



Spinning and Weaving

The Ultimate Guide to Home Spinning & Weaving!

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The image features a woman with blonde hair and a surprised expression, holding several colorful shopping bags (pink, orange, red, purple). The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts.

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The image shows a group of diverse young adults in a classroom setting, all giving thumbs up. The background is a bright, modern classroom with large windows. The text and logos are overlaid on the image.

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A Hobby or a New Trade?

Before you rush out to buy supplies, it can be helpful to ask yourself what you want to accomplish from learning how to do spinning and weaving at home. Even if you are a beginner, you should not allow this to deter you from making big plans! Spinning and weaving are quite easy to learn-- and whether you only want an exciting new hobby to do in your spare time, or have thoughts of turning it into a brand-new trade, it is entirely up to you!

If you prefer to spin and weave solely for your own enjoyment, you have made an excellent choice in a new hobby. As soon as you learn the basics, you will be well on your way to creating beautiful products to keep, or to give as gifts. You will have many hours of enjoyment when you learn to make your own yarn, cloth, and colorful creations which you can use for yourself or give with pride.

However, if having a little business of your own appeals to you, home spinning and weaving can be the ideal business venture. As each product you make will be unique, you can offer customers one-of-a-kind creations which they would never be able to find in any store. The aspect of uniqueness, plus the care you put into producing quality, homemade items, can turn a fun hobby into a money-making business venture if you wish to do so.

Whichever goal suits your preferences, the most important point to keep in mind is to start small. You want each piece you create to be a beautiful treasure. When you start with the basics, and give yourself adequate time to learn and perfect your skills, you will see your talents blossoming in no time at all.

Why is home spinning and weaving, as well as these products, so popular today? There are a number of reasons for this. First, more and more people today appreciate quality. They are tired of generic, mass-produced items which do not last very long. When you make each product by hand, one at a time, you are not only creating something nice-- you are painstakingly creating quality.

Second, making these products one at a time also results in a unique product. If you have been disillusioned with clothing and home furnishings that all look the same, you know why this is an issue. Home spinning and weaving means that for every product you make, there is none like it anywhere else.

Third, more people today appreciate the basics in life. They see that the old-fashioned ways of doing things really are better. Making yarn, cloth, and dyeing, have all been around for centuries. It will be like stepping into the past and seeing how nice it is to bring it into the present day.

There is nothing quite like creating lovely objects in the comfort of your own home. After you begin, you will see how easy it is to create gorgeous material beyond your wildest dreams. You may also be surprised with how simple it is to learn. You do not need to spend money to take classes in order to learn how to do it. When your friends and family members see what you have created, they may want you to teach them how to do it, too!

Home spinning and weaving can be relaxing, exciting, and fun! If you start with small projects, you will surely be delighted with the results! After you have mastered the basics, you can move on to larger and more intricate projects. Whether you are already quite familiar with arts and crafts, or whether home spinning and weaving is your very first attempt, once you have begun, the possibilities will be nearly limitless. It will not take long for you to become an expert!

If you have a little free time to spare, learning this craft will be well worth the effort. It will give you many hours of enjoyment, as you spin and weave in the comfort of home. The pride and delight you will have from the finished products will be matched only by the amazement of everyone who sees them. There are few hobbies that offer so much.

The ease in which you can turn this hobby into a home business is an additional bonus. Whether you want to make extra money working from home, or simply love the look on people's faces when they hold a unique creation in their own hands, all it takes is a little practice to turn spinning and weaving as a hobby into an exciting way to make money.

Even if you have never made anything by hand before, you will find this art simple to learn and fun to do. Upon learning this brand-new skill, it is one which you can enjoy for the rest of your life. You will soon see that it is a

great way to create one-of-a-kind treasures. Each will be a unique piece that you and everyone on your gift list will cherish and use with pride.

All you need to do is take the first step to learning the basics. You will soon be producing the most lovely items you have ever seen-- all with your own two hands!

What Do You Need to Begin?

