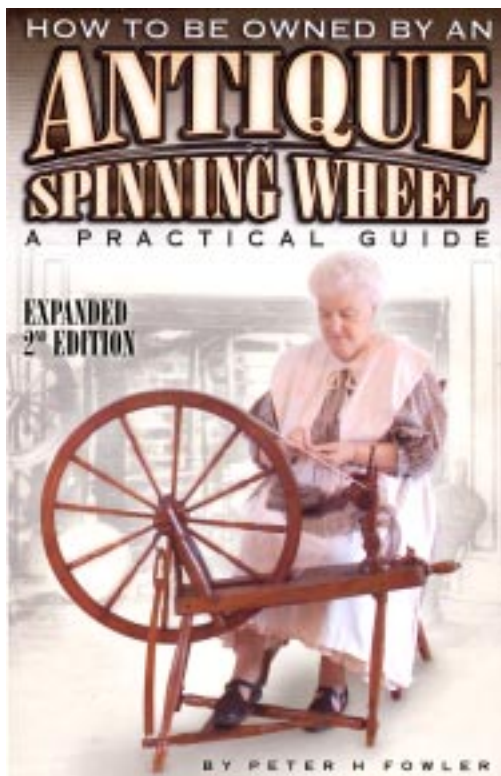


How to Be Owned by an Antique Spinning Wheel: Book Review

How to Be Owned by an Antique Spinning Wheel: A Practical Guide, Peter H. Fowler. Unicorn Gifts and Crafts, Inc., 2003. Paperback, 96 pages. ISBN 1-893063-046. \$19.95.

Available at fiber stores or directly from the author:

<http://www.peterfowler.com>



This little book is packed with useful information about antique spinning wheels.

It starts with a brief history of spinning, followed by an explanation of how spinning wheels work.

For collectors, there is valuable advice on how to tell the real thing from fakes and assemblages of incompatible parts, as well as the various devices that are used to make a wheel appear to be more valuable than it is.

Determining the age of a wheel is difficult. The author provides information about materials and finishing methods from which estimates of age can be made.

I found the chapter on Asian spindle wheels particularly fascinating, perhaps because the subject was new to me.

There are long chapters on identifying wheels and their components with many examples.

For the workman, there is information on repair and restoration, again of the most practical and detailed nature.

The final two chapters deal with making a wheel work — actually spinning— and accessories, some with fascinating names, like niddy-noddy, and lazy kate.

The author's style is open, straightforward, and enjoyable to read.

The book has a good index and is extensively illustrated. The pictures alone are worth the price of the book. Two examples are shown on the next page.

Highly recommended.

Ralph E. Griswold
Department of Computer Science
The University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

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Illustrations from the Book