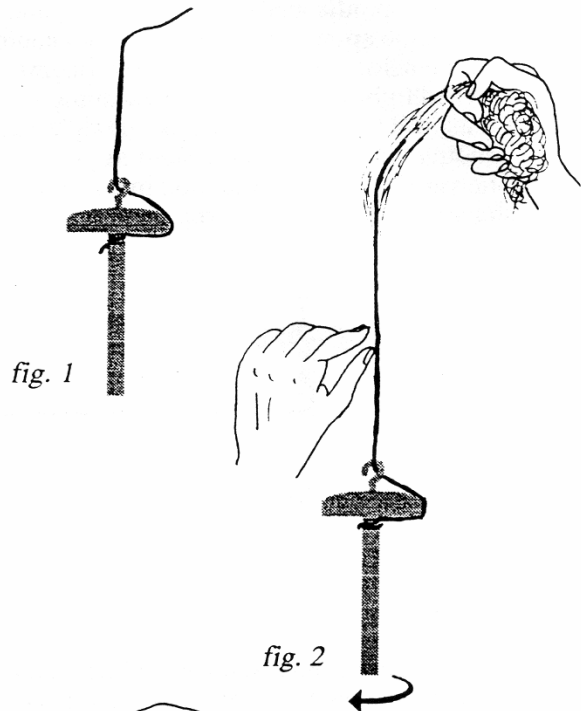


SPINNING ON A DROP SPINDLE

JOINING ON

1. Take the spindle with the leader thread attached, and wind around the hook as shown in *fig. 1*. Holding the very end of the leader thread with the right hand let the spindle hang, give it a twist with the left hand (clockwise), when the spindle slows down catch the shaft and place between the knees to stop the yarn untwisting (keep a tight hold on the leader thread).

2. Transfer the hold on the leader thread to the left hand, pinching tightly between thumb and index finger. Now take a small bunch of the wool fibres in the right hand and pull on a few fibres at one edge to make a wispy tail. Lay the leader thread on to the tail of fibres and pinch tightly between thumb and index finger of right hand, now gently pull the right hand away slightly, relaxing the hold a little at the same time (*fig. 2*). The spin should have travelled up the leader thread and into the tail of fibres, catching the wispy ends into the yarn. **You are now joined on and ready to spin!**



STARTING TO SPIN

1. Pinch the join with the thumb and index finger of the right hand, let the spindle hang on the starter thread and give it another spin with the left hand, catch between the knees as before (storing the twist). Now swap hands, pinch the join with the left hand and take hold of the loose fibres lightly with the right hand. Pull upwards gently with the right hand till you have a thin strand of fibres stretched between your fingers (drafting the fibres *fig. 3*).

2. Pinch with the right hand where the strand comes from the mass of fibres, and release the hold with the left fingers, the twist will travel upwards and spin your drafted fibres into yarn (*fig. 4*). To continue just repeat these four movements:-

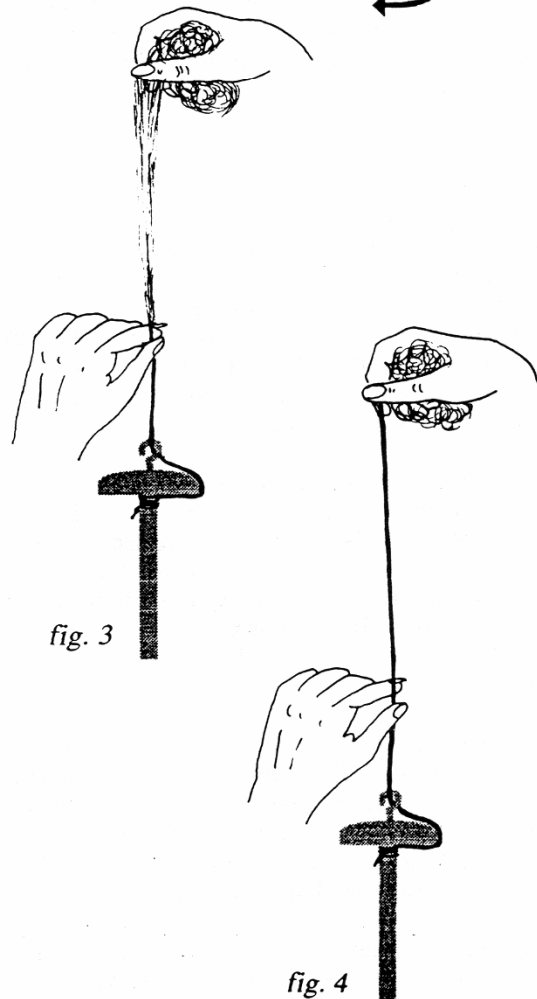
Move the left fingers up to meet the right hand and pinch tightly

Draft out the fibres by pulling upwards gently.

Pinch the fingers of the right hand tightly to stop the spin getting into the mass of fibres.

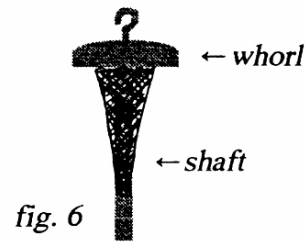
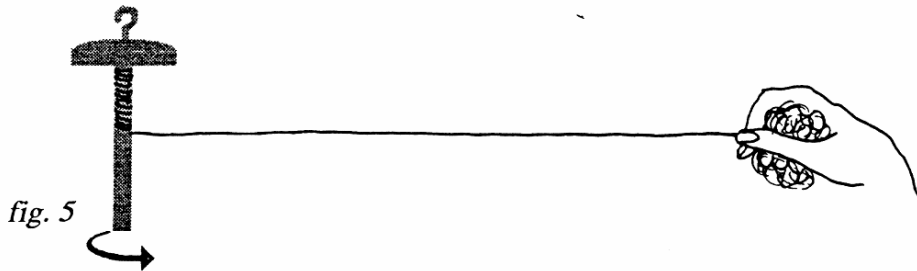
Loosen the hold with the left fingers to allow the twist through.

When you run out of stored twist just suspend the spindle from the last length of spun yarn and give it another spin.



WINDING ON

Take the spindle shaft in the left hand, and remove the spun yarn from the hook keeping it under tension. Now with the right fingers pinched tight to stop the twist escaping into the fibres, roll the spindle towards the right hand, winding the yarn on to the shaft as you go (*fig. 5*). The yarn should be wound on in a neat cone shape against the whorl (*fig. 6*).



HINTS

When you have practised for a while, and can get the spindle spinning fast, you should find you are able to spin a whole length of yarn with one twirl of the spindle, and will not need to catch it between your knees. Then it becomes one smooth operation, spin the spindle, pinch and draft, pinch and draft, until either the spindle stops or reaches the floor, then wind on ready to start all over again.

PLYING

When you have filled your spindle wind the yarn off into a ball, and when you have two balls of yarn (singles) you are then ready to twist the two strands together in the opposite direction to make a stronger thread (2ply yarn). To do this you follow the same steps as for the spinning but reverse the position of the hands.

1. Place two bowls or containers of some kind on the floor on your left, and place one ball of singles thread in each. Now bring the threads up over the back of your left hand, take a thread down either side of your second finger and pinch both threads with your thumb and index finger (this will stop the threads from tangling before you ply them together).

2. Tie both threads together on to the leader, and follow the same directions as for spinning (this time turning the spindle anticlockwise) allowing the twist to ply the two threads together (*fig. 7*). The winding on is just the same, but with the spindle in the right hand this time.

3. When you have a spindle full of plied yarn, wind it off into a skein and wash it to set the twist.

