

Spinning Merino Top



The Celebration of Color kits include several different colors of merino top which is a dense roving with very little crimp. Before starting to spin, I recommend dividing the roving into shorter lengths (roughly about a foot long) then stripping those down into narrower pieces before spinning. This reduces the amount of drafting needed as you spin. These narrower pieces can be spun individually to maintain a pure color or held next to other colors (mimicking a striped roving as in last photo) to allow the colors to blend.

Spinning Striped Roving



You can spin striped roving, by simply holding it and letting it draft out with the colors side by side. This will cause the colors to blend.



Or, you can keep the colors separate. Gently pull each color apart and spin it, one at a time. Spin 6-18 inches, then switch to a different color. You can spin the colors in the same order each time or you can randomly switch from one color to another.



Spinning Hand-Dyed Merino Top



Merino Top is generally a dense roving with very little crimp. Starting at one end, divide the roving, lengthwise, into narrower sections. For example, divide the end of the roving roughly in half then pull those two halves apart for the full length of the fiber. Repeat this process with each of the halves and then with each of those segments until the roving is thin enough and loose

enough that it will draft again or is thin enough to spin without drafting. Even if the fiber is not felted, this is a good way to reduce the amount of pre-drafting needed.

If left in a braid or stored with weight on it, Merino Top can tend to felt. However, in most cases, the roving can be opened up again and made ready for spinning just by using the same process described above.

