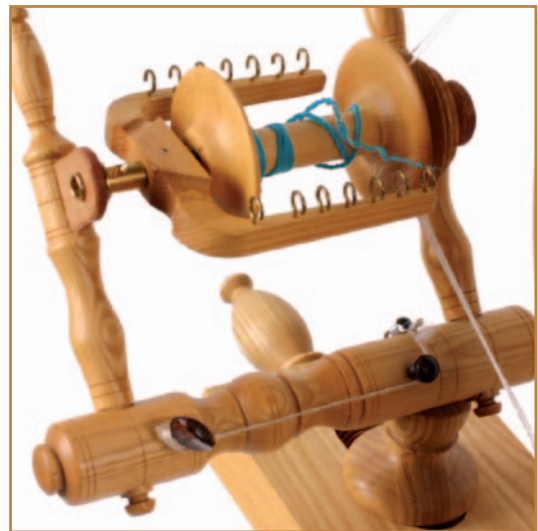
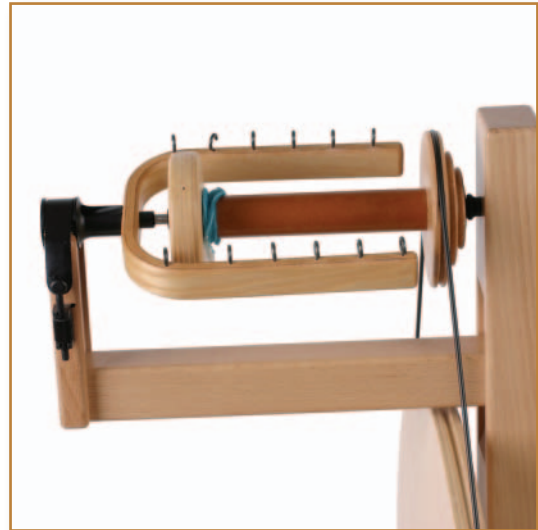


spinning daily  presents

An Introduction to Spinning Wheels: How to Use and How to Choose a Spinning Wheel





Welcome to the world of handspinning! So, you've decided to take the plunge and explore the wonders of making your own yarn with a spinning wheel. Not only are you in for a treat, but you've also started at the right place. Learning how to spin your own yarn is pretty easy and straight forward, especially if you have access to great teachers. To make this free eBook, we pulled from some of our best content from the pages of *Spin-Off* magazine.

The oldest of Interweave's publications, *Spin-Off* is a quarterly magazine that has been around since 1977 inspiring spinners new and old to make beautiful yarn and find enchanting ways to use it. We also host the spinning community, spinningdaily.com complete with blogs, forums, and free patterns, *Spin-Off* Autumn Retreat (SOAR)—an intense and inspirational week with like-minded spinners, and our series of workshop videos where the living treasures of the spinning world share their knowledge with you. We're devoted to bringing you the best spinning teachers, the newest spinning ideas, and most inspirational creativity right to your mailbox, computer, and ultimately fingertips.

We hope you enjoy your spinning journey—come tell us about it at spinningdaily.com.

Happy spinning,

Amy Clarke Moore

aclarkemoore@interweave.com



Spin•off

it's about making yarn by hand

Spin•Off magazine, published four times a year, features articles about the ancient and thriving craft of spinning. Each issue highlights the vibrant and diverse spinning community and explores the intricacies of spinning. Travel around the world to learn new spinning techniques, discover new and old spinning tools, and sit down with knowledgeable instructors whose craft and experience will enrich your life!

spinningdaily.com

Spinning on a Wheel

By Maggie Casey



PHOTOS BY JOE COCA

Learning to spin on a spinning wheel is tricky! How can your body do so many different things at the same time? One hand pinches, one hand pulls, and your feet pump the treadle. What a lot to think about at once. However, if you learn each step in the spinning process before you put them together, spinning will be easier. And with a little practice, it becomes second nature.

Spinning is the act of drawing out fibers (**drafting**) and adding twist to make yarn. Your spinning wheel will add plenty of twist, so before you sit down to spin, give your hands a head start and practice

drafting. Choose wool as your first spinning fiber because it is the easiest fiber to learn on and it is widely available. If you are buying prepared fiber,

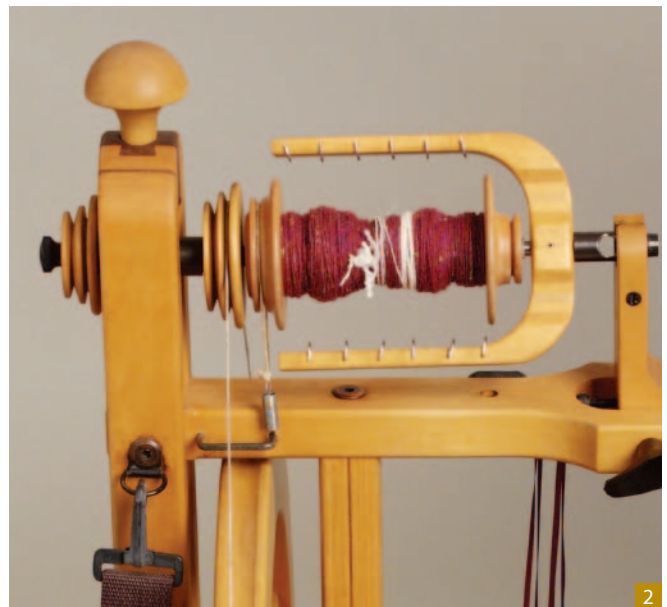
choose **carded** not combed wool and a fiber length about 3 to 4 inches. Carded fibers are much easier to spin than combed fibers, and rolags (rolags are carded fibers organized on handcards) are best because the fibers are organized in a way that makes them draft more easily.

Practice drafting

Take a handful of wool in one hand, and with the other hand, gently pull some of the fibers away from the mass and twist them in one direction with your fingers. Continue to pull out the fibers (**drafting**) and add twist. If you don't put enough twist in, the yarn will fall apart. If you put in too much twist, you won't be able to draft out the fibers. Concentrate on feeling the fibers slip between your hands as you draft. This is the most important step in spinning because as you draft the fibers, you form the yarn. Pull out a few fibers and you create a fine yarn; pull out a lot of fibers and your yarn will be thick.

Practice treadling

Most singles yarn is spun clockwise (to the right), so start your wheel in that direction and just **trea-**



dle. It isn't a race, so treadle slowly but with enough momentum that the wheel continues to turn clockwise and doesn't stop and back up. Think of the drive wheel as a clock. If you position the footman (the part of the wheel that connects the treadle to the drive wheel) at one o'clock and make the first treadle strong, momentum will help keep the wheel going in the correct direction (**fig. 1**). While you practice, sit on different chairs to find the most comfortable one. Both chair height and seat depth can make a big difference in treadling comfort. Treadle while you talk on the phone or read until treadling becomes a natural movement.

Getting comfortable with your wheel

The **wheel ratios** of spinning wheels vary; you will want to be on the slowest speed when you're learning to spin. **Remember slow is big.** Use your largest whorl to give you the most control (**fig. 2**).

Tie a piece of plied wool yarn about 24 inches long (**leader**) onto the bobbin. You want the leader to wind onto the bobbin without slipping, so tie the yarn on firmly to the bobbin and leave a tail long enough to wrap around the bobbin again and tie another knot. Once the leader is on the bobbin, take the yarn over the hooks of the flyer and through the orifice.

