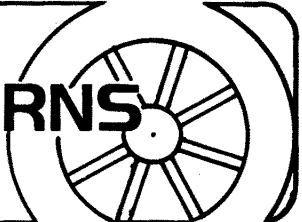


# AS THE WHEEL TURNS



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**What do the two different sized bobbin ends on the Louet spinning wheel do?**

The purpose of the bobbin ends are to change the amount of twist that occurs as you treadle. The large pulley causes twist to occur more slowly and should be used if you are experiencing overtwist when spinning with the small end.

I would encourage you to loosen the plastic drive band when you are not spinning and keep it out of harsh sunlight when possible. This will help increase its lifespan.

**Can I spin cotton on my colonial wheel?**

Cotton likes lots of twist, and your colonial wheel should spin fine cotton without problem if you can keep your drive band slightly loose to prevent your yarn from breaking. Pima cotton seems to spin the most uniform yarn. Regular wool handcards can be used to make rolags to increase yarn uniformity, but put only small amounts of cotton on the cards. Select your cotton carefully so it does not have bits of hull in it. The hulls are difficult to remove from the yarn and make it scratchy.

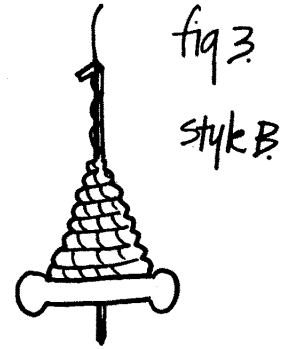
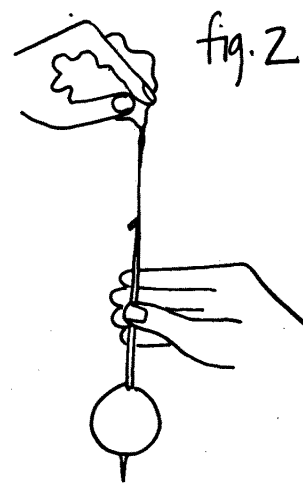
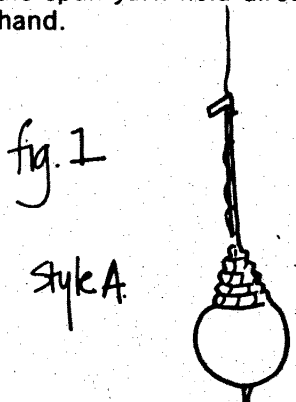
— Tony Glaski

**What specific uses are the different spindle shapes designed for?**

— Betty Olsen

For the sake of clarity, I shall divide spindles into two styles based on the shape of the spindle whorl.

The first style, which I have illustrated as style A (fig. 1) has a whorl that is a round ball. This shape brings the weight of the whorl up close to the shaft allowing the spindle to rotate very quickly for a short time. Due to its speed, this style is very good for making fine yarns, which require many twists per inch. This spindle is usually set spinning by flicking its shaft between the fingers. (fig. 2) This flicking motion is quite similar to snapping ones fingers, just place the shaft between the thumb and middle finger and snap. The spindle will turn quickly and will be held erect by the spun yarn held directly above the spindle by the left hand.



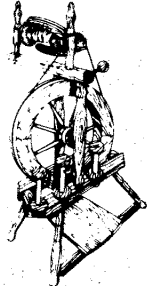
The second style has a flat, disk shaped whorl often lath turned with a thick edge around its outer circumference. (fig. 3) The weight of the spindle is thus distributed away from the center shaft causing the spindle to rotate slowly for a longer period of time. This style is best for thick yarns which require fewer twists per inch. For extra thick yarns, a heavier spindle will be required to twist the increased number of fibers. If your spindle stops and reverses its spin every few seconds, you might correct the problem by using a heavier spindle. On the other hand, if the spindle is too heavy, it will often cause the drafted fiber to fall apart before twist can be added. If you wish to use a heavy spindle for fine yarn (especially a yarn spun from short fibers such as cotton) you can support the extra weight by setting the spindle shaft's bottom tip on the floor or a table. This is referred to as a "supported spindle". Spinners often set the spindle in a small bowl or gourd to keep it from skidding across a smooth surface.

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