The best way to learn to create your own homemade products is to start with the basics. When you start with the basic supplies, you will have what you need on-hand to learn this exciting new craft. After you have learned the basics of spinning and weaving, you can purchase additional supplies to create impressive masterpieces. This chapter tells you which supplies you will need to begin.

Supplies You Need to Learn How to Weave

1. TABLE LOOM.

Table looms are available in a number of different sizes, so you can choose the loom that is most convenient and comfortable for you to use. When selecting a table loom, you can choose from one which is ready- Assembled and ready for you to use, or one which you must assemble yourself. While a pre-assembled loom may cost a little more, you may decide it is worth a few extra dollars.

2. LOOM EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES

If you do not choose a table loom with all of the necessary equipment included, you can purchase these products separately. These include threading hooks, lease sticks, apron rods, and tie-up cord. Accessories you will use for weaving include a boat shuttle, a stick shuttle, and a warping board.

3. WEAVING BENCH

A weaving bench is a more comfortable, compact alternative to using a free- standing loom.

4. LEGS FOR TABLE LOOM

If you prefer to not use a weaving bench, you can purchase legs for your table loom instead. These legs are available in different sizes, so you can choose the length which is the most appropriate for you. Legs for table looms can be found in a variety of woods; cherry and maple are amongst the most popular.

5. YARN FOR WEAVING

Yarn for weaving can be purchased in a wide range of colors, so you can choose your favorites for the products you wish to make. However, selecting the right yarn is much more important. The weight and ply you choose depends upon the weaving projects you plan to try. The two most common forms of yarn used for weaving are the Highland Style yarn and the Shetland Style yarn. Both of these yarns are high-quality, 100% wool.

Supplies You Will Need to Learn How to Spin

1. SPINNING WHEEL

The spinning wheel is the largest, costliest, and most important produce for home spinning. When choosing a spinning wheel, the amount of space you have, and your own personal preference, are as important as the cost. The two main styles of spinning wheels are the upright wheel and the Saxony style. If space is a factor, the upright style the Saxony wheel. Spinning wheels are available as single-drive wheels, double-drive wheels, and bobbin lead wheels.

2. DROP SPINDLE

When you are learning how to spin, you can use a drop spindle instead of a traditional spinning wheel. If cost is an issue, starting with a drop spindle is preferable. They are very inexpensive; and you can even make your own. A second reason for using a drop spindle is that it is very small. Whether you have a limited amount of space in your home, or whether you want a portable product so that you can spin when you are

away from home, a drop spindle is the ideal alternative to a full-sized spinning wheel.

3. CARDER

If you will be working with wool which had not been pre-cleaned and prepared for use, you will need a carder for this purpose. You can select a hand carder or a drum carder.

4. FIBERS FOR SPINNING

You will also need fibers to begin your new craft. While there are many different kinds of fibers available, some of the most popular are alpaca, angora, and flax. Beginners often find flax to be a little more complicated to use than these other popular fibers.

When you are looking for the supplies you will use for spinning and weaving, it is a good idea to do some comparison-shopping. You can find all of the supplies you need at a good value. You do not need to spend a fortune to learn your new craft, or to get great results.

However, if you want your craft to be a success, you should not be tempted to purchase supplies that are in less than perfect condition. Attempting to make-do with old or used supplies can stand in the way of enjoying your new venture, as well as prevent you from making quality products.

You should also not be tempted to buy more supplies than you need to begin. After you have mastered the arts of spinning and weaving, you can always add to your collection of supplies when they are necessary. The supplies listed in the sections above will get you well on your way to many hours of fun.

Making Your Own Cloth

If you have never thought of how cloth is made, you may be surprised at how simple the process actually is. Although becoming an expert weaver will take practice, you can learn how to weave in very little time. When you know the basics, it should be enough for you to start with enthusiasm.

Cloth is made by the process known as weaving. Blankets, rugs, and similar items are also made by this same process. Weaving involves passing threads first under and then over one another. The type of thread you use, and how tightly the threads are woven, determine the finished product. When described in such a simple manner, you should find the concept of weaving easy to understand, and the process easy to do.

