

Great Spinning Wheel

ROUNDUP 2018

Compiled by Deborah Gerish

| COMPANY | MODEL | STYLE | DRIVE TYPE | TREADLES | TRAVEL SIZE? | WHEEL DIAMETER |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------|--------------|----------------|
| Ashford | Country Spinner 2 | upright | BO | DT | no | 18" |
| | Elizabeth 2 | Saxony | DD, SC, BO | ST | no | 24" |
| | Joy 2 Double Treadle | upright | SC | DT | yes | 15.75" |
| | Joy 2 Single Treadle | upright | SC | ST | yes | 15.75" |
| | Kiwi 2 | upright | SC | DT | no | 17.5" |
| | Traditional Double Drive | Saxony | DD, SC, BO | ST | no | 22" |
| | Traditional Single Drive | Saxony | SC | ST | no | 22" |
| | Traveller Double Drive | upright | DD, SC, BO | DT | no | 18" |
| | Traveller Single Drive | upright | SC | DT | no | 18" |
| Babe's Fiber Garden | Big River Spinner | Saxony | -- | ST | no | 22", 35" |
| | Bulky | upright | SC, BO | DT | no | 21.25" |
| | Fiber Starter | upright | DD, SC, BO | ST, DT | yes | 17.75" |
| | Fiber Starter Double Maiden | upright | DD, SC, BO | ST, DT | no | 17.75" |
| | Great Wheel - Walking Wheel | Saxony | -- | -- | no | 36" |
| | Pinkie | upright | SC | ST, DT | yes | 12" |
| | Production | upright | SC, BO | ST, DT | yes | 21.25" |
| BlueBonnet Spinning Wheel Co. | BumbleBee | upright | SC | DT | no | 16" |
| | CraftyBee | upright | SC | DT | no | 16" |
| | HoneyBee Spin 'N Ply | upright | SC | DT | no | 16" |
| | Thimble | upright | SC | DT | yes | 14" |
| Clemes & Clemes | Modern Wheel | upright | DD | DT | no | 16" |
| | Traditional Wheel | upright | DD | ST | no | 16" |
| Fricke Enterprises | S-160-DT | upright | SC | DT | no | 17" |
| | S-160-ST | upright | SC | ST | no | 17" |
| | S-160-F-DT | upright | SC | DT | yes | 17" |
| | S-160-F-ST | upright | SC | ST | yes | 17" |
| Heavenly Handspinning | Bellus | upright | BO | DT | no | 16" |
| | Fidelis | upright | BO | ST | yes | 16" |
| | Navitas e-spinner Hybrid | upright/ e-spinner | BO | DT | yes | 16" |

Spinning wheels make yarn, but that's not all they do. They live in your space and generally, your body supplies the power. You're more likely to spin if you love your wheel, and you're more likely to love your wheel if it efficiently performs the spinning tasks you require of it.

When you're shopping for a spinning wheel, you'll have many questions. Only you can answer some of them. But we can save you some time: we've wrangled specifications for wheels, e-spinners, and charkhas currently on the market in a handy comparative chart. Find a key to abbreviations, a shopping guide, and other tips beginning on page 56. Happy spinning (and shopping)!

