

# DROP SPINDLE

## BASIC INSTRUCTION SHEET

Take about 50cm of ready-spun yarn and tie one end to the spindle just below the whorl. Take the yarn over the whorl, wind around a couple of times and bring up through the hook.

This yarn is called the 'leader'.

Take a handful of carded fleece in the left hand, pull out some fibres and lay them over the leader about 20cm from the end. Give the spindle a sharp twist and let it drop. While it twists, pull out some more fleece with the right hand and slide the finger and thumb up to the left hand with the twist, pinch with the left finger and thumb to prevent the twist running into the rest of the fleece.

Give the spindle repeated twists to keep it turning. Do not let it unwind or the thread will break. Continue pulling out more fibres and twisting the spindle until the spindle almost touches the ground.

Now wind the yarn you have spun onto the spindle above the whorl, leaving enough to wind around the spindle a couple of times and back up through the hook.

Continue drawing out fibres and twisting the spindle then winding onto the spindle as before.

If the yarn breaks simply lay some more fibres over the spun yarn and the twist will run up the fibres, securing it.

Do not worry if the yarn is rough and lumpy. Once you have mastered the knack of keeping the spindle going without breaking the yarn, you will be able to make a more uniform thread by regulating the amount that you pull out of the fleece.

When the spindle is full, wind the yarn off into a hank.