The main purpose of a loom is to make the weaving process easier by holding both the woven material and the unwoven threads. If you wish, you may try to weave by hand first, without the use of a loom. You will immediately see why using a loom is preferable!

There are two points to keep in mind before you begin weaving. First, you may have heard the terms “warp” and “weft” which are mentioned frequently when referring to woven handicrafts. These terms refer to the positions of the threads when one is weaving.

Second, the tighter the threads are placed together when weaving, the thicker or heavier the finished product. If the threads are placed together too loosely, or if they contain gaps, it will diminish the quality of the finished product.

When you are choosing a thread for your project, you should select one that is easy to handle. The easier you can manage the threads, the nicer your finished project. An additional, helpful tip for the beginner is to select threads or yarns in two different colors. If you choose one color for the warp and a contrasting color for the weft, it will make managing your threads much easier.

There are four main processes in the overall process of weaving. If you familiarize yourself with these concepts in advance, it will help your

weaving to proceed much more smoothly. The processes involved in weaving include:

- **1. Shedding**

Shedding is the process where the warp yarns are raised up onto the loom. If you are using a modern loom for weaving, shedding is done automatically by the loom itself. Proper shedding ensures that the warp yarns or threads are positioned correctly to receive the filling yarns or threads.

- **2. Picking**

Picking is the process in which the shuttle correctly inserts and positions the filling yarns or threads.

- **3. Battening**

After the filling yarn is positioned, the loom's reed battens the individual yarns against the formed fabric.

- **4. Taking up**

As each area or section of material or fabric is completed, it must be "taken up." This means that it is wound onto a beam. You can continue weaving without the finished material getting in the way.

If this sounds complicated, it is really not difficult at all. You may have a few errors at first, but with a little practice you can quickly become an expert. The best rule of thumb to keep in mind is to start simple and make progress. After you have developed the talent of weaving plain cloth, you can move on to more complicated projects.

There is another interesting point for you to consider when you are planning to start weaving. Do you remember those little plastic looms which you or your friends had when you were children? If you are like most adults today, you probably spent many hours of your childhood making nice potholders from cloth bands in a rainbow of colors. The loom held the warp bands

securely, as you inserted and positioned the weft bands with your fingers or with a small hook. Making those potholders was the simplest form of weaving-- so you are not really new to the process at all!

The joy you felt in making those potholders, and the pride you felt when you gave them away as gifts, can come back to life again when you start learning how to weave on your modern loom!

You can begin by weaving plain cloth with the thread or yarn which you find easiest to handle. You will surely be delighted at how your very first projects turn out. Allowing sensible room for error, especially in the beginning, you will be proud of your new accomplishments.

After you have had some practice with weaving, you can move on to more complicated projects. You may decide that you want to weave rugs or blankets, to have for your own use or to give as gifts. There is nothing quite as impressive, nor as well-appreciated, as hand-woven products for the home.

In addition to weaving larger and more complicated products, you can also try your hand at weaving patterns. While this is not advisable for the beginner, it should not take long for you to be prepared for this next step. Imagine how thrilled all of your friends and family members will be when they receive special gifts which you not only wove yourself, but custom-designed in lovely patterns just for them!

Weaving has been a part of life for centuries, in cultures all around the globe. For some, it was a necessary part of life; for others, an enjoyable craft. It can be whatever you wish it to be for you, today. Learning how to weave cloth is only the beginning. You can make clothing, products for the home, and gifts. You may have come a long way since the days of making colorful potholders on a plastic loom, but the concept is the same and the process is nearly as simple. You may have had the basic knowledge, talent, and skills for weaving without even realizing it!

Now that you know how simple it is to make your own cloth, all you need to do is take out your new loom and your favorite thread or yarn, and begin! You will soon see beautiful treasures appearing right before your eyes!

Making Your Own Yarn

If you love knitted clothing and other products, you will love learning how to produce your own yarn. Whether you begin with wool in its natural, original state, or start with ready-prepared materials, you will soon see spinning as an exciting adventure.