Learn how to adjust the **tension** on your brake band on your wheel. This device controls the rate the yarn is drawn onto the bobbin and acts essentially as a brake. On double-drive wheels, the drive band is also the tensioning device. On single-drive wheels, the tension is separate from the drive band. Some single-drive wheels have a brake band with a spring or rubber band over the bobbin, and some wheels have a strap or brake band over the flyer. In all cases, the tighter the brake band, the faster the yarn will be pulled onto the bobbin.

Spend some time playing with the tension on your wheel. Start with very light or no tension on the brake band. Hold onto the leader and start treadling. The leader should pull onto the bobbin very slowly or not at all. Now tighten the tension a lot and see what a difference that makes. If the brake is very tight, the leader will feel like it is being sucked out of your hand. Pull the leader back out of the orifice and keep adjusting the tension. Tighten and loosen the tension in small increments and see how it changes the rate that the leader is pulled onto the bobbin. Learning how to adjust the tension on your wheel can make all the difference for enjoyable spinning. Start with the tension very loose with no draw-in, then

tighten the brake until the yarn is pulled on firmly when you release it.

Getting ready to spin

The yarn will be wound onto your bobbin with the help of the **leader**. Once the leader is on your bobbin, take the yarn over the hooks of the flyer. It doesn't matter which hook you start on, but it is important that the yarn is engaged by all the other hooks between that one and the orifice. Some wheels don't have hooks but have a thread guide that moves up and down the flyer arm; be sure to thread your leader through that guide and then the one near the orifice.

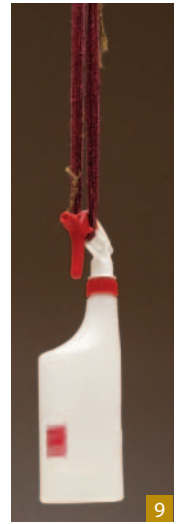
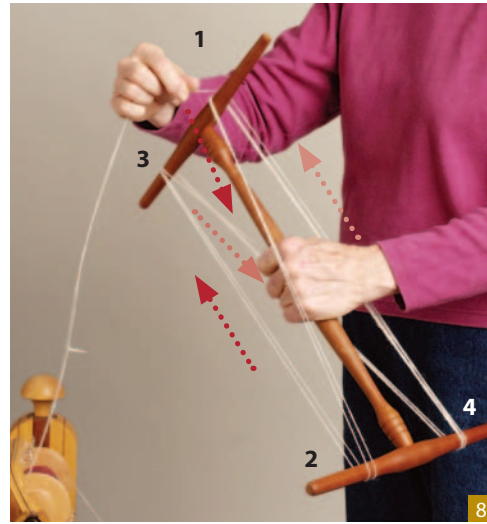
To get the leader through the orifice, you will probably need a small tool called an **orifice hook**,



which you insert into the orifice to catch the yarn and pull it through. Some wheels have built-in orifice hooks and holders; if yours doesn't, tie a string around the hook handle and hang it nearby. Keep the orifice hook close at hand because you will need it frequently. The orifice of some wheels will be large enough that you can just pull the leader through with your finger, while Majacraft wheels have been designed without an orifice at all.

Time to spin

Fluff out the end of the leader with your fingers (**fig. 3**). With one hand (**the back hand or fiber hand**), take a rolag or small handful of carded fiber, place the leader on the fiber, and hold the leader and fiber together with your thumb and index finger (**fig. 4**). Slowly treadle clockwise and watch the twist come up the leader and grab the



fibers in your hand. After the twist has built up a little, use your other hand (**the front hand or twist control hand**) to pinch the leader to control the twist. Now draft the fibers out, keeping your front hand closed. Next, open the front hand and let the twist run up, grab the loose fibers, and turn them into yarn (**fig. 5**). Relax your back hand and let the wheel pull the yarn onto the bobbin (**fig. 6**).

Although you are stronger than the wheel, you have to give the yarn to the wheel to continue making yarn. Now start the spinning process over again. The front hand controls the twist by pinching, and the back hand drafts the fiber out. You determine the size of the yarn by how much you draft the fibers out. A few fibers make a fine yarn; many fibers make bulky yarn. Once you have made a length of yarn, release the twist with your front hand and let it run up the yarn and stabilize it. Remember to let the yarn wind onto the wheel. If you don't, so much twist will accumulate that the yarn won't go onto the bobbin. Adjust the tension if your yarn isn't winding onto the bobbin or if it is winding on too quickly. Keep repeating the sequence: Pinch with the front hand to control the twist, draft the fibers out with the back hand, release the pinch and let the yarn wind on.

Soon you will have to make a join because you will have run out of fiber. Make a join just as you did with the leader and your first bit of fiber. Fluff out the end of the fiber you are spinning, place it on your new fiber, hold it gently with the thumb and index finger of your back hand, wait until the twist runs up, and then gently draft the old and new fiber together. Each time you start a new rolag or handful of fiber, move the yarn to a different hook on the flyer to load the bobbin evenly (**fig. 7**). The size of your handfuls will determine how often you need to move the yarn. You want the yarn to fill the bobbin evenly without any great hills and valleys.

Congratulations, you are a spinner!

Now you can take your singles yarn off the bobbin and put it in a skein. A **niddy-noddy** comes in handy here. A niddy-noddy looks like the capital letter I with the top and bottom arms at right angles to one another. Hold the center part of the niddy-noddy with one hand and wrap the yarn around the arms. To facilitate the process, you can number the ends of the arms; 1 and 3 on one arm, 2 and 4 on the other. The yarn starts over 1, goes down to 2, back up to 3, down to 4, and back up again, over and over (**fig. 8**). Be sure to take the yarn to the outside of the arms as you make a skein. When the skein is wound and while it's still on the niddy-noddy, tie the two ends of yarn together and put some ties through the skein. Gently pull the skein off the niddy-noddy.

The yarn you have made will probably be very curly, so you will need to set the twist to relax the yarn. Fill the sink with warm water, add a little mild detergent, and soak the skein for several minutes. Rinse with warm water. Remove excess moisture by wrapping the skein in a towel and squeezing. Hang the skein on a hook in the shower and put a weight on the bottom to straighten out the kinks. I use a spray bottle as a weight (**fig. 9**). The handle hangs on the skein, and I fill the bottle with as much water as necessary to straighten out the yarn. Once the yarn is hanging straight, let it dry, and while it's drying, think of all the wonderful ways you can use it.

Maggie Casey, author of *Start Spinning* (Interweave, 2008) and *Start Spinning DVD* (Interweave, 2009), spends her day working and teaching at Shuttles, Spindles, and Skeins in Boulder, Colorado. She loves teaching spinning because she learns so much from her students.

Resources

- Raven, Lee. *Hands on Spinning*. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 1987.
- Rhoades, Carol Huebscher. "Handcarding." *Spin-Off* 15, 3 (Fall, 2001), 74.

Troubleshooting

By Denise Jackson



“You cannot treadle your way out of trouble.”

—Alden Amos
The Alden Amos Big Book of Handspinning (Interweave, 2001).

When things go right in spinning, life is beautiful and effortless. When things go wrong, we mutter nasty things to our fiber and wheels. Instead of getting angry, stop, take a deep breath, and relax. Take a short break to get perspective. What is really going on? Below is a checklist of problems and some possible solutions. Sometimes it is the wheel, sometimes it is the fiber, and sometimes it is the spinner that is the source of the problem. Remember, we have all had these problems whether we’ve spun for forty years or four days. All solutions are simple if you know the troubleshooting possibilities.

Wheel goes backward

- Start the wheel with the footman in the one o’clock position and then make the first treadle strong to get momentum.
- Slightly decrease the tension on the drive band or brake band.

