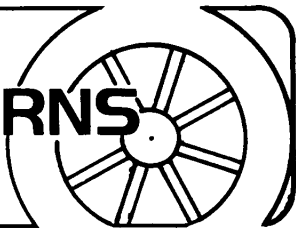


AS THE WHEEL TURNS

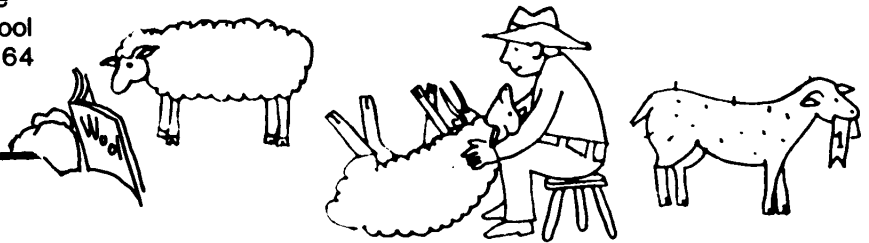


by Pat Boutin Wald

SHEEP RAISING

Many handspinners have taken an interest in raising their own wool. If you are interested in purchasing sheep, especially exotic breeds, or just wish to find out more about them, I suggest you subscribe to: Black Sheep Newsletter
28068 Ham Road
Eugene, Oregon 97405

This is an excellent newsletter, full of practical information. Serious shepherds might wish to subscribe to the Pipestone Home Sheep Study Course. For more information, write:
Sheep Study Course
Pipestone Voc. School
Pipestone, Mn. 56164



Should I have my antique spinning wheel modified to spin thick yarn?

No. Antique wheels were designed for spinning flax. This flax was spun into a smooth, fine, almost slippery yarn having high twist by spinners who tended to have a great deal of spinning experience. Spinning fine flax yarn does not work a spinning wheel very hard.

The majority of spinners today spin sheep's wool that is uneven by the nature of the fiber, thicker, not needing as much twist, and requiring the wheel to work hard. You will probably be much happier in the long run if you would keep your antique wheel as is and just spin flax on it. Then purchase an additional wheel specifically designed for spinning thicker wool yarns.

—Tony Glaski

QUESTIONS

Spinning Wheel builders Vlasta and Tony Glaski have been kind enough to help answer many of the frequently asked questions concerning spinning wheel. If you have any questions, or are interested in finding out more about their wheels, you can write them at RFD 1, Unity, Wisc. 54488.

We'd like to hear from you. Knowing that someone reads this column will encourage us to continue. You can also drop off questions at the Minnesota Weaver office.

I just purchased a spinning wheel kit. What type of finish can I use that is both easy to apply and non-toxic?

While disassembled, sand the spinning wheel's pieces lightly with No. 220 grit GARNET sandpaper. Plan on using five 8" x 11" sheets. Tear each sheet into three pieces and fold each piece in half. Lightly sand with the grain. Don't try to sand away all marks and dents; just sand until the wood feels smooth to your touch. Change pieces of sanding paper often. After sanding, wipe each piece of wood with a clean cotton towel to remove most of the wood dust.

Purchase a pint of Hope's Brand Pure Tung Oil. Hope's Pure Tung Oil is easy to use, non-toxic, forms a protective surface, and accents wood grain beautifully. Pour about a half inch of tung oil into a clean shallow pan. Use your fingers or a paper towel to wipe tung oil all over each part.

After coating all the parts, rub each one dry with a paper towel. Lean each part against something and allow to dry overnight or longer. (Paper and cloth will draw fresh tung oil out of wood, so be careful where you put the oiled parts.) Then you can assemble your spinning wheel, lubricate it, and begin spinning.

—Tony Glaski

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