

Fiber Spinning Basics

This playbook outlines the essential steps to transform fibers into yarn using spinning wheels and drop spindles. It acts as a guideline for beginners to learn the craft of spinning and yarn production.

Step 1: **Preparation**

Gather the necessary materials including fiber, either wool, cotton, silk, or synthetic fiber, as well as tools such as a spinning wheel or drop spindle. Ensure the fibers are clean and carded.

Step 2: **Drafting**

Pull and elongate the fibers gently to prepare for spinning. Drafting can be done by hand or with the use of a tool like a diz.

Step 3: **Attaching Fiber**

Attach the leader yarn from the spinning wheel or drop spindle to the drafted fiber. Secure the fiber so that it will easily integrate as you begin spinning.

Step 4: **Spinning**

Use the spinning wheel or drop spindle to twist the fibers into yarn. Pedal the wheel or twist the spindle while evenly feeding the fiber into the twist to create yarn of the desired thickness.

Step 5: **Plying**

Combine two or more strands of the spun yarn together to add strength and consistency. Plying can be done by spinning multiple strands together in the opposite direction of the original spin.

Step 6: **Finishing**

Wash the newly spun and plied yarn to set the twist, and then hang it to dry. Once dry, the yarn can be wound into skeins or balls for knitting, weaving, or other projects.

General Notes

Fiber Choices

The choice of fiber affects the texture, strength, and ease of spinning the yarn. Different fibers, from animal wool to plant fibers to synthetic options, will yield different results.

Spinning Tension

The tension of the yarn during spinning is crucial. Too much tension will break the fibers, while too little will result in an uneven yarn.

Practice

Spinning can be challenging for beginners. Practice drafting and spinning techniques to improve consistency in the thickness and twist of the yarn.