The process of making yarn depends upon the type of wheel you have purchased. If you have decided to try a drop spindle first, you will be amazed at how quickly and easily yarn can be produced. The process of using a drop spindle is as follows:

- **Tying the leader.**

The leader is a piece of yarn that is approximately eighteen inches in length. You begin by tying this piece of yarn onto the spindle. It is then wrapped around the spindle and looped, so that it will hold securely.

- **Spinning.**

Slowly and carefully spin clockwise, while rotating the spindle, holding the fiber in one hand and the spindle in the other hand.

- **Winding On.**

This is the process in which the newly-formed fiber begins to wind up the spindle. It should proceed smoothly, without any gaps or looseness.

- **Joining Fiber.**

You can add on additional fiber by overlapping fresh wool over the newly-made yarn. As it twists into the original leader thread, it will become securely attached as if it were one piece.

With this easy, quick method, you are learning how to make your own yarn!

If you have decided to use a traditional spinning wheel to make yarn, the process is also quite simple. The exact process depends upon the specific type of spinning wheel that you have chosen.

You may also choose between “spinning in the grease” or using wool which has already been washed and carded. Carding is the process of combing the fiber to make it smooth and consistent. Spinning in the grease means that the wool has not yet been cleaned, and still contains natural lanolin. Whichever form you use is basically a matter of personal preference.

A single-drive spinning wheel is the form of traditional spinning wheel easiest for a beginner to operate. If you already know how to use a sewing machine, you will find a single-drive spinning wheel to be quite similar.

When using a single-drive spinning wheel, the speed is controlled by a separate bobbin brake. All it takes is a little practice to determine if the speed is accurate.

An additional benefit to using a single-drive spinning wheel is that it allows you to set the bobbin and flyer tensions separately. If you do not yet have any practice with operating a spinning wheel, this can prove to be very useful.

When using a spinning wheel which requires treadling, it is important to keep the motions of your feet even and consistent. If you are not familiar with the term, treadling refers to the use of foot pedals.

Each rotation of the flyer twists the fiber, and adds a twist to the completed piece of yarn. This process adds to both the strength and the consistency of the finished product. When it is twisted evenly, the finished yarn will be smooth, and free from imperfections.

If you wish, yarn can be dyed before you begin spinning, or after it is finished. You may prefer it in its original state. Natural yarn can be quite beautiful-- and even more so when you have created the finished product yourself!

Regardless of the type of spinning method you have chosen, you are sure to be impressed with the results! You may already be thinking of all the uses you have for your freshly-made yarn. Some great ideas about projects you can make will be in an upcoming chapter. Before you proceed, there are a few more things you might like to know about making your own yarn.

While flax is a plant which grows freely, there are two other common sources of yarn. Synthetic material may be to your liking. If not, you may prefer natural wool. Alpaca, angora, and other natural wools come from animals. When these animals are kept by reputable individuals, they are not harmed by using their wool for spinning.

Shearing the wool from these animals is a completely painless procedure, and their wool grows back naturally afterward. Even the most conscientious animal-lover should have no reservations about using this kind of wool. In fact, many people today who do spinning as a trade keep their own animals, when time and space permits. This is the way it was generally done in the olden days.

In most cases, the yarn you can find in your local stores is synthetic. While there is nothing wrong with synthetic yarn, the fact that it consists of manmade materials may encourage you to appreciate natural material even more.

In addition, that which you find in stores or online is likely to have been mass-produced. When you begin to produce your own yarn, you will notice the difference. As one of the most important and nicest parts of making something yourself is that each of your creations is one of a kind, this is certainly true when you spin your own yarn. Each finished strand will be something extra-special-- something which you, yourself, have created.

There is nothing that can compare with the feeling you will have when you see the yarn that you have made with your own hands. The good news is that there is even more to learn and more to decide. Should you leave your yarn in its natural state, or try your hand at dyeing? What can you do with the yarn you have made, after you have admired how gorgeous it looks? Making your own yarn is quite an accomplishment, but answers to these questions and more are in the following chapters!