Wheel is hard to treadle

- Make sure your wheel is clean and oiled.
- Slightly decrease the tension on the drive band or brake band.
- Check the maidens and make sure they are parallel (if one is awry, it is like having another brake).

Yarn won’t wind onto the bobbin

- Remember to feed yarn to the wheel. Relax your grip so the yarn can wind onto the bobbin.
- Check the hooks or guides on the flyer for yarn that is snagged or looped around a hook.
- If the yarn becomes too twisted, it won’t wind on. You will need to unwind some of the kinks before

starting again. *Stop treadling* and draft out more fibers to give the twist somewhere to go.

- Slightly increase the tension on the drive band or brake band.
- Make sure the brake and tension bands are in the right places. On a double-drive wheel, one loop of the drive band needs to be on the flyer and one loop on the bobbin.
- On a double-drive wheel, the flyer whorl should have a larger diameter than the bobbin whorl so the yarn can wind on.
- Check the leader. To prevent slippage, tie it tightly to the bobbin shaft.
- Does the flyer rotate freely around the flyer shaft? If it doesn’t, wipe down the shaft with a cotton swab or rag. If the bobbin is still tight, wrap a little sandpaper around a dowel and use it to clean out the bobbin shaft, or better yet, contact the wheel manufacturer for advice.
- Check to see if the bobbin ends are loose or missing. Replace or reglue them.

- See if any yarn has wrapped around the base of the flyer shaft. Rewind the yarn back onto the bobbin if it isn't greasy. Note that petroleum-based oils on the flyer shaft may not wash out of the yarn.

Yarn is getting too much twist and may break

- Remember to feed the yarn to the wheel.
- *Slightly* increase the tension on the drive band or brake band to increase take-up.
- If your wheel has several whorls, change to a larger one to get fewer twists per treadle.
- Make sure your drive band has not slipped to a smaller whorl.
- Try drafting a little faster and treadling slower.

Flyer won't turn when the wheel is treadled

- *Slightly* increase the tension on the drive band.
- On wheels with self-adjusting drive bands and no way to increase tension, your band may be stretched out. You may have to buy a new drive band.

Yarn doesn't have enough twist and drifts apart

- *Slightly* decrease the tension on the drive band or brake band so the yarn will twist more.
- Go to a smaller diameter whorl to get more twists per treadle.
- Draft more slowly to allow more twist to enter the yarn.
- Treadle faster.

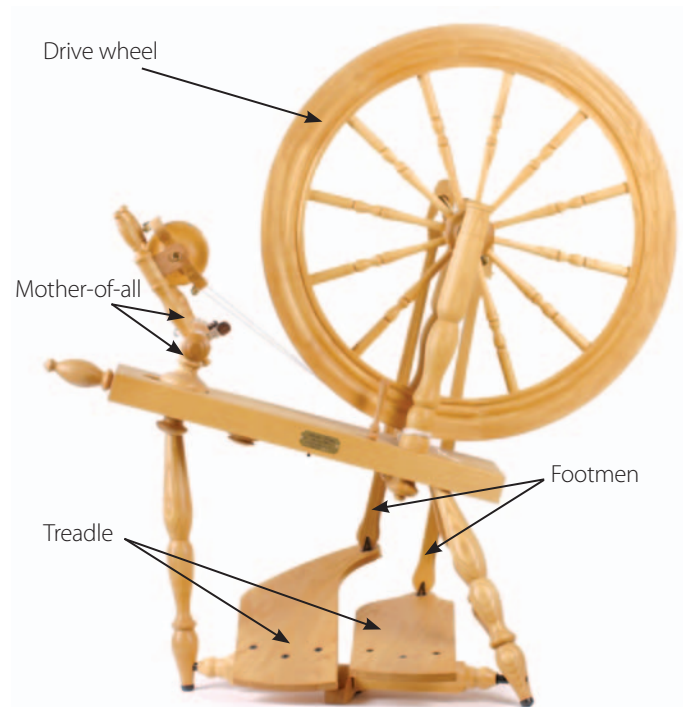
Yarn is pulled out of your hands and onto the wheel

- *Slightly* decrease the tension on the brake band or drive band.
- If using a WooLee Winder, it may be time to clean it.

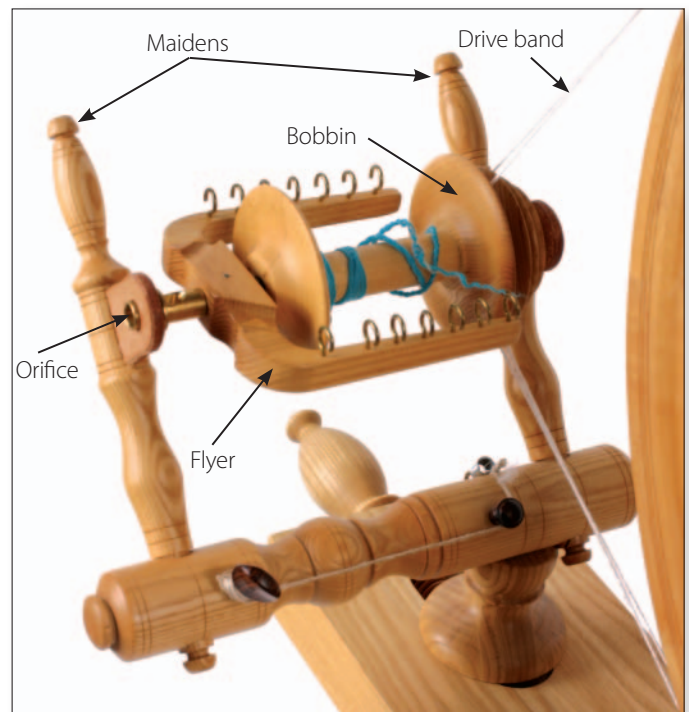
Join doesn't hold

- Join fuzzy to fuzzy—untwist the fiber about 1 inch on each end. Overlap these and carefully draft them together. Treadle a little extra to hold the join together. Untwist the yarn end about 1 inch. Predraft the other end. As you treadle, catch fibers in the twist until you have passed the twist. Treadle a little extra to hold the join together.
- When all else fails, tie a knot. You can fix it later. ☞

Denise Jackson, of central Montana is a fourth-generation spinner and weaver. She is a fiber arts judge who works with the Northwest Regional Spinning Association (NwRSA) on setting fiber judging standards for the state of Montana. Currently, Denise is working on her master's degree in communications and leadership with the goal of becoming a better teacher, minister, and judge. She would like to extend her thanks to Lisa Wilson of Fiber Frontier.



Traditional or Saxony wheel.



Parts of a wheel.

Resources

- Amos, Alden. *The Alden Amos Big Book of Handweaving*. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 2001.
- Casey, Maggie. *Start Spinning*. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 2008.

How to Choose Your First Wheel

By Rudy Amann

PHOTOS FROM *START SPINNING* BY MAGGIE CASEY (INTERWEAVE, 2008).

Upright wheel.



When I am teaching spinning workshops, I'm often asked, "Which spinning wheel should I buy?" My usual answer is "It depends." There are many different wheels available, and all of them will add twist to fiber and spin yarn. But some wheels will be a better match for each spinner. In addition to price, there are some important things to consider that can usually narrow the choice to just a few wheels.

If it is possible, visit a shop that has several different spinning wheels that you can try. Some shops and spinning guilds rent wheels, giving you an opportunity to try one in your home. Also ask your spinning friends to let you try their wheels. It is not unusual for spinners to have more than one wheel, even though they may just bring a portable wheel to spinning gatherings.

