



Christmas 2018

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SUZY BROWN

# Winter!

## So it must be Wreath Making Time

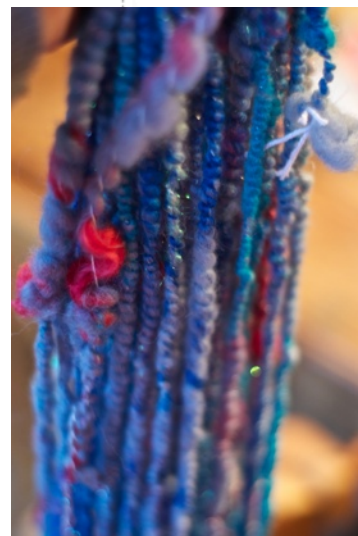
### A PROJECT INSPIRATION

Since I come from the southern hemisphere, my whole idea of christmas is totally influenced by the fact that it arrives with the summer. It was the first wonderful thing to happen at the start of our long holidays, what a blissful time when you're a child! We had beach outings, picnics on the banks of the river (to which my mum always brought her famous Bacon and Egg Pie), and Christmas Lunch was often an outdoor event involving copious quantities of fresh salads, cold meats, BBQ, and early stone fruits such as cherries and apricots. However the odd thing was, being one of the 'colonies', we had also inherited the English version of Christmas, fueled of course by Disney from the US (still my favourite Christmas TV) that all included images with large amounts of snow, cosy hats and mittens, fires and hot chocolate, and of course, the christmas lights. Its only recently that New Zealand and Australia have started creating their own, season appropriate, Christmas imagery (ie. Santa on a surfboard). You can imagine, my move to the Netherlands brought many changes. Firstly, I had never before in my life put bottles of Champagne OUTSIDE to chill! Completely the opposite of my own experience. Secondly, suddenly those Christmas lights made sense! It really gets so dark, by 4.30pm the sun is going down, and we really NEED those lights, they bring cheer and excitement and brighten up an otherwise dull and cold time of year. I would really look forward to seeing them in peoples gardens and around the houses, its a magical transformation and I love it. So this month I thought I would make my own Christmas wreath to hang on the door or in the window, and of course, with art yarns!



To make the Seuss style spirals around this, I spun some white and red roving onto wire, you can really make any shape with this!





What follows is a description of my process when I made this wreath. I am not suggesting you have to do it this way, but am simply hoping that what you see will spark your own ideas, much of that will depend on the materials you have on hand and what you can find, its not necessary to have all the things I found, but above you can see what I started with, the sheep were cute but I didnt use them in the end, and I added some yarns to this collection too. It was fun to go to the Christmas shop for the wreath ring and fossick through the shelves!

I started out by just wrapping the ring in white roving to give it a nice base, and then I wrapped it with a single make with the same roving that I had also packed with white Brightstar fibers for sparkle.



Then I added the lights, tucking each one under some yarn to hold it in place, however at this point, being a total wreath newb, I realised I should have put the lights on first and wrapped after, to hide the wires. Anyway I carried on and started wrapping it with some sparkley coiled art yarn I had made, I like the blue and white and sparkly combination for the winter :) but of course any colours will work!



**Yarn ideas:**  
You could use a coiled yarn like I did, or a crazy lockspun or even tailspun to create extra texture around your wreath, I think it would be really cool to use white tailspun and let the locks hang like icicles around it! You could also use a plain single simply as a base to attach whatever cool decorations you might find at the Xmas shop :)





After adding the art yarn and lights, I also wound on some really cool icicles I found on a thread. As I wrapped I made

and want to try it, there are some videos You Tube I think on how to do it, if not I can make one and post it too. Or you could use coloured wire, skip the whole 'sticking out stuff' part, or attach flowers, stars, angels, anything really! I would have added even more sparkle and things like those



sure to secure the battery holder and switch for the lights behind the wreath.

I followed this with a yarn I had created by plying two white singles, one of which I had 'tied' slubs of different colored yarns onto and kinda knotted.. well I can show that technique another time if anyone wants to try it! I thought it looked a bit like coloured Christmas lights :) So I wrapped that too. It was looking pretty busy by now.



I started out making springs from the yarn I had spun onto wire, but in the end decided that the flat spirals were a nicer balance around the wreath so went with that. If you havent spun wire yarn before



sheep to this one too but I did start to think that it was already quite busy enough, even for a Dr Seuss themed wreath! Lastly I just used some tinsel wrapped white yarn to hang the wreath, and turned off the lights :)

I hope this has triggered some cool ideas for things to do with art yarn this season, I certainly had a great time making this wreath! I



*You can experiment with any of your textured yarns, add tinsel and as many lights as you can fit around it! Don't hold back, its Christmas!*



