

SPIN IT UP!



by Karen E. Bledsoe
illustrated by Annette Cate

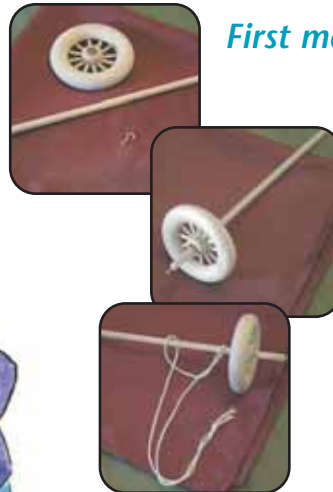


YOU'LL NEED:

- 3-inch wooden toy wheel
- Hardwood dowel 10 inches long (with a diameter to fit the hole in the wheel)
- Small screw-in hook
- Lightweight string
- Wool roving (cleaned sheep's wool that is ready for spinning)

Cloth is made from threads woven together. Colonial spinners used spinning wheels to make thread, but you can start without a wheel. With a few simple materials from the craft store, you can make a drop spindle and learn to spin.

First make the spindle:



- Insert the dowel into the center hole of the wheel until it extends about 1½ inches. If it does not fit snugly, add a drop of glue.
- Screw the hook into the end of the dowel that you inserted into the wheel.
- Cut 24 inches of string for a leader. Fold the string in half. Place the looped end under the dowel. Draw the ends through the loop and pull. Knot the ends together.

Now you're ready to spin:

- Split the roving into the thickness that you want by gently tugging lengthwise to loosen the fibers.
- Insert one end of the roving into the loop of the leader. Slip the leader under the spindle's hook.





- Pinch the fiber at the leader with one hand. With the other hand, roll the spindle shaft along your left leg to spin it clockwise.

- “Park” the spindle between your knees. Slide your pinching hand up to let it twist into the roving.



- Check your yarn to see if it has enough twist. It should twist back on itself without tangling.

- Wind the yarn onto the spindle.



- When you finish the first piece of roving, split off a second. Lay it beside the first and pinch it together. Spin the spindle and let the two ends twist together.

- To ply two single yarns together, first wind them onto a cardboard tube. Insert the ends into your leader.

- Roll the spindle along your right leg to spin it counter-clockwise, twisting the singles together.



Next, make a skein:

- Wind the yarn around your arm between your hand and your elbow.



- Insert your fingers into the two ends of the loop. Twist the skein.

- Tuck one end of the loop into the other.



Now you can use your yarn to knit or weave a project. When you are done, you can truly say, “I made it myself!” 🧑‍🎨