| RATIOS | WEIGHT | INCLUDED | STARTING PRICE |
|---|----------------|---|----------------|
| 3:1, 4:1, 5:1 | 17.5 lb / 8 kg | bobbin, threading hook, built-in lazy kate | \$740 |
| 8.5:1, 11:1, 15:1, 18:1 | 20 lb / 9 kg | 4 bobbins, lazy kate | \$1,055 |
| 6:1, 8:1, 11:1, 14:1 | 13 lb / 6 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, threading hook, carry bag, learn-to-spin booklet | \$860 |
| 6:1, 8:1, 11:1, 14:1 | 11 lb / 5 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, threading hook, carry bag, learn-to-spin booklet | \$855 |
| 5.5:1, 7.25:1 | 12 lb / 5.5 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, threading hook, learn-to-spin booklet | \$450 |
| 7.5:1, 9.5:1, 13:1, 16:1 | 17.5 lb / 8 kg | 4 bobbins, lazy kate | \$650 |
| 7:1, 9:1, 12:1, 17:1 | 17.5 lb / 8 kg | 4 bobbins, lazy kate | \$615 |
| 6:1, 8:1, 10.5:1, 13:1 | 15 lb / 7 kg | 4 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$670 |
| 6:1, 7.5:1, 10:1, 14:1 | 15 lb / 7 kg | 4 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$640 |
| 25:1, 31:1, 35.5:1, 43:1 | 21 lb / 9.5 kg | bobbin, quill | \$400 |
| 4.25:1 | 10 lb / 4.5 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, 4 oz Brown Sheep roving | \$380 |
| 5:1, 6:1 | 7 lb / 3 kg | 5 bobbins, lazy kate, Sure Foot, 4 oz Brown Sheep roving | \$230 |
| 5:1, 6:1 | 9 lb / 4 kg | 6 bobbins, lazy kate, Sure Foot, 4 oz Brown Sheep roving | \$314 |
| 38:1, 70:1 | 14 lb / 6 kg | bobbin, quill | \$390 |
| 3.25:1 | 4 lb / 1.8 kg | 5 bobbins, lazy kate, Sure Foot, 4 oz Brown Sheep roving | \$200 |
| 5.875:1, 7.5:1, 19:1 | 7 lb / 3 kg | 5 bobbins, lazy kate, Sure Foot, 4 oz Brown Sheep roving | \$256 |
| 6:1, 8:1 | 15 lb / 6.8 kg | bobbin | \$255 |
| 4:1, 6:1 | 15 lb / 6.8 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$475 |
| 6:1, 8:1 | 15 lb / 6.8 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$375 |
| 4:1, 6:1, 8:1, 10:1, 12:1, 14:1, 16:1, 18:1 | | 3 bobbins, lazy kate | \$575 |
| 5.5:1 | 25 lb / 11 kg | 3 bobbins | \$1,100 |
| 5.5:1, 6.75:1 | 15.5 lb / 7 kg | 3 bobbins | \$2,100 |
| 5.7:1, 6.8:1, 8.7:1, 12:1, 19.4:1 | 13 lb / 5.9 kg | 4 bobbins, lazy kate | \$461 |
| 5.7:1, 6.8:1, 8.7:1, 12:1, 19.4:2 | 13 lb / 5.9 kg | 4 bobbins, lazy kate | \$404 |
| 5.7:1, 6.8:1, 8.7:1, 12:1, 19.4:1 | 13 lb / 5.9 kg | 4 bobbins, lazy kate | \$565 |
| 5.7:1, 6.8:1, 8.7:1, 12:1, 19.4:2 | 13 lb / 5.9 kg | 4 bobbins, lazy kate | \$498 |
| 6:1, 9:1, 13:1 | 13 lb / 5.9 kg | 3 bobbins | \$345 |
| 6:1, 9:1, 13:1 | 8 lb / 3.6 kg | 3 bobbins | \$337 |
| 6:1, 9:1, 13:1 | 8 lb / 3.6 kg | 3 bobbins | \$488 |