All About Dyeing

Natural is beautiful, but color can definitely be more impressive! Whether you plan to make products from your woven cloth or spun yarn or whether you want to admire it as-is, you will see how many more options you have when you learn all about dyeing.

Dyeing is very simple, but if you want the best results you need to know some facts in advance. While it is an easy process, all it takes is a small mistake to result in a disaster. If you have had any negative experiences with dye in the past, you already know how difficult it is to remove unwanted dye-- not only from a fabric, but from your skin and your home. With a little knowledge, caution and care, dyeing can be a fun experience with beautiful results.

There are two basic kinds of dye. Natural dye comes from plants. Artificial dye gives you the choice of many more colors, and the dye lasts much longer wherever it is applied.

The type of dye you choose depends upon the material where you plan to apply it. Basic dye works best for acrylic, while acid dyes are more useful for wool products, and disperse dye is most often used on polyester. Cotton can respond to any of these kinds of dye. People who are especially eco-friendly occasionally use food coloring.

When you have selected the type of dye most appropriate to your material, you also must note the material's porousness. The more porous a material is, the quicker it will absorb a dye. This affects the strength and hue of the color. For example, a material which is very porous will absorb more dye faster, resulting in a much deeper, darker color than a less porous material. You must take this into consideration in order to achieve the desired effect.

Dye can be found in the forms of a dye solution or a dye paste. While a liquid dye solution is usually most appropriate for vat dyeing, a dye paste is easier to use when you wish to apply a dye by hand.

Using a liquid dye solution in a vat is often best when applying one color dye to a large piece of material. A dye paste can be used instead if you want to have a number of different colors, design patterns, or have only a small

piece of material to dye. Applying a mordant after dyeing will help the dye to stay in place.

In addition to these basic forms of dyeing, there are two other methods which are both quite popular. The simplicity of these methods, as well as their beautiful, one of a kind results, accounts for their widespread appeal. You do not need to be an expert, or have any special knowledge, to try either of these methods.

- **Tie-Dyeing**

If you have tried tie-dyeing in the past, you already know how easy it is to do. After you have woven your own cloth, you can get a brilliant effect from tie-dyeing. The easiest process of tie-dyeing requires nothing more than rubber bands and a vat in which to dye the material. All you need to do is tie the rubber bands in loops in your fabric, and dye it according to the specific instructions. You will surely agree that tie-dyeing cloth which you have made yourself provides beautiful results.

- **Batik**

Another popular form of dyeing is known as batik. You have probably seen everything from clothing to household products in stores, yet not known how they were made. You may not have known how easy it is to make batik yourself. It is a very simple way to make one of a kind creations.

To make batik, the only extra products you will need is a combination of paraffin and beeswax. Both of these products can be found in hobby or specialty stores. Begin by applying this combination to your clean, dry fabric. You must give the wax ample time to cool and dry on the material before dyeing. If you are in a hurry, you can place the material in the refrigerator. This will help the wax to dry much faster.

When you place your fabric in the dye, the wax will crack naturally, allowing the dye to form patterns on the material. The length of time your project remains in the dye depends upon the specific type of material you have, and the kind of dye you are using. Detailed instructions should come with the dye when you purchase it.

After your material is dyed, you must remove the wax combination. The easiest and neatest way to do this is to place your material between pages of fade-resistant newspaper. It is important to use newspaper printed with ink that will not come off on your fabric. When the fabric is smoothly in place, carefully iron it. This will cause the wax to dissolve.

The finished product must be thoroughly but carefully cleaned. You do not want any wax residue to remain on your material. Using a gentle soap will remove the remaining wax, and leave you with the most beautiful product you have ever seen.

Prior to beginning any dyeing project, it is a good idea to have appropriate cleansers on hand. Many people who dye on a regular basis feel that basic bleach is the best. You will need to clean the vat and any other supplies which you have used, as well as being able to clean and sanitize your skin or any other areas which may have been affected by splatters or spills.

No matter how much you love natural cloth, yarn, and other materials, you should try each of these dyeing methods at least once. Even if you are a beginner, the results will be astounding.