One of the first things to consider is which hand is your spinning or orifice hand, (closest to the orifice) and which hand is the fiber hand (holding the fiber). If you are a beginning spinner or a novice, I suggest that you try letting your dominant hand be your spinning or orifice hand. Your dominant hand has the fine motor skills that are needed for controlling the twist.

If your left hand is the orifice hand, you will most likely want the flyer on the left, and if your right hand is the orifice hand, you will probably be most comfortable with the flyer on the right. This allows you to draft across your lap and let the twist enter the fibers in front of you without having to turn sideways, which can get very tiring or painful.

Unfortunately, even though most people are right-handed and their right hand is their dominant hand, very few wheels have the flyer on the right. This is because of the historical development and evolution of spinning wheels. There are a few wheels that allow you to place the flyer on either side. A wheel with the orifice in the center is a compromise to accommodate either right- or left-handed spinners.

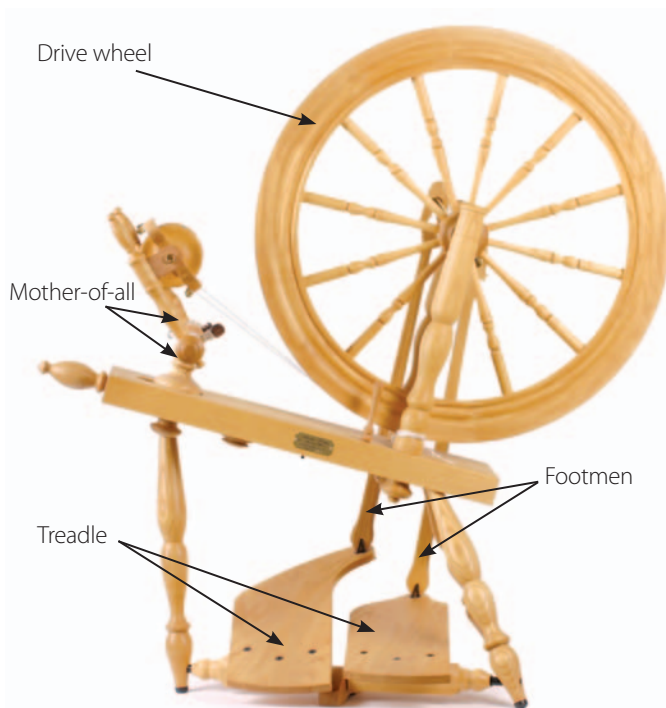
You need to think about where you will be using your spinning wheel. How much space do you have, and how portable a wheel do you need? If you are planning to take your wheel to guild meetings, spin-ins, or demonstrations, then size, portability, appearance, and style may be very important. Nonelectric spinning wheels with flyers and bobbins can be put into three groups: traditional or Saxony, upright, and portable.

Traditional-style wheels take more space and usually are not very easy to transport. Upright wheels take less space and are easier to move around. Some upright wheels are designed to fold or to separate into several parts to make them more portable. The smallest wheels are the lightweight, compact wheels that are designed for easy portability. Generally, portable wheels are not as stable as full-size wheels and often do not have as many features or options available.

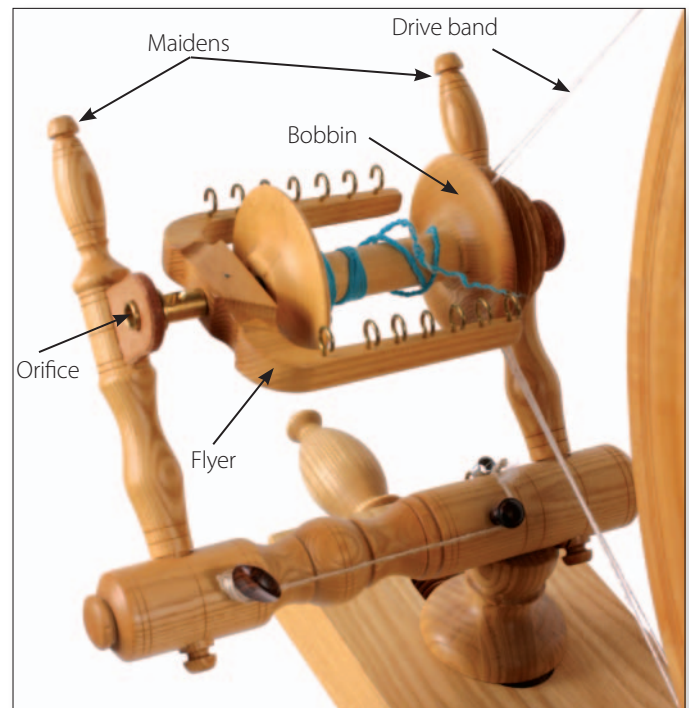
Until a few years ago, most spinning wheels had only one treadle. Today, many wheels are available in single- or double-treadle models. Most traditional-style wheels have a single, narrow treadle just wide enough for one foot. The treadle on some contemporary single-treadle wheels is wide enough that you can use either one foot or both feet. A single treadle placed at the center of the wheel allows the spinner to use either foot and also gives the spinner more flexibility in finding a comfortable position for spinning.

Some spinners find that they have better control of their wheels using a double-treadle model. They are able to spin more smoothly even at slow speeds and find it easier to start and stop the wheel. However, other spinners find it uncomfortable to keep their feet and legs together while spinning. Even if you like to treadle with just one foot, there may be some advantage in getting a double-treadle wheel. If your right hand is your orifice or spinning hand, you can position the wheel to your right side and use your right foot on the left treadle. Similarly, you could have the wheel to your left and treadle with your left foot on the right treadle. Spinners with short arms may find it more comfortable to move a wheel with a center orifice to one side so that they have more space in front of them for drafting across the lap. If you think you might want to treadle a double-treadle wheel with just one foot, experiment and be sure the wheel spins easily and smoothly using one foot.

When you are trying a spinning wheel, be sure your foot is positioned correctly on the treadle or treadles. This is especially important with a single-treadle wheel so that you are able to use both your toes and heel to power the wheel. Often beginning spinners have their foot/feet too far forward on the treadle. The back of your heel should be even with the bottom edge of the treadle. This allows you to press down with the ball of your foot for the downstroke and then press down with your heel for the upstroke.

