and tearsheets: Authors will receive a complimentary copy of the issue in which their work appears, tearsheets of the article, and payment after publication. The signed author's agreement is confirmation of total amount due. Additional expenses, such as travel and phone bills, are not covered.

When sending your submission/proposal to us, please limit packaging to only what is necessary to protect your items during shipping. Absolutely no Styrofoam "peanuts" and no gift wrapping, please.

Send materials to:

Spin-Off Submissions
Interweave Press
201 E. 4th Street
Loveland, Colorado 80537-5655

Receipt of your submission will be promptly acknowledged with an email that lists everything we received. You may also e-mail your submission to **SpinOff@Interweave.com**. Visuals can be submitted electronically as jpegs or tiff files. Expect a response to your submission within six months. Please call (970) 669-7672 with any questions about the submission process or the status of your submission.