The nicest aspect of any kind of dyeing is that no matter what you make, it will be one of a kind. It can turn even the most plain, ordinary material into a spectacular work of art. The very best part of it is you will know that you made it yourself. There is nothing quite like a unique, handmade creation. It is something which you will wear with pride, or give to a special person as a gift.

What Do You Want to Make?

Project Ideas for You!

Whether you have been practicing the arts of spinning and weaving and have become an expert at your new craft, or whether you are still a beginner who is learning these wonderful skills and looking forward to future goals, you might like to think about some ideas for projects you can make. All of these projects require only a moderate degree of skill, and some are very easy to do. They are fun ways to incorporate what you have learned.

If you have enjoyed weaving cloth, you will find weaving a rug to be even more exciting. Although this project is done by a similar process, you will not need a loom. Instead, all you will need to weave a rug is a rug frame. A rug frame is an inexpensive product which you can find in many hobby or specialty stores. If you want to save money, you can even make a rug frame yourself.

Weaving a rug can be easier than weaving cloth. With just a little practice, you can make a lovely rug within a few hours. Comparing all of these factors to the expensive, mass-produced rugs you find in stores should be a great incentive to try making your first rug. Not only is it economical, your finished rug will be one of a kind. The patterns, designs, and styles you choose are entirely up to you!

Your weaving skills can also extend to making blankets. If you have ever seen and admired traditional Native American blankets, and wished that you had the talent to make them yourself, now you can! You can begin with a simple pattern, and progress to more intricate designs.

Dyeing fabric is an easy to do skill with nearly limitless possibilities. Whether you use cloth which you have made yourself or material that you purchase, you can design and create unique products in only a couple of hours. The possibilities range from designing and dyeing clothing to designing and dyeing curtains for your home, and many, many more. You will find more opportunities for dyeing than there are colors in the rainbow!

Yarn has been a special product for girls and women throughout the generations. In fact, some men enjoy working with yarn as much as the

ladies do. One traditional favorite for working with yarn is knitting. Perhaps you have tried it yourself, or have seen older women in your family as they knitted. You can knit baby blankets and booties, scarves, and mittens for everyone in your family. Not only are knitted products lovely, they are also very warm!

The other traditional method of working with yarn is crocheting. Crocheting has become increasingly popular during the last few decades. One reason for this is that crocheting is very simple. Even a young child can do it. You can crochet sweaters, blankets, caps, and many other nice products. As a crochet hook and yarn are portable, you can take your crocheting project with you, to work on whenever you have free time.

A contemporary method of crocheting is with the use of a granny square. You simply crochet a granny square in whatever size is appropriate for your project, and continue by making however many squares you need. When you have the number of squares you desire, you can sew the squares together. This is an easy way to make even the largest afghan in a short period of time.

The yarn you have made can also be used for braiding. Braiding is done by intertwining three strands of yarn. The strands can be doubled if you want thicker or heavier braids. They can be all the same color or different colors, depending upon the effect you want.

Braids have many practical purposes. One of the most popular is to hold hanging baskets. These baskets can be used to hold plants, or other items. Hanging baskets with handmade braids are a delightful way to make any room bright and fresh.

Handmade braids can also be used to make crafts such as picture frames. They are long-lasting, sturdy, and virtually indestructible. They also look much nicer than frames you can buy in a store.

These are just some of the ways you can put your new talents to practical use. Once you have become accustomed to creating products with your own two hands, you will probably want to try everything that you have time to make. Even if you are still learning the arts of spinning and weaving, you can make magnificent products. Everything you make will be completely unique. Best of all, you will see that hand-crafting is something that always holds your interest, because it is so much fun!

Caring for Your Materials

You may be familiar with the old saying “A good workman always takes good care of his tools.” This is true for your spinning and weaving supplies, too. The better condition you keep your supplies, the longer they will last, and the better they will work.

Taking care of your materials is not difficult. With most of your supplies, it is nothing more than common sense. Keeping them clean, free of debris, and stored safely when not in use is the only care that most of your supplies require.