~ Continued from page 50

| COMPANY | MODEL | STYLE | DRIVE TYPE | TREADLES | TRAVEL SIZE? | WHEEL DIAMETER |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------|------------|----------|--------------|----------------|
| Heavenly Handspinning | Stella | upright | BO | DT | no | 16" |
| | Tree of Life | upright | BO | DT | no | 16" |
| Kromski North America | Fantasia | upright | SC | DT | yes | 18" |
| | Interlude | Saxony | SC | ST | no | 21.5" |
| | Minstrel | upright | DD, SC | DT | no | 18" |
| | Polonaise | Saxony | DD, SC | ST | no | 24" |
| | Prelude | Saxony | SC | ST | no | 18" |
| | Sonata | upright | SC | DT | yes | 19" |
| | Symphony | Saxony | DD, SC | DT | no | 24" |
| Lendrum | Original | upright | SC | ST, DT | yes | 19" |
| | Saxony | Saxony | DD, SC | DT | no | 28" |
| Louet North America | Julia | upright | SC | DT | | 20" |
| | S10 | upright | BO | ST, DT | no | 20" |
| | S17 | upright | BO | ST | no | 20" |
| | Victoria | upright | BO | DT | yes | 20" |
| Majacraft Limited | Aura | upright | DD | DT | yes | 13.25" |
| | Little Gem | upright | SC | DT | yes | 8.25" |
| | Pioneer | upright | SC | DT | no | 12.6" |
| | Rose | upright | SC | DT | yes | 17" |
| | Suzie Pro | upright | SC | DT | yes | 13" |
| | Suzie Standard | upright | SC | DT | yes | 13" |
| The Merlin Tree | Hitchhiker | upright | DR | ST, DT | yes | 14" |
| | Roadbug | upright | DR | ST, DT | yes | 14" |
| Paradise Fibers | Revolution | upright | DD, SC, BO | DT | no | 18" |
| Schacht | Flatiron | Saxony | DD, SC, BO | DT | no | 22.5" |
| | Ladybug | upright | DD, SC, BO | DT | yes | 16" |
| | Matchless | upright | DD, SC, BO | ST, DT | no | 19.5" |
| | Schacht-Reeves 24" | Saxony | DD, SC | ST, DT | no | 24" |
| | Schacht-Reeves 30" | Saxony | DD, SC | ST, DT | no | 30" |
| | Sidekick | upright | SC | DT | yes | 13.75" |
| SpinOlution | Echo | upright | flyer-lead | DT | yes | 16" |
| | Hopper | upright | flyer-lead | DT | yes | 9" |
| | King Bee | upright | flyer-lead | DT | yes | 9" |
| | Mach III/Monarch | upright | flyer-lead | DT | no | 20" |
| | Pollywog | upright | flyer-lead | DT | yes | 12" |
| | Queen Bee | upright | flyer-lead | DT | yes | 9" |
| | Worker Bee | upright | flyer-lead | DT | yes | 9" |

