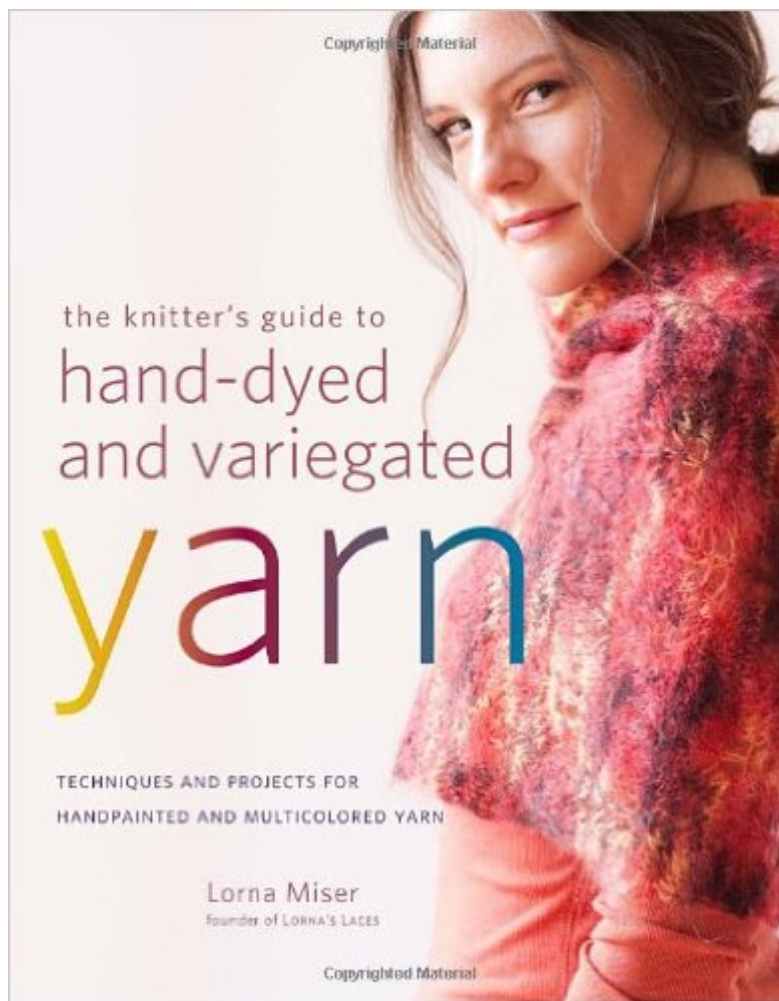


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# The Knitter's Guide To Hand-Dyed And Variegated Yarn: Techniques And Projects For Handpainted And Multicolored Yarn



## Synopsis

Cast on for your next variegated yarn project with new skills and renewed confidence! Do you covet the gorgeous colors of multicolored yarn but have been disappointed by patching, pooling, and other unintended "œdesigns" that develop as they're knitted? In *The Knitter's Guide to Hand-Dyed and Variegated Yarn*, hand-dyed yarn guru Lorna Miser transforms the experience of working with these beautiful yarns, whether they've been dyed by hand or commercially produced. This informative stitch dictionary includes 10 simple, accessible techniques, 65 stitch patterns, and 20 projects that make the most of the dazzling color combinations and creative possibilities that variegated yarns have to offer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What knitter doesn't love to look at, and knit with, skeins of handpainted multicolored yarn? In the skein, the yarns are "eye candy", and the changing colors entertain while the knitter knits. But these yarns have a shady "dark side": in the knitted fabric, the colors may stripe, stack up in straight or diagonal columns (flash), or create large irregularly shaped areas of single colors (pool). So what can a knitter do, to make sure that the gorgeous-in-the-skein yarn will produce an equally gorgeous fabric? This book shows you how to analyze a multicolored yarn, by examining the untwisted skein, to predict what the yarn will do in your fabric before you start to knit. Yarns dyed in spotted, short-repeat, and long-repeat color sequences will produce different effects, as will yarns dyed in "calm" and "active" colorways. But you can make these differences work spectacularly by choosing the right knitting technique: (1) going for stripes by adjusting your gauge or adding

solid-color yarns; (2) adding bobbles, cables, or other textural effects to consume yarn at different rates; (3) using slipped stitches or surface floats to mix up colors; (4) using tucked-stitch patterns to stack colors; (5) alternating mismatched handpainted skeins to achieve a consistent appearance; (6) using the multicolor yarn for portions of a Fair Isle design; or (7) adding holes with lace patterns. Not only does author Lorna Miser (the founder of the highly successful Lorna's Laces yarn company) explain how to do these techniques, she illustrates their effects with simple patterns for a wide variety of knitted items (shawls, cardigans, vests, a tank top, socks, a neck cozy, a coin purse, mittens, a hat, wristlets, a placemat, a laptop case, throws).

I love knitting with variegated colored yarn. This book has it all - nice patterns and a stitch directory that offers different stitches to use in order to make your patterns unique. The author of this book, Lorna Miser, is both a knitter and a dyer of yarn. The book discusses different types of variegated yarns - spotted or watercolor yarns; short-repeat yarns; long-repeat yarns; striping or self-patterning yarns. The author explains how to understand the colors in the skein versus the colors that will appear when knitted. In order to get the best results a nice swatch has to be knit up to get a good sense of the colorway. She then goes into how to choose the right knitting technique for your colorway - calm colorways vs. active colorways. Ms. Miser discusses how to combine two different yarns and have it appear as if you are using one colorway. You can do this by double stranding or alternating skeins. You can also knit different sections with different yarns or use multi-directional patterns. There are several nice patterns in the book. I especially like the English Rose Tunic, a calm colorway in soft pinks, greens and rose hues. It is knit by the double stranded method and is a pullover with buttons at the top. The Primary School Cardigan is charming, knit with two different skeins and perfect for that special child in your life. It is sized from 4 to 10. My favorite pattern in the book is the Monet's Garden Quilted-Lattice Top, a short sleeved sweater knit with cashmere and another type of yarn. It is knit entirely in the round with little finishing needed. It is for an experienced knitter but I may take it on anyway despite considering myself intermediate level. The Blue Ray socks make you want to swagger.

I am as tempted by beautiful colors and eye candy as anyone else and have bought more than a few skeins of variegated and hand-dyed yarns, only to find that they don't always knit up to look as beautiful as a finished product as they do on the skein. I had already come to the conclusion that using variegated yarns mixed with solids would make interesting Fair Isle patterns, but I was thrilled to read that there are three books currently on the market that address using variegated yarns to

their best advantage. Lorna, of Lorna's Laces, contributes *The Knitter's Guide to Hand-Dyed and Variegated Yarns*. The value of this book is in the material teaching the knitter how to read a skein of variegated yarn and determine what kind of colors are used and what pooling and striping patterns can be expected. Swatching, not only for gauge but to determine how the yarn patterns is stressed and is important for success with this kind of yarn. When buying for a project, make certain to buy enough to swatch not only for gauge but different stitch patterns. The next things that are discussed are different stitch patterns and techniques to "break-up" the tendency of variegated yarns to pool. The book is very valuable on this front in terms of providing a lot of different stitch patterns and discusses how these stitches will combine with the different types of color and variegation. The one place the book fell short for me was with the projects presented, which I found a bit blah, with a few exceptions, but as I bought the book for the stitches and information about variegated yarns, this is less of a problem for me, but might affect other knitters. All in all a good introduction to using variegated yarns to make the most of their beautiful colorways in finished garments and projects.

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