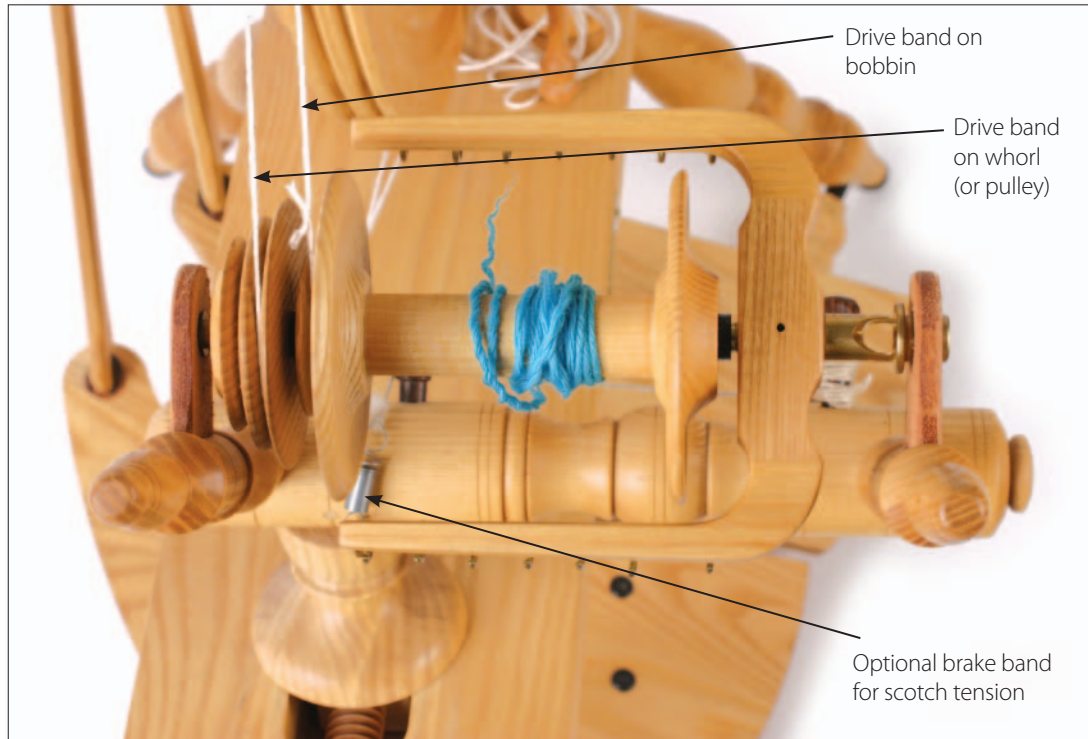


Traditional or Saxony wheel.



Parts of a wheel.

Double-drive system.



For plying yarn, you should have a separate lazy kate. The pegs that are provided on some spinning wheels are handy for storing extra bobbins, but they are not really satisfactory for plying. For good controlled plying, you need to be able to place the kate behind you. The kate should have a tensioning device and be able to hold at least three bobbins. If a separate lazy kate does not come with the wheel you select, buy a lazy kate with tensioning that will accommodate the bobbins of your wheel.

If you have an idea about what fibers and what type of yarn you will be spinning, the drive system may make a difference. There are three types of drive systems: single drive with bobbin lead, single drive with flyer lead, and double drive.

On bobbin-lead wheels, also known as Irish-tension wheels, the bobbin is turned by the drive wheel and there is an adjustable brake on the flyer. It is easy to change bobbins on these wheels, and once the brake band is set, it usually does not need to be adjusted. These wheels usually have bigger bobbins and are best-suited for spinning DK and heavier weights of yarn, novelty yarns, and for plying. Spinners with several wheels often keep a bobbin-lead wheel to use for plying.

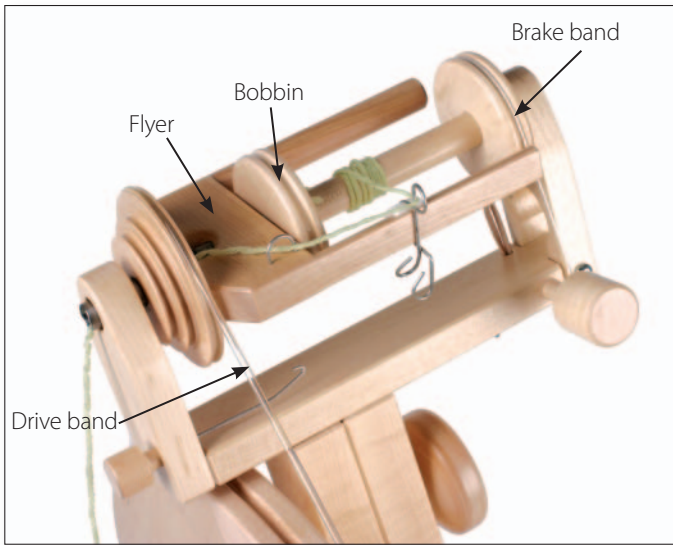
Although bobbin-lead wheels can be used to spin finer yarns, a flyer-lead wheel would be a better wheel if you are planning on spinning cotton, silk, or other finer yarns. On flyer-lead wheels, also known as scotch-tension wheels, the flyer is turned by the drive wheel and there is an adjust-

able brake on the bobbin. This system offers the most control in spinning a large variety of different-size yarns and in the amount of twist that you insert in the different yarns. However, as the bobbin fills with yarn, the tension on the bobbin brake needs to be readjusted. A flyer-lead wheel is a good choice for spinning fine fibers and yarns.

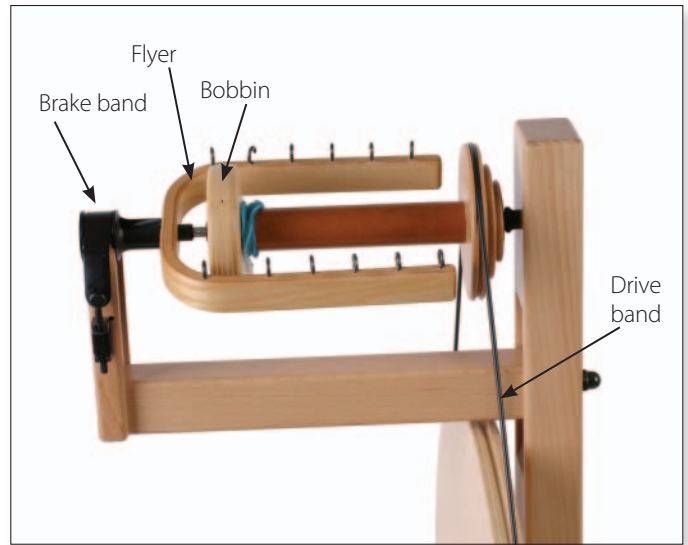
On double-drive wheels, both the bobbin and the flyer are turned by the drive wheel, usually with the bobbin turning faster than the flyer to wind on the spun yarn. Double-drive wheels are good for spinning large amounts of consistent yarn in the fine to medium range of yarns. They are also good for spinning soft-spun yarns. Many double-drive wheels have the option of being set up as single-drive flyer-lead wheels.

There are a few wheels that allow you to set them up with any of the three drive systems. That enables you to use either single drive with flyer lead (**scotch tension**) or double drive for spinning singles. When you are spinning the singles for a two-ply yarn, fill the bobbins to about half capacity. Then switch to single drive with bobbin lead (**Irish tension**) and ply the singles together on a third bobbin. This takes advantage of the benefits of the different drive systems.

If you are planning to do a lot of spinning with fine fibers, you may want to consider a wheel that offers an optional high-speed flyer and bobbins. Also, some wheels have larger flyer and bobbins available for plying or spinning heavier and art yarns.



Flyer-lead scotch tension system.



Bobbin-lead system.

The appearance of the wheel can be an important factor when selecting a wheel. Do you like the style, design, wood, and finish of the wheel? I hope you will be able to spend many happy hours sitting in front of it spinning. You should enjoy looking at the wheel, and you should like the way it looks in your spinning space.

Good luck in finding the perfect spinning wheel for you!

Rudy Amann of Brunswick, Maine, is a retired high school mathematics teacher and assistant principal. When he was learning to spin, Priscilla Gibson-Roberts was his mentor. He teaches and demonstrates spinning and nãlbinding.

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The Updated and Expanded Great Spinning Wheel Roundup

COMPILED BY PATTIE GRAVER

Our Fall 2008 issue included our first Spinning Wheel Roundup. We've taken that information as a starting point and updated and expanded it. Picking a wheel is a big investment, and with all the spinning wheels on the market, how do you choose the one that's right for you? We've taken a little bit of the work out of the quest to find a perfect wheel. On the following pages, you will find a list of every ready-to-order spinning wheel we could find, complete with detailed product specifications. We've also included a small sampling of custom wheel makers, in case you're looking for something truly unique. Whatever your spinning needs are, we hope this guide can narrow your search and put you that much closer to finding the perfect wheel for you.

