

**OTHER NAMES**

MODERN/ COMMON/ GENETIC NAME	OTHER/ OLD NAMES
Spangle	None
Melanistic Spangle(sf)	Cleartail, Danish Dominant, Dark Marked Spangle

**AT A GLANCE**

- Wings are **ground colour** with black edging.
- Ground colour tail with black edging
- **Double Factor** Spangles are completely ground colour with no markings.



Light Green Spangle (sf)



Light Green Spangle (df)

**HISTORY**

The history of the Spangle is still somewhat steeped in mystery despite many versions of the story. In 1948 Keston Foreign Bird Farm in England bred one bird with each feather on its wing tipped with black. They intended to call the variety "spangled". It was bred from a Yellowface "yellow wing" Blue hen and a "Rainbow" cock. Nothing further was heard of this bird.

In the 1960's in New South Wales, Australia there were some Clearwings which had brownish edged feathers which were called "bronzewings". These birds had some visual Spangle characteristics but were undoubtedly a different variety to the Spangle of today. ("Bronzewing" was also used to describe another subtle variation of Clearwing, without the edging, in Europe in this same period.)

One report has a Spangle appearing in 1971 in the aviary of a bird dealer, Sergio Casagrande in Reservoir, Victoria, Australia.

Certainly the heritage of the present Spangles descends from those Spangles bred by Albert Ritchie of Traralgon, Victoria, Australia in 1973 from an "odd coloured" Australian Yellowface(sf) Blue and a Sky Blue who were bought from a pet shop. The variety was then firmly established and distributed by his neighbour Merv Jones.

In 1980 Rolf Christen exported some Spangles from Australia to Switzerland and these birds formed the nucleus of the Spangle variety outside Australia.

**DETAILED INFORMATION**

**Mask:** Single factor:- Ground colour with hollow or broken black spots.  
Double Factor:- No spots.

**Cheek Patch:** Single factor:- Violet or violet and white or white. (Grey cheek patches on Grey and Grey Green body coloured birds.)  
Double factor:- White.

**Cere:** Male - Blue, Female - Brown

**Beak:** Bone

**Eyes:** Single factor:- Black with white ring.  
Double factor:- Born with brown eyes (some can be almost red) which turn black after a few days.

Adult birds are black with white ring. A small percentage of Double Factor Spangles are known to have no white ring or a very dark ring.

**Body Colour:** Single factor:- As per non-Spangle. Even shade throughout.  
Double factor:- Ground colour with a green or blue **suffusion**, the suffusion being darkest below the mask forming a collar. Selective breeding and the introduction of Cinnamon or Greywing can remove the suffusion.

**Chick Down Colour:** Bright White.

**Markings:** Single factor:- Black scallop markings near the edge of each feather on a ground colour background. The most intensely marked birds actually have black quills forming an anchor shape black marking. The markings often lose intensity after the first moult and may continue to lose intensity at a slower rate with successive moults.  
Double factor:- No markings.

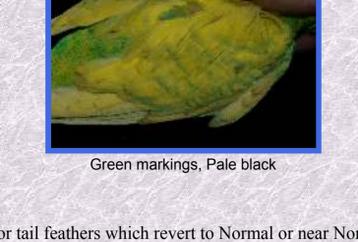
**Tail:** Single factor:- Ground colour with or without black edging. Intensely marked birds have black quills.  
Double factor:- Ground colour.

**Feet:** Grey

**COMMON FAULTS**

**Pale wing markings:-**

The intensity of the black edge stripe markings on wing feathers is very variable. It can be quite pale bordering on being absent. (This is not to be confused with Greywing and Cinnamon combinations which are naturally pale.) Very often the inclusion of body colour on top of, or instead of, the black marking is associated with this pale marking fault. This body colour marking is very prominent (but not exclusively) on Spangle cocks which are split for Opaline. In fact, such birds are often mistaken for Opaline Spangles.

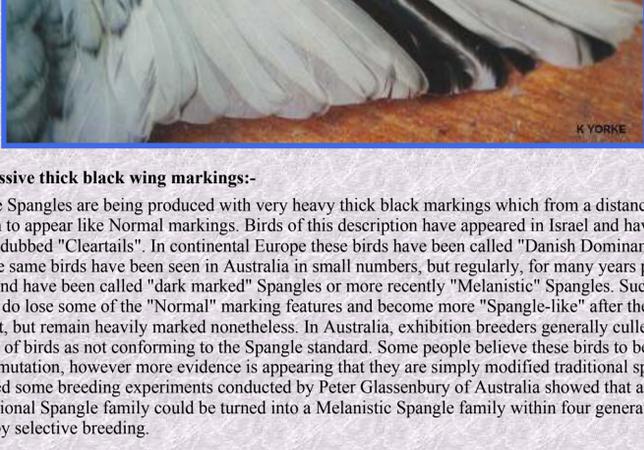


The use of Normal to Spangle matings (instead of Spangle to Spangle matings) has been shown to significantly improve the pale marking fault in offspring.

