

SPINNING YOUR FIRST YARNS: A METHOD

1. Draft a small amount of fibre and loop it under the spindle's hook. Using your thumb and index finger, **PINCH** together the pre-drafted end and main fibre supply.
2. Spin the spindle storing **TWIST** in the length of fibre between the hook and your fingertips. **PARK** the spindle.
3. With two hands, **DRAFT** from the fibre supply using your thumbs and index fingers. Carefully allow twist to enter the newly drafted fibre. When the twist energy reduces, pinch the fibres and stop any further twist entering the fibre supply.
4. Repeat steps two and three until the length of yarn is no longer comfortable to manage.
5. Remove the yarn from the hook and wind it around the shaft of the spindle, leave enough length to wrap the yarn over the whorl and under the hook.
6. Repeat the **PINCH-TWIST-PARK-DRAFT** sequence for the remaining fibre supply. As the yarn forms you will need to monitor the fibre carefully for your intended characteristics – yarn weight, optimal twist, etc.

SEQUENCE NOTES

PINCH The action of locking the fibres between your fingers to hold the twist energy back from the fibre supply.

TWIST The energy added to the fibre when you turn or spin the spindle. The twist holds the fibres together in the forming the yarn.

PARK Refers to the action of setting down and securing the spindle so you have both hands free to draft the fibre. Suggestions for parking the spindle include holding the shaft of the spindle under your arm or between your knees.

DRAFT This is the process of thinning the fibre supply by drawing fibres apart lengthwise. A suggestion for beginner spinners is to use two hands to draft the fibre. The hand closest to the spindle controls the amount of twist that enters the fibre supply. The other hand controls the draft, how much fibre is drawn out of the fibre supply.