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info@schachtspindle.com

www.schachtspindle.com

SpinOlution

1247 S. Buena Vista, Unit C

San Jacinto, CA 92583

(951) 760-5836

mike@spinolution.com

www.spinolution.com

Custom Wheel Makers

Alden Amos

11178 Upper Previtali Rd.

Jackson, CA 95642

gaustad@jps.net

<http://pweb.jps>

.net/~gaustad/

Betty Roberts

Oroville, WA 98844

(509) 476-3571

broberts8@q.com

<http://groups.yahoo.com/>

group/SpinningWheels_by_

BettyRoberts

Carson Cooper

PO Box 66554

Scotts Valley, CA 95067

(831) 234-1114

info@ztwist.com

www.ztwist.com

Golding Fiber Tools

849 Saxtons River Rd.

Saxtons River, VT 05154

(800) 710-1872

carving@sover.net

www.goldingfibertools.com

Jensen Wheels

Distributed by

Bountiful

211 Green Mountain Dr.

Livermore, CO 80536

970-482-7746

info@bountifulspinweave.com

www.bountifulspinweave.com

Distributed by

Apple Hollow Fiber Arts

Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

(888) 324-8302 (U.S. only)

applehollowfibers@gmail.com

www.applehollow.com

McTavish Wheelworks

Tom and Tracy Livernois

29190 McTavish Ln.

Eugene, OR 97402

(541) 228-6124 (Tom's cell)

(541) 337-3495 (Tracy's cell)

tracyntom@gmail.com

<http://mctavishfarm>

shetlands.net

SpinAway Wheels

Norm and Bernice Parks

1452 Siver Rd.

Guilderland, NY 12084

info@spinawaywheels.com

www.spinawaywheels.com

Norm Hall

149 Vrowan Hills Rd.

Oxford, NY 13830

(607) 843-9686

Pocket Wheel

1900 Country Lane

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

(360) 675-2610

pnwradar@hotmail.com

www.pocket-wheel.com

Robin Spinning Wheels

9 Robins Ln.

Parsonsfield, ME 04047

(207) 793-8468

lilyspindles@yahoo.com

www.robinwheels.com

Watson Wheels

8542 Emard Terr.

Sidney, BC, Canada

V8L 1K3

(250) 656-6522

watsonwheels@shaw.ca

www.watsonwheels.com

Wyatt Wheels

Myles Kent Jakubowski

PO Box 420547

Del Rio, TX 78842

(830) 734-7339

jakubom@earthlink.net

http://wyattspinwheels.com

COMPANY	MODEL	STYLE	DRIVE TYPE	TREADLES	TRAVEL SIZE?	WHEEL DIAMETER
Ashford	Country Spinner 2	upright	BO	DT	no	18"
	Traveller Double Drive	upright	DD, SC	DT	no	18"
	Traveller Single Drive	upright	SC	DT	yes	18"
	Joy 2 Double Treadle	upright	SC	DT	yes	15¾"
	Kiwi 2	upright	SC	DT	no	17½"
	Elizabeth 2	saxony	DD, SC	ST	no	24"
	Traditional Double Drive	saxony	DD, SC	ST	no	22"
	Traditional Single Drive	saxony	SC	ST	no	22"
	Joy 2 Single Treadle	upright	SC	ST	yes	15¾"
Babe's Fiber Garden	Pedal Pusher	upright	BO	DT	no	21¼"
	Bulky	upright	BO	DT	yes	21¼"
	Spinnrock Production	upright	BO, SC	DT	yes	21¼"
	Fiber Starter	upright	BO, DD, SC	either	yes	17"
	Production Wheel	upright	BO	either	yes	21¼"
	Double Maiden	upright	BO	either	no	17 or 21¼"
	Pinkie	upright	BO	either	yes	12"
	Flyer Lead	upright	SC	either	yes	21¼"
Baynes Spinning Wheels	Colonial	upright	DD, SC	either	no	16"
BlueBonnet Spinning Wheel Co.	BumbleBee	upright	SC	DT	no	16"
	HoneyBee	upright	SC	DT	no	16"
	CraftyBee	upright	SC	DT	no	16"
	Shamrock	upright	SC	DT	no	18"
	Basic Thimble	upright	SC	DT	yes	14"
	All My Love Thimble	upright	SC	DT	yes	14"
	Traditional Thimble	upright	SC	DT	yes	14"
	Fairy Thimble	upright	SC	DT	yes	14"
	Saxony	saxony	SC	DT	no	24"
Clemes & Clemes	Modern	upright	flyer led	ST	no	16"
	Traditional	upright	flyer led	ST	no	16"
Columbine Spinning Wheels	RF Series	upright	DD	ST	no	14½"
Fricke Enterprises	S-160-ST	upright	SC	ST	no	17"
	S-160-DT	upright	SC	DT	no	17"
	S-160-F-ST	upright	SC	ST	yes	17"
	S-160-F-DT	upright	SC	DT	yes	17"

KEY

Drive Types:

BO = bobbin lead
 DD = double drive
 SC = scotch tension

DR = direct drive (for smaller wheels in which treading turns the wheel directly and there is no drive band)

Treadles:

