

# Great Spinning Wheel

## ROUNDUP 2018

Compiled by Deborah Gerish

COMPANY	MODEL	STYLE	DRIVE TYPE	TREADLES	TRAVEL SIZE?	WHEEL DIAMETER
<b>Ashford</b>	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"
	<b>Babe's Fiber Garden</b>	Big River Spinner	Saxony	--	ST	no
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"
<b>BlueBonnet Spinning Wheel Co.</b>		BumbleBee	upright	SC	DT	no
	CraftyBee	upright	SC	DT	no	16"
	HoneyBee Spin 'N Ply	upright	SC	DT	no	16"
	Thimble	upright	SC	DT	yes	14"
<b>Clemes &amp; Clemes</b>	Modern Wheel	upright	DD	DT	no	16"
	Traditional Wheel	upright	DD	ST	no	16"
<b>Fricke Enterprises</b>	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"
<b>Heavenly Handspinning</b>	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

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COMPANY	MODEL	STYLE	DRIVE TYPE	TREADLES	TRAVEL SIZE?	WHEEL DIAMETER
<b>Heavenly Handspinning</b>	Stella	upright	BO	DT	no	16"
	Tree of Life	upright	BO	DT	no	16"
<b>Kromski North America</b>	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"
<b>Lendrum</b>	Original	upright	SC	ST, DT	yes	19"
	Saxony	Saxony	DD, SC	DT	no	28"
<b>Louet North America</b>	Julia	upright	SC	DT		20"
	S10	upright	BO	ST, DT	no	20"
	S17	upright	BO	ST	no	20"
	Victoria	upright	BO	DT	yes	20"
<b>Majacraft Limited</b>	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"
<b>The Merlin Tree</b>	Hitchhiker	upright	DR	ST, DT	yes	14"
	Roadbug	upright	DR	ST, DT	yes	14"
<b>Paradise Fibers</b>	Revolution	upright	DD, SC, BO	DT	no	18"
<b>Schacht</b>	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"
<b>SpinOlution</b>	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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SpinningWheel.com  
(818) 424-1303

**Betty Roberts**

Oroville, WA 98844  
(509) 476-3571  
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groups.yahoo.com/group  
/SpinningWheels\_by  
\_BettyRoberts

**Carson Cooper**

info@zwtwist.com  
www.zwtwist.com

**Golding Fiber Tools**

849 Saxtons River Rd.  
Saxtons River, VT 05154  
(800) 710-1872  
carving@sover.net  
www.goldingfibertools  
.com

**Green Mountain Spinning  
Wheels**

780 Shackett Rd.  
Leicester, VT 05733  
(802) 247-3197  
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.  
Eugene, OR 97402  
(541) 228-6124 (Tom's cell)  
(541) 337-3495 (Tracy's cell)  
tracyntom@gmail.com  
www.mctavishfarmshet  
lands.net

**National Custom  
Spinning Works**

613 S. Whitman Ave.  
Rosalia, WA 99170  
(509) 523-3897  
ncspinningworks@outlook  
.com  
www.spinworks.us

**SpinAway Wheels**

Norm and Bernice Parks  
1452 Siver Rd.  
Guilderland, NY 12084  
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.  
Parsonsfield, ME 04047  
(877) 576-8825  
robinwheels@adelphia.net  
www.robinwheels.com

**Wyatt Wheels**

Myles Kent Jakubowski  
PO Box 420547  
Del Rio, TX 78842  
(830) 734-7339  
jakubom@earthlink.net  
www.wyattspinwheels  
.com

**Ashford Handicrafts**

415 West St.  
Ashburton, Mid Canterbury,  
7700  
New Zealand  
+64-3 308-9087  
sales@ashford.co.nz  
www.ashford.co.nz  
/spinning-wheels

**Babe's Fiber Garden**

125 Dodge Dr. #104  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916  
(920) 344-8555  
sales@babesfibergarden  
.com  
www.babesfibergarden  
.com

**BlueBonnet Spinning  
Wheel Co.**

20267 Meadow Lake Rd.  
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.com

**Clemes & Clemes**

650 San Pablo Ave.  
Pinole, CA 94564  
(800) 900-4118  
info@clemes.com  
www.clemes.com

**Dreaming Robots**

161 Fire Rd. #12  
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.com  
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**Fricke Enterprises**

8702 State Rte. 92  
Granite Falls, WA 98252  
(360) 691-5779  
info@fricke-fiber-tools.com  
www.fricke-fiber-tools.com

**HansenCrafts**

710 East Park Ave.  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
(360) 747-7746  
support@hansencrafts.com  
www.hansencrafts.com  
/minispinner

**Heavenly Handspinning**

26 Berkley Ln.  
Braselton, GA 30517  
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www.heavenlyhand  
spinning.com

**Journey Wheel**

29 Main St.  
Acton, MA 01720

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**Kromski North America**

1103 N. Main St.  
PO Box 247  
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**Lendrum**

403 Millhaven Rd.  
Odessa, ON  
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(613) 386-7151  
gord@lendrum.ca  
www.lendrum.ca

**Louet North America**

3425 Hands Rd.  
Prescott, ON  
Canada K0E 1T0  
(613) 925-4502  
(800) 897-6444  
info@louet.com  
www.louet.com

**Majacraft Limited**

586 Oropi Rd.  
RD3 Tauranga  
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www.majacraft.co.nz

**The Merlin Tree**

2093 Barton Rd.

West Glover, VT 05875  
(802) 754-6433  
mtree@sover.net  
www.themerlintree.com

**Orkkid Designs**

www.etsy.com/shop  
/orkkidesignsllc

**Paradise Fibers**

225 W. Indiana Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99205  
(509) 536-7746  
sales@paradisefibers.com  
www.paradisefibers.com

**Schacht Spindle Co.**

6101 Ben Pl.  
Boulder, CO 80301  
(303) 442-3212  
info@schachtspindle.com  
www.schachtspindle.com

**SpinOlution**

1247 S. Buena Vista St.,  
Unit C  
San Jacinto, CA 92583  
(951) 760-5836  
info@spinolution.com  
www.spinolution.com

**Woolee Winder Co.**

PO Box 941  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
(503) 810-1388  
support@wooleewinder  
.com  
www.wooleewinderstore  
.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
<b>Ratios, expressed as numeral:1</b>	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.)
<b>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.</b>	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.
<b>Wheel style: Saxony, upright (castle)</b>	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.
<b>Treadles: single, double, none (e-spinners and charkhas)</b>	Comfort. You're always using your hands and usually using your feet; listen to your body as you spin.
<b>Wheel diameter</b>	Affects the speed of the wheel, portability, and overall look. Bigger wheel diameters usually add weight to the spinning wheel.
<b>Orifice style and size: standard (may come with orifice reducers), delta, ring, quill spindle</b>	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).  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).
<b>Flyer style: hooks, sliders, WooLee Winder</b>	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](http://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.