

# *Kurrajong Handcrafts*



## **Sunday Spin-A-Long #3: Turkish Knot**

Occasionally I get the urge to spin something that has fairly low useful value – but is really fun to do! Knot yarn looks really cool, it's not too tricky and if you can't think of anything to make out of it you can at least leave it out on prominent display somewhere for visitors to admire.

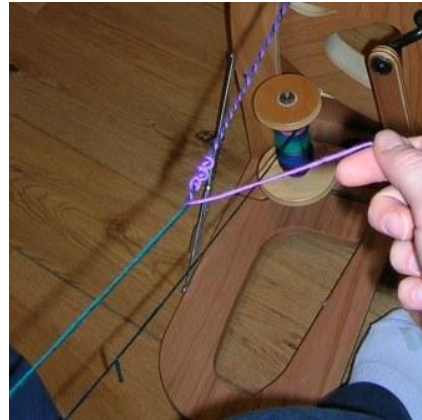
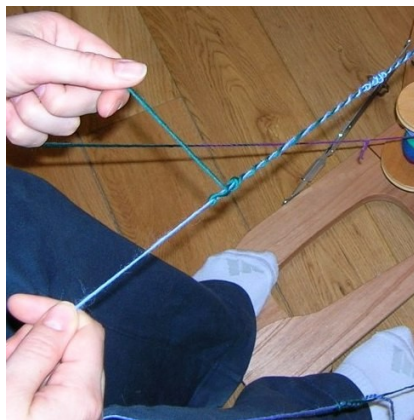
Making knot yarn is a plying technique, so you can use pretty much any fibre. A very effective result can be achieved by choosing a high-lustre fibre such as Wensleydale or silk.

### **Set-up**

Start with 2 singles, fairly evenly spun as you're adding texture later, and with high twist. A lot of twist is lost in the plying process so be sure to start with plenty in your singles or you may find your yarn drifting apart. Using 2 or more different colours shows up the knots nicely, but the yarn can be just as effective in a single colour.

### **Plying**

1. If your wheel has adjustable ratio, lower it right down. This gives you time to form the knots while plying without losing all the twist in your singles too quickly.
2. Tighten your bobbin-feed tension so there's a fair bit of pull on the yarn. This helps to keep everything taut and straight and will stop the yarn from pulling off the bobbin while you manipulate the singles.
3. Begin to ply, holding one singles in each hand. Then while still treadling hold the right-hand singles taut, and move the left out at a right angle. Moving your left hand towards the orifice and back again will cause the singles to wrap around the yarn and form a knot.



4. Move your left hand back and ply normally for a while then form the next knot by holding the left-hand singles taut and moving your right hand out at a right-angle.



5. Alternate forming knots with one singles and then the other to keep the twist balanced and to vary the colour effects.



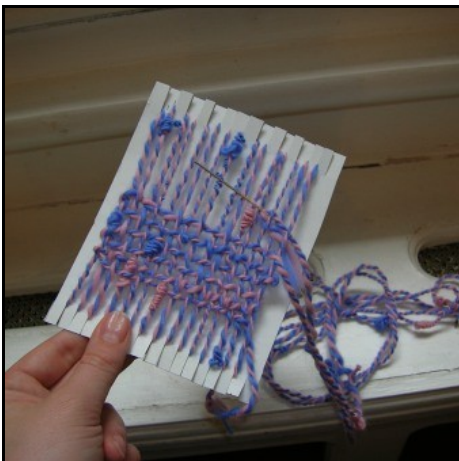
The knots come out in the finished yarn like little bobbles. You can make them larger or smaller by adjusting the number of times you allow the singles to wrap around the yarn.

Be aware that the longer you spend wrapping the knot, the more likely you will lose all the twist in your singles and it will drift apart. If you want yarn with large knots, make sure there's plenty of twist in the singles.

I cast on with the knot yarn and immediately decided I was never going to knit with it. The knots really got in the way, and then they didn't really show up effectively in the swatch anyway.



Knot yarn loves to be woven though – I improvised a cereal-packet loom and had a play with one of my samples and I love the way the knots show up. I am not in any way a weaver (cereal box loom is about the best I can do) so I'd love to see some of you take this further and show us what can be done.



Otherwise, as I said before: hang your knot yarn up somewhere in the living room and bask in the praise from all your astounded visitors.

Don't forget to send me your pics and comments to be entered in the Spin-a-Long prize draw!

Pics no larger than 50k please

Mail to: dianemulholland [at] gmail [dot] com

**For Spindlers:** This is a tough one I'm afraid. A slightly heavier spindle and someone to spin it for you while you hold the two singles may just do the trick – let me know how you go.