DT = double treadle
 ST = single treadle

RATIOS	WEIGHT	INCLUDED	STARTING PRICE
3:1, 4:1, 5:1	14½ lb	bobbin, threading hook, learn-to-spin booklet, built-in lazy kate	\$695
6.5:1, 8.5:1 (11.5:1 bobbin lead)	15 lb	4 bobbins, threading hook, learn-to-spin booklet, built-in lazy kate	\$585
5.5:1, 10:1, 14:1	15 lb	4 bobbins, threading hook, learn-to-spin booklet, built-in lazy kate	\$565
6:1, 8:1, 11:1, 14:1	13 lb	3 bobbins, threading hook, learn-to-spin booklet, built-in lazy kate, optional carry bag	\$755
5.5:1, 7.25:1	12 lb	3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, threading hook, learn-to-spin booklet	\$395
8.5:1, 11:1, 15:1 (18:1 bobbin lead)	20 lb	4 bobbins, lazy kate, threading hook, learn-to-spin booklet	\$890
7.5:1, 10.1:1 (14.1:1 bobbin lead)	17½ lb	4 bobbins, lazy kate, threading hook, learn-to-spin booklet	\$595
6.2:1, 12.5:1, 17.5:1	17½ lb	4 bobbins, lazy kate, threading hook, learn-to-spin booklet	\$565
6:1, 8:1, 11:1, 14:1	11 lb	3 bobbins, threading hook, learn-to-spin booklet, built-in lazy kate, optional carry bag	\$685
5.875:1, 7.5:1, 21:1	10 lb	5 bobbins, lazy kate, 4 oz Brown Sheep Company roving	\$309.95
4.25:1	10 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate, 4 oz Brown Sheep Company roving, threading hook	\$379.95
5.875:1	8¾ lb	2 bobbins and 1 ply bobbin, lazy kate, 4 oz Brown Sheep Company roving, threading hook	\$279.95
5:1, 6:1	7 lb	6 bobbins, lazy kate, 4 oz Brown Sheep Company roving	\$229.95
5.875:1, 7.5:1, 19:1	7 lb	6 bobbins, lazy kate, 4 oz Brown Sheep Company roving	\$255.59
5:1, 6:1 or 5.875:1, 7.5:1	8½ lb	6 bobbins, lazy kate, 4 oz Brown Sheep Company roving	\$313.95
3.25:1	4 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate, 4 oz Brown Sheep Company roving	\$199.95
7:1	10 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate, 4 oz Brown Sheep Company roving, threading hook	\$289.95
5.5:1, 7.5:1 or 9:1, 11:1 (pick one flyer)	12½ lb	4 bobbins, extra drive band, lazy kate, spare-parts kit	\$320 (ST), \$360 (DT)
6:1, 8:1	12 lb	bobbin	\$199.95
6:1, 8:1	12 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate	\$299.95
4:1, 6:1	12 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate	\$395
8:1, 10:1, 12:1	14 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate	\$425
4:1 to 18:1	11 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate, two 4-speed whorls	\$495
4:1 to 18:1	11 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate, two 4-speed whorls	\$595
4:1 to 18:1	11 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate, two 4-speed whorls	\$695
4:1 to 18:1	11 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate, two 4-speed whorls	\$795
6:1, 8:1, 10:1	25 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate	\$895
5.5:1	25 lb	3 bobbins	\$475
5.5:1 and 6.75:1	15.5 lb	3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, threading hook	\$985
4:1, 5:1, 7:1 (drive wheel) and 1.2:1, 1.7:1, 2.1:1 (bobbin)	11½ lb	bobbin, threading hook, Allen wrench	\$495
5.7:1, 6.8:1, 8.7:1, 12:1, 19.4:1	12 lb	4 bobbins, lazy kate, 2 drive bands, oil bottle with oil and clamp	\$339
5.7:1, 6.8:1, 8.7:1, 12:1, 19.4:1	12 lb	4 bobbins, lazy kate, 2 drive bands, oil bottle with oil and clamp	\$396
5.7:1, 6.8:1, 8.7:1, 12:1, 19.4:1	12 lb	4 bobbins, lazy kate, 2 drive bands, oil bottle with oil and clamp	\$408
5.7:1, 6.8:1, 8.7:1, 12:1, 19.4:1	12 lb	4 bobbins, lazy kate, 2 drive bands, oil bottle with oil and clamp	\$475

Wheels are labeled “yes” in the “travel size?” column only if they easily collapse or are already very small without modification.

All wheel specifications were correct at the time of printing, but please double-check with the manufacturer prior to buying as prices may change.

COMPANY	MODEL	STYLE	DRIVE TYPE	TREADLES	TRAVEL SIZE?	WHEEL DIAMETER
Journey Wheel	Journey Wheel	upright	DD, SC	either	yes	accelerator wheel
Kromski	Symphony	saxony	DD, SC	DT	no	24"
	Minstrel	upright	DD, SC	DT	yes	18"
	Sonata	upright	SC	DT	yes	19"
	Polonaise	norwegian	DD, SC	ST	no	24"
	Prelude	saxony	SC	ST	yes	18"
	Fantasia	saxony	SC	DT	yes	18"
	Interlude	saxony	SC	ST	yes	22"
Lendrum	Saxony	saxony	DD, SC	DT	no	28"
	Folding	upright	SC	either	yes	19"
	Folding (complete kit)	upright	SC	either	yes	19"
Louet North America	S10 DT	upright	BO	DT	no	20"
	Julia	upright	SC	DT	yes	20"
	Victoria	upright	SC	DT	yes	14½"
	S10	upright	BO	ST	no	20"
	S17	upright	BO	ST	no	20"
	Olivia	upright	SC	DT	no	20"
Majacraft	Rose	upright	SC	DT	yes	17"
	Little Gem	upright	SC	DT	yes	8¼"
	Aura	upright	hybrid DD	DT	yes	13"
	Suzie Standard	upright	SC	DT	yes	13"
	Suzie Pro	upright	SC	DT	yes	13"
	Pioneer	upright	SC	DT	no	12⅔"
The Merlin Tree	HitchHiker	upright	DR	either	yes	14"
	RoadBug (same as HitchHiker without carry handle)	upright	DR	either	yes	14"
Paradise Fibers	Revolution	upright	BO, DD, SC,	DT	no	18"
Schacht Spindle Co.	Ladybug	upright	BO, DD, SC	DT	no	16"
	Sidekick	upright	SC	DT	yes	13¾"
	Matchless	upright	BO, DD, SC	either	no	19½"
	Schacht-Reeves Saxony 24"	saxony	BO, DD, SC	either	no	24"
	Schacht-Reeves Saxony 30"	saxony	BO, DD, SC	either	no	30"
SpinOlution	Mach II	upright	flyer led	DT	no	20"
	Mach III	upright	flyer led	DT	no	20"
	Queen Bee	travel	flyer led	DT	yes	two 9"
	Hopper	travel	flyer led	DT	yes	4" and 9"
	Wind	upright	BO	DT	no	20"
	King Bee	travel	flyer led	DT	yes	7" and 9"
	Echo	travel	flyer led	DT	yes	16"