| | RATIOS | WEIGHT | INCLUDED | STARTING PRICE |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | 6:1, 9:1, 13:1 | 13.5 lb / 6 kg | 3 bobbins | \$425 |
| | 6:1, 9:1, 13:1 | 13.5 lb / 6 kg | 3 bobbins | \$428 |
| | 5:1, 8:1 | 12.5 lb / 5.7 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, oil, threader hook | \$499 |
| | 7:1, 13.5:1, 15.5:1 | 11 lb / 5 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, oil, threader hook | \$539 |
| | 6.1:1, 8.5:1, 12:1, 16:1 | 12 lb / 5.5 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, oil, threader hook | \$669 |
| | 8:1, 12:1, 16:1, 20:1 | 16 lb / 7.3 kg | 3 bobbins, lazy kate, oil, threader hook | \$839 |
| | 6:1, 10.5:1, 13:1 | 9 lb / 4 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, oil, threader hook | \$499 |
| | 6.7:1, 12.5:1, 14:1 | 11.5 lb / 5 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate, oil, threader hook, carry bag | \$729 |
| | 8:1, 12:1, 16:1, 20:1 | 15 lb / 6.8 kg | 2 bobbins, lazy kate, oil, threader hook | \$759 |
| | 6:1, 8:1, 10:1 | 14 lb / 6.3 kg | 4 bobbins, lazy kate | \$560 ST, \$630 DT |
| | 8:1, 12:1, 15:1, 18:1 | 25 lb / 11.3 kg | 4 bobbins, lazy kate | \$1,250 |
| | 6:1, 8.5:1, 12.5:1, 19:1 | 11 lb / 5 kg | 3 bobbins, lazy kate | \$825 |
| | 5.5:1, 7.5:1, 10.5:1 | 13 lb / 6 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$650 |
| | 5.5:1, 7.5:1, 10.5:1 | 11 lb / 5 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$415 |
| | 6:1, 8.5:1, 13:1, 20:1 | 8 lb / 3.6 kg | 3 bobbins, lazy kate | \$830 |
| | 4.1:1, 5.4:1, 7.3:1 | 16.5 lb / 7.5 kg | 3 bobbins | \$1,430 |
| | 4.5:1, 6:1, 8.5:1, 10.5:1, 12.75:1 | 12 lb / 5 kg | 3 bobbins, carry bag, lazy kate | \$1,125 |
| | 4.5:1, 7.1:1, 10:1, 12.8:1, 14.5:1 | 11 lb / 5 kg | 3 bobbins | \$878 |
| | 4.7:1, 6.1:1, 8.2:1, 13:1, 17.5:1 | 13 lb / 6 kg | 4 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$1,320 |
| | 4.1:1, 6.5:1, 9:1, 12:1, 15:1 | 14.5 lb / 6.6 kg | 4 bobbins | \$1,230 |
| | 4.1:1, 6.5:1, 9:1, 12:1, 15:1 | 14.5 lb / 6.6 kg | 4 bobbins | \$1,115 |
| | 7:1, 9:1, 12:1 | 9.5 lb / 4.3 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$389 |
| | 7:1, 9:1, 12:1 | 9.1 lb / 4 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$389 |
| | 6.5, 8.5, 13:1 | 18 lb / 8.2 kg | 3 bobbins, orifice hook, DVD | \$1,250 |
| | 10.4:1, 12.4:1, 15:1, 17.4:1 | 15 lb / 6.8 kg | 3 bobbins, threading hook | \$795 |
| | 6.1:1, 8:1, 9:1, 10.5:1 | 13.5 lb / 6.1 kg | 3 travel bobbins, threading hook | \$715 |
| | 9:1, 10.5:1, 12.6:1, 15:1 | 16 lb / 7.3 kg ST; 17 lb / 7.7 kg DT | 4 bobbins, lazy kate, threading hook, carrying strap | \$1,242 |
| | 12:1, 14.5:1, 16:1, 19:1 | 20 lb / 9 kg | 3 bobbins, lazy kate | \$1,231 |
| | 14.5:1, 18:1, 20:1, 24:1 | 28 lb / 12.7 kg | 3 bobbins, lazy kate | \$1,508 |
| | 5.1:1, 6.8:1, 8:1, 9:1 | 13 lb / 6 kg | 3 travel bobbins, threading hook, carrying strap | \$887 |
| | 3.5:1 to 17:1 | 14 lb / 6.3 kg | 3 bobbins | \$629 |
| | 1:1 to 15:1 | 14 lb / 6.3 kg | 3 bobbins | \$959 |
| | 2.5:1, 3:1, 3.5:1, 4.5:1, 6:1, 7:1, 8:1, 10:1, 13:1 | 14 lb / 6.3 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$959 |
| | 3.5:1 to 21:1 | 25 lb / 11.3 kg | 3 bobbins | \$1,199 |
| | 5:1, 6:1, 8:1, 11:1, 13:1, 15:1, 17:1, 22:1 | 8.5 lb / 3.9 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$399 |
| | 2.5:1, 3.5:1, 4.5:1, 5.5:1, 6:1, 7.5:1, 8.5:1, 10:1, 13:1, 14:1, 17:1, 18:1, 30:1 | 14 lb / 6.3 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$829 |
| | 4:1, 5.5:1, 6:1, 8:1, 8.5:1, 13:1, 12:1, 18:1, 26:1 | 14 lb / 6.3 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$995 |

