

cotton spinning tips

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EASY TO SPIN!

There is a modern myth that cotton is hard to spin. The fact is, cotton is really easy to spin though definitely different than other animal fibers like wool.

Cotton does not have scales like wool. Instead cotton fibers start as a tube that becomes hollow and collapses as it matures. This creates convolutions in the fiber that assists the spinner in the same way that the scales in wool fiber do.

The cotton fiber convolutions hang onto each other. They pull their neighbors along into the drafting zone, making it easy to spin!

• COTTON IS A SHORT STAPLE FIBER

Cotton is short stapled--ranging from 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches. That means that you are going to handle it differently than other longer, stapled fibers like wool or alpaca.

• USE THE LONG DRAW WHEN SPINNING

Cotton needs a little twist to initially hold together as a yarn. Once you have drafted a the fibers into a loosely bound strand of yarn, keep elongating it and slowly add more and more twist to hold the yarn .

• COTTON NEEDS A LOT OF TWIST

Cotton needs a lot of twist to hold together as a usable yarn that will not unravel after removing from spinning shaft. Cotton is almost impossible to over twist--good news for beginners that tend to over twist their handspun anyway.

• PLY COTTON YARNS FOR STRENGTH

Cotton adheres to itself very easily so drafting a fine yarn is effortless. Cotton wants to be a fine lacy yarn so spin it thin and ply as needed. Add two or three strands together for a more even and stronger yarn

Have fun spinning cotton!



www.cottonclouds.com/spinning