

Selecting spindles

What spindle should I choose to spin the yarn I want?

If you've never spun before, you should choose a spindle of average weight (weight between 30 and 60 grams). The easier the spindle is the thinner the yarn can be spun and the heavier the spindle the coarser yarn. A spindle in this weight class is also suitable to ply the yarn with.

What weight you should choose also depends on the wool you want to spin. If you 'll spin Swedish domestic wool select a spindle suitable for wool thickness eg

Swedish finull/undercoat from Rya sheep ~20 μ	Lightweight (30 grams or less)
Gotland wool 30-35 μ	Medium weight(30-40 grams)
Rya both top-and undercoat >35 μ	Heavy (40-60 gr)

NOTE! Wool thickness can vary between different sheep. The above is just an indication of what you can choose.

If you buy foreign wool, you can get some guidance on how fine / coarse wool is by seeing what diameter in microns as specified. <25 micron fine wool, 30 -35 medium-coarse wool,> 35 coarse wool. (Different assessment of the coarseness may occur)

Shall I choose the bottom or top whorl spindle?

What type of spindle you should choose is a matter of taste. A low whorl spindle spins slightly slower than a top whorl spindle but is not as sensitive to the imbalance. In my classes, I have noticed that inexperienced spinners are easier to control a bottom whorl spindle . (More to read about the selection of spindles can be found in Abby Franquemont's book Respect the spindle).

If I should spin thin yarn can I still use a spindle of average weight?

Yes. A bottom whorl spindle may also be used as supported spindle (with the spindle supported against the table / knee or in a bowl) and as such can spin a very thin yarn.

There are spindles weighing less than 20 gram. Wich wool can I spin with these?

These lightweight spindles is best for fine wool (thickness corresponding to Swedish finull, Merino and the like. With coarser wool the spindle isn't able to spin with enough twist and stops quickly. With very heavy spindles and fine wool, the wool can not stand the weight of the spindle and the yarn breaks.