

Preparing Shrek Wool, by Margaret Stove.

“I have washed the Shrek staple (please follow the instructions enclosed with the wool. Remember the water must be very hot and to use plenty of soap/woolwash) and ignored Jenny Poore's advice that the best thing to do with extra long staple is to cut it (!) and after abandoning the idea of spinning from the fold which would still be inclined to tangle up (I will test this out, too) decided that using a diz would be the answer since the length is so consistent.

I know few people will have woolcombs and those that do would be unlikely to have the very fine version, so I have come up with an improvisation that works really well.

I **stroked** one end at a time gently over one hand carder - tines facing up- to remove the dirty tips and to separate the fibre and then clamped the carder onto my craft table using my wool winder clamp. I 'snapped' the staple to open the fibre as much as possible then placed it on the carder with the **tip end** hanging over the edge in front of me and the **cut** end lined up with the back row of tines. I have a diz but a button will do. With my hands below the carder, so the fibre has to run through the tines, I then dized the fibre into a continuous sliver. This can then be wound **lightly** into a ball introducing a little twist at the same time. It is now ready for spinning and if it has been well drafted through the diz, only minimal further drafting will be required.”

Margaret, award-winning spinner, lecturer and author has written “**Merino**, Handspinning, Dyeing and Working with Merino and Superfine Wools”

This excellent text book is available from us at a cost of NZ\$34.80 + post and packing