| E-SPINNERS | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|--|----------------|
| COMPANY | MODEL | DRIVE TYPE | TRAVEL SIZE? | WHEEL DIAMETER | RATIOS | WEIGHT | INCLUDED | STARTING PRICE |
| Ashford | E-Spinner 3 | SC | yes | -- | -- | 4.4 lb / 2 kg | 3 bobbins, tensioned lazy kate, orifice reducer, foot switch, power cord, transformer and plug adapters, carry bag | \$810 |
| Babe's Fiber Garden | Bulky Wonder Spinner | SC, BO | yes | -- | -- | 5.5 lb / 2.5 kg | 3 bobbins, quill, lazy kate, foot controller | \$310 |
| | e-spinner Little Spider (Liten Spindel) | -- | yes | 12" | 13:1, 14:1, 16:1, 20:1 | 2.7 lb / 1.2 kg | bobbin, Sure Foot, 4 oz cotton fiber | \$280 |
| Dreaming Robots | e-spinner Eel Wheel 5.1 | -- | yes | -- | -- | 1.4 lb / .64 kg | 3 bobbins, orifice hook, foot switch, power cord, anti-slip mat, spinner key | \$250 |
| ERTOEL | Roberta Electronic Spinner | -- | yes | -- | -- | 12 lb / 5.5 kg | 3 bobbins, built-in lazy kate | \$1,095 |
| Fricke Enterprises | E-Spinner | -- | yes | -- | -- | 8 lb / 3.6 kg | 4 bobbins, lazy kate | \$557 |
| HansenCrafts | miniSpinner v2 | -- | yes | -- | -- | 3.5 lb / 1.5 kg | bobbin, orifice threader, foot switch, power cord, choice of flyer, tote bag | \$845 |
| | miniSpinner pro | -- | yes | -- | -- | 3.5 lb / 1.5 kg | 2-3 bobbins, orifice threader, foot switch, power cord, car power cord, tote bag | \$1,495 |
| Heavenly Handspinning | Navitas e-spinner Hybrid | BO | yes | 16" | 6:1, 9:1, 13:1 | 8 lb / 3.6 kg | 3 bobbins | \$488 |
| | Vespera | -- | yes | -- | -- | 3 lb / 1.4 kg | 3 bobbins, foot switch | \$309 |
| | Vespera XXL | -- | yes | -- | -- | 4 lb / 1.8 kg | 3 bobbins, foot switch | \$425 |
| Orkkid Designs | Orkkid Designs Electric Spinning Wheel | SC | yes | -- | -- | 9 lb / 4 kg | 3 bobbins, power cord, threading hook | \$300 |
| Spinolution | Firefly | flyer-lead | yes | -- | -- | 13 lb / 6 kg | 3 bobbins, rechargeable battery, foot switch, power cord | \$1,159 |
| WooLee Winder | WooLee Ann Production Spinner | SC | yes | -- | -- | 7.5 lb / 3.4 kg | 3 bobbins, orifice reducer, foot switch, power cord | \$1,600 |

| CHARKHAS | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------|---|----------------|
| COMPANY | MODEL | DRIVE TYPE | TRAVEL SIZE? | WHEEL DIAMETER | RATIOS | WEIGHT | INCLUDED | STARTING PRICE |
| Babe's Fiber Garden | Little Spider (Liten Spindel) | -- | yes | 12" | 13:1, 14:1, 16:1, 20:1 | 2.7 lb / 1.2 kg | bobbin, Sure Foot, 4 oz cotton fiber | \$146 |
| Fricke Enterprises | Lap Charka | -- | yes | -- | -- | 3.75 lb / 1.7 kg | 5 bobbins, lazy kate | \$99 |
| Journey Wheel | Attaché Case Charka | -- | yes | -- | 110:1 | 5.25 lb / 2.4 kg | 3 spindles, built-in lazy kate, skein winder and yarn guide, 2 storage compartments | \$630 |

Benjoanie Enterprises

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Golding Fiber Tools

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Saxtons River, VT 05154
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www.goldingfibertools
.com

**Green Mountain Spinning
Wheels**

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greenmtsw@gmail.com
www.greenmountain
spinningwheels.com/index
.html