**Normal or grizzle marked feathers:-**

Spangles have a fault of having random wing or tail feathers which revert to Normal or near Normal pattern. Typically this may be only a very small number of feathers affected or only partly affected.

It is interesting that some Danish Recessive Pies have similar traits in wing markings and in fact some of them with heavy markings do appear quite "spangle" marked.

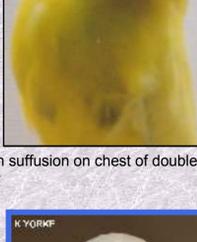


**Excessive thick black wing markings:-**

Some Spangles are being produced with very heavy thick black markings which from a distance even begin to appear like Normal markings. Birds of this description have appeared in Israel and have been dubbed "Cleartails". In continental Europe these birds have been called "Danish Dominants". These same birds have been seen in Australia in small numbers, but regularly, for many years prior to this and have been called "dark marked" Spangles or more recently "Melanistic" Spangles. Such birds do lose some of the "Normal" marking features and become more "Spangle-like" after the first moult, but remain heavily marked nonetheless. In Australia, exhibition breeders generally culled these types of birds as not conforming to the Spangle standard. Some people believe these birds to be a new mutation, however more evidence is appearing that they are simply modified traditional spangles. Indeed some breeding experiments conducted by Peter Glassenbury of Australia showed that a traditional Spangle family could be turned into a Melanistic Spangle family within four generations just by selective breeding.

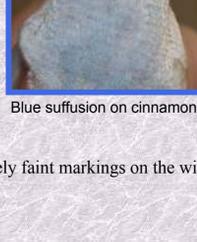
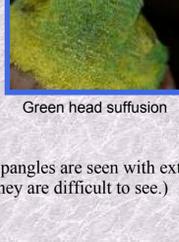
**Head spot:-**

Spangles are often seen with a small ground colour **head spot**.



**Ringneck markings on double factors:-**

Green or blue suffusion on the upper chest and body which intensifies higher up the body forming a ring around the neck underneath the mask. It can be argued that this is the true colouration of the Spangle(df), however most modern exhibition standards class this as a fault, preferring no suffusion. Combining Cinnamon, and to a lesser extent Greywing (and sometimes Opaline), into a Double Factor Spangle helps to remove this fault.



**Body colour suffusion on back of head:-**

This fault has blue or green suffusion on the back of the head where the ground colour should be, giving the impression of a coloured patch superimposed onto the usual Spangle head markings.

**Wing markings on double factors:-**

A small percentage of Double Factor Spangles are seen with extremely faint markings on the wing identical to Single Factor Spangles. (They are difficult to see.)

**Loss of Colour:-**

Some spangles have areas that revert to ground colour. The rump is the most affected area followed by generally small patches on the chest giving a slight pied appearance. Black markings can also be lost. This phenomenon is similar to the "Artificial Pied" or "Mottle" phenomenon but not as pronounced.



[Goto Artificial Pied page](#)  
[Goto Mottle page](#)

See also the "[Variety Colour Faults](#)" section.

**OTHER ARTICLES AND INFORMATION**

["The Spangle.. The Story" by Darren McFarlane.](#)

["The Melanistic Spangle" by Jeff Attwood](#)

**HOW THEY BREED**

The Spangle **gene** is **incomplete dominant** over the non-Spangle wild gene. At least one parent must be Spangle factor to produce Double Factor Spangle young. Both parents must be Spangle factor to produce Double Factor Spangle young. A bird cannot be **split** for Spangle factor.

X	Non-Spangle	Spangle (sf)	Spangle (df)
Non-Spangle	100% Non-Spangle		
Spangle (sf)	50% Non-Spangle 50% Spangle (sf)	25% Spangle (df) 50% Spangle (sf) 25% Non-Spangle	
Spangle (df)	100% Spangle (sf)	50% Spangle (df) 50% Spangle (sf)	100% Spangle (df)

**COMMON COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS**

(Click on thumbnail image to view at full size in a pop up window)



Dark Green Spangle



Violet Light Green Spangle



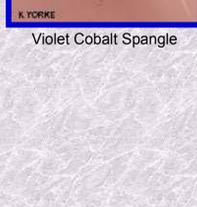
Grey Green Spangle



Sky Blue Spangle



Cobalt Spangle



Violet Cobalt Spangle



Grey Spangle



Sky Blue Spangle(df)

**OTHER VARIETY COMBINATIONS PHOTOGRAPHS**

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