

SPIN & WHORL



Your drop spindle is an ancient tool that has been used since the Stone Age to spin yarn. That's over 10,000 years ago! Drop spindles come in all shapes and sizes and are used all over the world. Take a look at yours!

Hook- The hook holds onto your yarn and keeps it centered.

Whorl- The disc in the center is called a whorl. It helps the drop spindle to keep spinning.

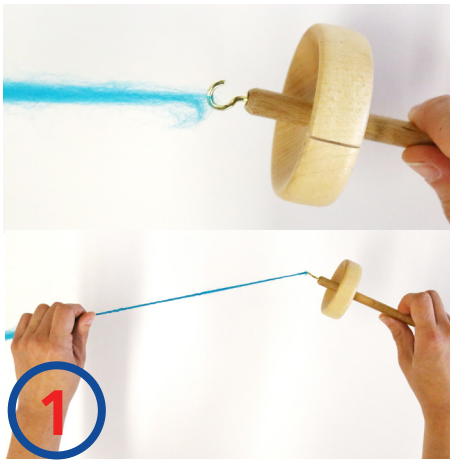
Shaft- Everything spins around the long rod called the shaft. It also holds the yarn you've already spun just below the whorl.

Notch- The groove on the side of the whorl that holds your yarn in place.

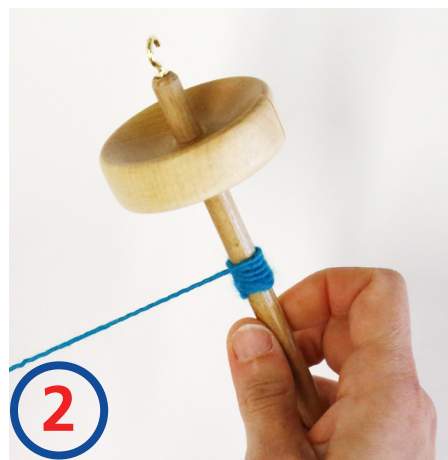
Roving- The loose fibers that you spin with.

Drafting: If you would like to make a thinner yarn you may need to draft your roving by holding it in your hands 10 inches apart, gently pull it length wise until desired thickness.

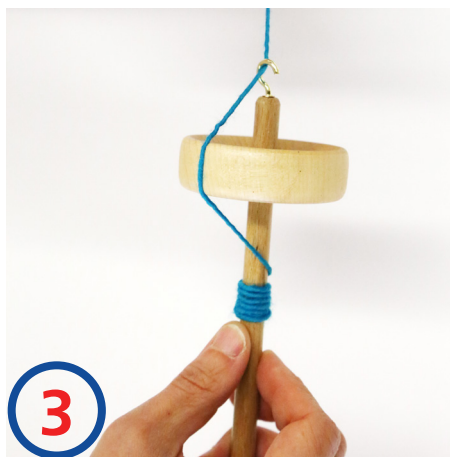
Remember that spinning is about practice, practice, and more practice!



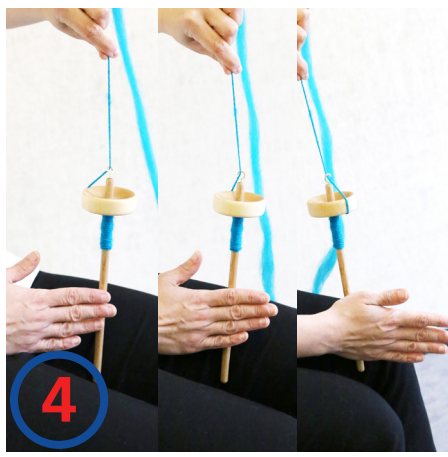
Find a comfortable chair and lay your roving (loose wool) out so it's in a circle (like a hose.) Set it next to you on the floor or table. Grab an end and put the hook through the center until it catches. Once it's caught gently spin the shaft in your hand while holding onto the roving.



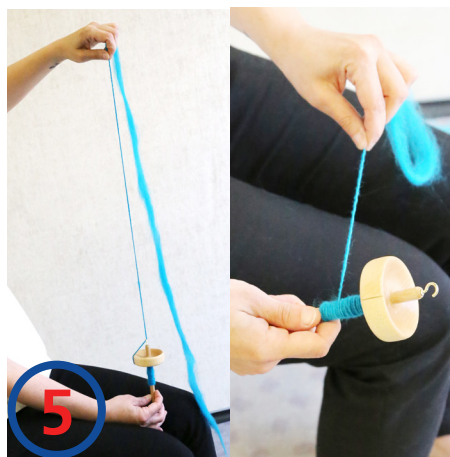
Keep spinning the shaft until you have about 20 inches spun. Remove it from the hook, holding both ends so it doesn't untwist, and wrap the start of your thread around the shaft, below the whorl, until you're left with about 8 inches. Make sure to not let go of the twist!



Continuing to hold the end so it doesn't untwist; place remaining 8 inches of spun thread in the notch, then through the hook. While seated, place your drop spindle between your knees.

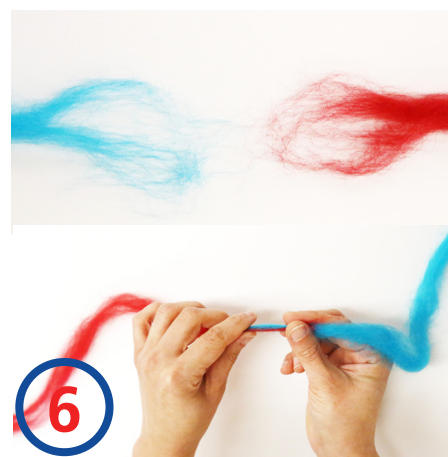


In order to spin you must go in the same direction every time- you do this by spinning from the top of the inside of your leg to your knee, every time. Roll the shaft down your leg, grab it, and hold it between your knees. With your other hand, loosen your fingers and slide them up the roving, letting the twist travel upwards into the roving.



Repeat step 4 until your thread gets too long to continue. Remove it from the hook and coil it around the shaft. Place it back in the notch and hook and keep repeating step 4.

Repeat step 4 and 5 until finished. Simply remove finished thread by pulling it off of the bottom of the shaft.



TIPS & TRICKS
To switch colors or to join two pieces simply fray both ends and roll them together between your fingers.

Drafting your roving to the thickness you like before you start makes the process smoother.