**JMS Spinning Wheels
& Woodwork**

Kansas City, KS
www.etsy.com/shop
/JMSwheels

McTavish Wheelworks

Tom and Tracy Livernois
29190 McTavish Ln.
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(541) 337-3495 (Tracy's cell)
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**National Custom
Spinning Works**

613 S. Whitman Ave.
Rosalia, WA 99170
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.com
www.spinworks.us

SpinAway Wheels

Norm and Bernice Parks
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info@spinawaywheels.com
www.spinawaywheels.com

Norm Hall

149 Vrowan Hills Rd.
Oxford, NY 13830
(607) 713-4115
www.normhall.wordpress
.com/the-wheels

Pocket Wheel

1900 Country Ln.
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 675-2610
pnwradar@hotmail.com
www.pocket-wheel.com

Robin Spinning Wheels

9 Robins Ln.
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Wyatt Wheels

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Orkkid Designs

www.etsy.com/shop
/orkkidesignsllc

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www.schachtspindle.com

SpinOlution

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Woolee Winder Co.

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.com

SHOPPING GUIDE

Ask yourself these questions as you shop:

- 1 What type(s) of yarn do you want to make? Any wheel can make any yarn, but a wheel's drive type and ratios help determine what yarns and fibers you can spin most easily.
- 2 Do you want to travel with your wheel or leave it at home? When you want mobility, consider the wheel's weight and foldability. For a home-based wheel, space requirements and the wheel's looks will take priority.
- 3 What accessories do you want, and how fast do you want them? Every spinner needs bobbins and a lazy kate. Many spinners want the options of bulky or high-speed flyers for plying, making art yarns, or creating superfine handspun. Check out the company's website or ask a dealer what's available for their wheels. For example, some wheelmakers may not offer additional bobbins beyond the original purchase, or they may wait-list bobbin orders to produce more wheels.
- 4 Does the wheel's look suit you? If you've always wanted a fancy wheel with turned spokes, or a sleek metal wheel, or the minimalist look of PVC pipe, get that wheel. Don't settle and then die a little inside during every spinning session.
- 5 How much do you want to spend? Some manufacturers offer all-inclusive package deals with lots of accessories (kate, bulky flyer, carry case, etc.) at significant savings. If you want the options and can afford it, get the package up front—you'll have more money for fiber!

RATIOS—HOORAY! MATH!

Physics, actually, and it's easy physics. Every time the spinning wheel goes around, the flyer goes around and adds twist a certain number of times. The larger the number, the faster the wheel adds twist. Shorter or finer fibers need more twist; longer or coarser fibers require less. Spinners control twist with their hands, their treadling speed, and drafting-in speed (how quickly yarn goes through the orifice and winds onto the bobbin), but all things being equal, higher ratios make it easier to spin fine yarn.

We speak of ratios as "numeral:1," and many wheels come with multiple ratios.

SPECIALTY WHEELS

E-spinners and charkhas

E-spinners, or electric/electronic spinners, function just like a traditional wheel. The only difference: they run off a power cord or battery pack. There's no drive wheel or treadles; you control twist by adjusting the motor speed. E-spinners are very lightweight and portable.



Think of the charkha as an e-spinner's low-tech cousin. Charkhas are also very lightweight and portable; most pack up into a small case. They have small drive wheels and you spin off the point, allowing you to put lots of twist into short fibers such as cotton. Gandhi made charkhas famous during his campaign for Indian independence; since these wheels originated in India and required few materials, he saw them as a perfect symbol for his efforts.

IS THERE A WRONG WHEEL?

There might be a wrong wheel *for you*. Maybe it doesn't look right in your house, or it feels uncomfortable for your body, or it's best for art yarns and you want to make laceweight yarn for wedding ring shawls. Spinners often acquire multiple wheels so they have options for every spinning project. Or they chose to economize on a first wheel and now want to splurge. Or they're just wheel collectors/hoarders. (Not that there's anything wrong with that—we don't judge.)

