



MAKING YOUR OWN DROP SPINDLE

Would you like to learn how to spin, but buying a wheel just isn't in your budget? I can tell you how to make a drop spindle with little trouble and a lot less money than a wheel.

If you have access to a wood working shop, this will make your spindle very easy. I like to get a wooden car wheel about 4 inches in diameter. The ease of the wood shop wheel is the fact that it has been drilled with the hole dead center which will make for the best spin in your whorl.

If you can't find the car wheel, don't worry. Go to any craft shop and get a round wooden plaque about 4 inches in diameter, probably about 1/2 to 1 inch thick. Watch that it isn't too heavy and one that is smaller or very light may not work as well either. Use about a 1/4 inch drill and drill a hole as close to exact center as you possibly can. If it is off center much, it will allow the spindle to wobble and you won't get as much spin for your effort.

Now that you have your chosen whorl, you can take it to the craft store, K-mart or about any mart of your choice. Find a dowl rod that will fit snugly in the center hole.

The dowl rods are 3 feet long. I cut my center shaft 12 inches, so you can make 3 spindles with from one dowl rod.

Now that you have the dowl rod cut to 1 foot (12 inches,) You push it into your whorl allowing about 1 to 1 1/2 inch to stick out the bottom.

Now, for the trickiest part, take a sharp knife and whittle a notch, about 1/2 inch from the end. This acts as a "catch" for your yarn so that it doesn't slip off the end while you are spinning more.

You are ready to add your starter piece of yarn. You can use some home spun or some store bought yarn around 12 to 14 inches in length. Tie this tightly to the shaft right above the whorl.

This starter yarn will be taken over the edge of the whorl, looped over the bottom inch that is sticking out, (this helps stabilize the yarn and evenness of the spin of the whorl) and up to make a loop at your carved notch. You should have a couple of inches of yarn available then to start your fiber on.

Now you have a tool to start learning to spin and you did it on a budget. *Enjoy.*

[Pat Glenn](#)