	RATIOS	WEIGHT	INCLUDED	STARTING PRICE
	8:1, 10:1, 14:1, 16:1	14 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate	On sabbatical through 2014.
	7.5:1, 10:1, 16:1, 20:1	15 lb	3 bobbins, threading hook, tensioned lazy kate, wheel oil	\$620
	6.5:1, 8.5:1, 12:1, 16:1	13 lb	3 bobbins, threading hook, lazy kate on wheel, wheel oil	\$510
	6.7:1, 12.5:1, 14:1	11½ lb	3 bobbins, threading hook, lazy kate on wheel, wheel oil, padded bag	\$660
	8:1, 12:1, 16:1, 20:1	16 lb	3 bobbins, threading hook, tensioned lazy kate, wheel oil	\$720
	6:1, 10.5:1, 13:1	9 lb	3 bobbins, threading hook, lazy kate on wheel, wheel oil	\$399
	5:1, 8:1	13½ lb	3 bobbins, threading hook, lazy kate on wheel, wheel oil, fast changing flyer	\$399
	7:1, 13.5:1, 15.5:1	11 lb	3 bobbins, threading hook, lazy kate on wheel, wheel oil	\$460
	8:1, 12:1, 15:1, 18:1	25 lb	4 bobbins, lazy kate	\$1,250
	6:1, 8:1, 10:1	14 lb	4 bobbins, lazy kate	\$420 (ST) \$630 (DT)
	5:1, 6:1, 7:1, 8:1, 9:1, 10:1, 12:1, 15:1, 17:1	17 lb	4 regular bobbins, lazy kate, jumbo plying head, plying drive band, 1 large bobbin, fast flyer	\$635 (ST) \$790 (DT)
	5.5:1, 7.5:1, 10.5:1	13½ lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate	\$699
	6:1, 8.5:1, 12.5:1, 19:1	11 lb	4 bobbins, lazy kate	\$750
	6:1, 8.5:1, 13:1	7½ lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate, carry bag	\$745
	5.5:1, 7.5:1, 10.5:1	13½ lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate	\$590
	5.5:1, 7.5:1, 10.5:1	12 lb	2 bobbins, lazy kate	\$350
	6:1, 8.5:1, 12.5:1, 19:1	10 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate	\$750
	4.2:1, 5.1:1, 5.9:1, 8.4:1, 8.9:1, 11.3:1, 12.7:1, 15.4:1, 15.6:1, 19.5:1	13 lb	4 bobbins, bobbin box/lazy kate	\$1,190
	4.5:1, 6:1, 8.5:1, 10.5:1, 12.7:1	8 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate, carry case	\$995
	4.1:1, 5.4:1, 7.3:1	14 lb	3 jumbo bobbins	\$1,250
	4:1, 6.3:1, 9.2:1, 11.5:1, 15:1	14½ lb	4 bobbins, bobbin storage/kate	\$1,055
	4.4:1, 6.5:1, 9.5:1, 11.8:1, 15:1	14½ lb	4 bobbins, bobbin storage/kate	\$1,095
	4.7:1, 7.3:1, 10.3:1, 13.3:1, 16:1	11 lb	3 bobbins	\$655
	7:1, 9:1, 13:1	9½ lb (ST) 10½ lb (DT)	3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, attached oil bottle, threading hook	\$299 (ST) \$379 (DT)
	7:1, 9:1, 13:1	9¼ lb (ST) 10¼ lb (DT)	3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, attached oil bottle, threading hook	\$299 (ST) \$379 (DT)
	6.5:1, 8.5:1, 13:1 (4.5:1, 6:1, 10:1 with jumbo flyer 7/8" orifice)	18 lb	3 standard bobbins, drive bands, orifice hook, setup DVD	\$795
	5:1, 6:1, 7:1, 9:1, 10.5:1, 12.5:1, 14:1, 16:1	13½ lb	3 travel bobbins, threading hook, medium and fast whorls, carry strap, poly and cotton drive bands	\$595
	4.25:1, 5.25:1, 6.25:1, 7.5:1, 9:1, 11:1, 12.5:1, 13.75:1	13 lb	3 travel bobbins, threading hook, medium and fast whorls, carry strap, drive bands	\$799
	4:1, 5:1, 6:1, 7.5:1, 9:1, 11:1, 13:1, 15.5:1, 17.5:1, 18.5:1, 19.5:1, 22:1	16 lb (ST) 17 lb (DT)	4 bobbins, medium and fast whorls, carry strap, 2 drive bands, threading hook, lazy kate	\$1,100 (ST) \$1,125 (DT)
	8:1, 10:1, 12:1, 14.5:1, 16:1, 19:1, 22.5:1, 28:1, 31.5:1	20 lb	3 bobbins, 2 whorls, lazy kate, threading hook, drive bands	\$1,035 (ST) \$1,185 (DT)
	9.5:1, 12:1, 14.5:1, 18:1, 20:1, 24:1, 27.5:1, 30.5:1, 34:1, 38.5:1	28 lb	3 bobbins, 2 whorls, lazy kate, threading hook, drive bands	\$1,269 (ST) \$1,430 (DT)
	3:1, 5:1, 10:1, 15:1	22 lb	3 bobbins	\$794
	3:1, 5:1, 10:1, 15:1, 18:1	23 lb	3 bobbins	\$1,095
	3:1 to 30:1	13.5 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate	\$759
	1:1 to 22:1	14 lb	3 bobbins	\$869
	3:1 to 17:1	25 lb	3 bobbins	\$1,095
	3:1 to 18:1	14 lb	3 bobbins, lazy kate	\$869
	4:1 to 20:1	14 lb	bobbin	\$515

Charkhas

Distributed by New Voyager

- Indian charkha (case)
- 100:1 ratio
 - Includes 3 spindles, skein winder, instructions
 - Starts at \$148

Journey Wheel

- Attaché case
- 110:1 ratio
 - Includes 3 spindles, built-in lazy kate, skein winder, yarn guide, 2 lockable storage compartments
 - \$565

Book-size case

- 70:1 ratio
- Includes 3 spindles, built-in lazy kate, skein winder, yarn guide
- \$445

Ashford

- Accelerated (upright)
- 80:1 and 16:1 ratios
 - \$360

Babe's Fiber Garden

- Liten Spindel (upright)
- 13:1, 14:1, 16:1, and 20:1 ratios
 - \$145.95

eTrade Enterprises (www.etradinglines.com)

- Kisan charkha
- Includes winder, 2 spindles, 100 g cotton punies
 - \$79
- Book charkha
- 3 spindles, cotton drive band, elastic ring, skeiner
 - \$99

Box

- 3 spindles, cotton drive band, elastic ring, skeiner
- \$99

Bigger box charkha

- Includes 3 spindles, cotton drive band, elastic ring, skeiner
- \$129

Mini traditional charkha (upright)

- \$149

Standard book charkha

- \$169

Traditional charkha (upright)

- \$199

Walnut carved book charkha

- made to order
- \$299

Charkhas available from custom wheel makers Alden Amos and Wyatt Wheels.

Helpful Tips

Bobbin capacity can also be a point of interest when choosing a wheel. The Woolery has developed an objective way to calculate bobbin capacity. Their bobbin capacity chart can be found at www.woolery.com/pages/selectwheel.html.

Most wheel makers offer additional accessories, add-ons, and spare parts for their wheels. We have included only the items that come standard with each wheel. Please check with your wheel manufacturer to see what optional items may be available.

Electronic Spinners

COMPANY	MODEL	STYLE	FOOTSWITCH	BATTERY OPERATION?	REVERSING MOTOR?	DIMENSIONS (W × L × H)	Weight (pounds)	INCLUDES	STARTING PRICE
Alden Amos http://pweb.jps.net/~gaustad/wheels.html	#1 Motor Base	Standard flyer/bobbin array is Amos' #1-½ double-drive bobbin-led system	varies	varies	varies	18" × 30" × 30"	N/A	T-frame base with 3 removable legs, 3 bobbins, rack for 2 spare bobbins, oil bottle, threading hook, drive-cord jig, manual, and a twisty-stick sampling aid.	\$850
Ashford Handicrafts Ltd. www.ashford.co.nz	e-Spinner 2	Flyer led	\$23	Yes, add \$23 for 12 volt auto adapter	Yes	N/A	6	Lazy kate with yarn guide, 3 jumbo bobbins, threading hook, learn to spin booklet	\$750
Babe's Fiber Garden LLC www.babesfiber.com	HH Deluxe Electric Spinning Machine	Various	N/A	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	2—4 oz bobbins, 1—8 oz bobbin, orifice hook, manual	\$299
Clemes & Clemes www.clemes.com	Electric Spinner	Double drive	Sewing machine-type motor and foot throttle	No	No	9" × 18" × 8"	N/A	Two extra bobbins and a built in lazy kate	\$465
Fricke Enterprises www.fricke-fiber-tools.com	E-Spinner	Flyer led	\$30	No	Yes	8¼" × 13" × 9"	8	Kate with yarn guide and 4 bobbins	\$493
HansenCrafts www.hansencrafts.com	miniSpinner	Flyer led	Yes, included	Yes, 12 volt auto adapter included	Yes	6¼" × 10" × 8"	3½	1 bobbin, foot switch, AC adapter, 12 volt automobile cord, tote bag, orifice threader, instructions.	\$775
Heavenly Hand-spinning www.heavenlyhandspinning.com	Vespera	Bobbin led	Sewing machine-type motor and foot throttle	No	Not specified	7" × 13" × 12"	5	Not specified	\$259
Ertoel www.ertoel.com	Roberta	Bobbin led	\$100	Yes, add \$100 for 12 volt option.	Yes	10½" × 11" × 8½"	12	2-5 oz, 1 jumbo bobbin, integral lazy kate	\$1,225

Note: All specifications per manufacturer's official website and courtesy of Kevin Hansen. Some specifications quoted by dealers differ from the manufacturer's specifications.