HOW MANY BOBBINS?

Experienced spinners recommend at least three so that you can fill two with singles and still have a bobbin for plying. However, if you spin a lot or have multiple spinning projects going at once, you'll need more. Explore the many options for storage bobbins, which are often cheaper because they're made from plastic or cardboard, and stock up. If you spin a lot, it's not crazy to buy ten bobbins.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR OLD WHEEL?

Keep it. Lend it to a friend. Donate it to a textile program at a school, college, or community center. Sell it through your local fiber shop or Ravelry.

| WHEEL FEATURE/ASPECT | WHY IT'S IMPORTANT |
|---|---|
| Ratios, expressed as numeral:1 | Wheel speed, adjusted by the wheel's available whorls or pulleys. Slow speeds are 10:1 or lower; medium speeds run from about 11:1 to 14:1; and fast speeds range from 15:1 to 20:1. (Very high speeds go above 20:1 and usually require a special flyer.) |
| Drive and tension types: double drive/double band Scotch tension/flyer lead Irish tension/bobbin lead Direct drive wheels have no drive band and use scotch tension. | Control over take-up. Double drive offers higher speeds with less control—good for finer yarns and more experienced spinners. Scotch tension offers the most control and slower speed—good for any size yarn, great for beginning spinners. Bobbin lead has strong take-up and slower speed—good for heavier yarns with less twist. Some wheels can switch between tension systems. |
| Wheel style: Saxony, upright (castle) | Mostly aesthetic. Some Saxony wheels can be set up with orifice on the right instead of the left. Castle wheels are more likely to fold up. |
| Treadles: single, double, none (e-spinners and charkhas) | Comfort. You're always using your hands and usually using your feet; listen to your body as you spin. |
| Wheel diameter | Affects the speed of the wheel, portability, and overall look. Bigger wheel diameters usually add weight to the spinning wheel. |
| Orifice style and size: standard (may come with orifice reducers), delta, ring, quill spindle | <p>Yarn weight and type of yarn. Most wheels come with standard orifices, formed by a short tube. Quill setups allow you to spin off the point (as with a supported spindle).</p> <p>You can make skinny yarn in a big orifice, but you can't make fat yarn in a small orifice. If you spin bulky or art yarns, get a bulky flyer with a big opening or look for one of the other types of orifices. Some spinners like quill spindles just for tradition's sake (think Sleeping Beauty).</p> |
| Flyer style: hooks, sliders, WooLee Winder | Affects how the yarn loads onto the bobbin. Some spinners find hooks too fiddly; others say the same about sliders. A WooLee Winder can pack more yarn onto a bobbin, more evenly, than you might think possible. |

Chart Key and Notes

- Wheels are labeled “yes” in the “travel size?” column only if they easily collapse or are already very small without modification.
- All wheel specifications were correct at the time of printing, but please double-check with the manufacturer prior to buying, as prices may change.

Drive Types

BO = bobbin lead
DD = double drive
SC = scotch tension
DR = direct drive (for smaller wheels in which treadling turns the wheel directly and there is no drive band)

Treadles

DT = double treadle
ST = single treadle

HELPFUL TIPS

- Bobbin capacity can be a point of interest when choosing a wheel. The Woolery has developed an objective way to calculate bobbin capacity; find their bobbin capacity chart at www.woolery.com/spinning-wheels/selecting-a-spinning-wheel.html.
- Most wheel makers offer additional accessories, add-ons, and spare parts for their wheels. Some manufacturers also offer money-saving packages that include bulky flyers or other useful accessories. Our chart includes only the items that come standard with each wheel. Please check with your wheel manufacturer to see what optional items may be available.
- Especially with smaller manufacturers, the availability of spinning wheels may change. At press time, Woodland Turnery sought a buyer for Timbertops Spinning Wheels, and Jonathan Bosworth was considering making Journey Wheels available again. As neither is currently available, they are not listed here.