Some supplies do need some extra attention. You should carefully check your loom on a regular basis to be sure that it has not accumulated any rust. You can clean your loom’s metal parts with a standard sewing-machine oil. This will help to ensure that your loom continues to operate smoothly.

Lemon oil or linseed oil can be used to keep the wood of your loom clean and fresh. Some people find linseed oil a little difficult to manage, but both work equally well.

Lemon oil is also excellent for cleaning your spinning wheel. As keeping your spinning wheel in good working order means keeping it properly maintained, you should make a point of cleaning it on a regular basis.

Both a spinning wheel and loom should be checked frequently to be sure that all of the parts are secured in place. Parts must be replaced whenever they begin to wear out. Using a spinning wheel or loom with parts that are worn out can damage your entire machine, as well as making it less effective.

Dyes need a certain degree of care, also. First, if you have dyes which are no longer in excellent condition you should dispose of them. If they are kept too long, they can deteriorate. Their composition can change, and they will no longer be useful. Your material may be ruined if you try to use dye that is no longer fresh.

Second, most dyes lose their effectiveness after they have been opened. If you only use a portion of a dye, dispose of the remainder. No matter what

kind of dye it is, proper disposal is important. The original package should provide instructions on how to dispose of it safely.

Caring for your materials also means keeping them out of your children's reach. Some supplies have the potential to be dangerous to children. Children, on the other hand, can easily ruin your supplies. While teaching them not to play with your spinning and weaving materials is important, ensuring that they are not accessible to your youngsters without your supervision is equally important. As pets can pose the same issues as children, they should not be allowed around your supplies. It can be beneficial to make the room where you do your spinning and weaving off-limits to young children and pets. This basic decision can prevent unnecessary accidents from occurring.

When not in use, your spinning and weaving supplies can be safely stored where they will not be disturbed. A room or large closet that is free from moisture, dust, and other residue is best. It is a good idea to have coverings for your loom and spinning wheel, if possible.

Keeping your supplies clean, safe, and in good condition is the best way to have them ready for many years of use. The small amount of time it takes to care for your supplies is well worth the effort. When you do not have to worry about broken or damaged supplies, you can focus on enjoying them. With just a little effort on your part, you can enjoy them for many years to come.

Caring for the Products You Have Made

Handmade products are the most wonderful products. When you have made something yourself, it means a great deal to you. Putting a little extra time into caring for these products means that you will have and enjoy them for a long time.

Keeping your handmade products in good condition means preserving their quality and their unique beauty. Fortunately, it is not difficult to do this. All it requires is a little special attention to your product.

Yarns, and products made from yarn, must always be washed by hand. Under no circumstances can yarn be washed in a washing machine, or go through a clothes dryer. Either of these appliances will ruin yarn completely, causing it to shrink and become out of shape. Instead, wash your yarn products in cool water, with the mildest soap you can find. You can also use Woolite, which is specially made for cleaning delicate fabrics. It is very inexpensive, and can be found in nearly any store.

Drying yarn products also requires some special care. The easiest and safest way to dry products made from yarn is to allow them to air-dry naturally on a flat surface. Wet yarn products should never be hung up with clothes pins, on hangers, or on a clothes line. Attempting to dry them by these methods will cause them to stretch and be pulled out of shape. While a flat surface may take longer to dry the product, your handmade creations will stay in their original shape and retain their nice condition. It is unwise to use an iron on products made from yarn.

Clothing or other articles which have been dyed need a little extra care. Strong detergents should be avoided, regardless of the material, as they can cause the colors to fade. Bleach should never be used on dyed materials. Dyed clothing and other articles will also hold their bright color longer if they are not dried in strong, direct sunlight. If the material permits, they can be dried in a clothes dryer, or outdoors away from strong sunlight.

Using an iron on dyed clothes can cause the dye to fade, especially if it is done on a regular basis. If it is necessary to iron your dyed clothing, you should use the coolest setting available, and only iron them when you must. Whenever possible it is better to allow wrinkles to be naturally removed

while drying. Dyed clothing not containing yarn can be dried on a clothes line or on a hanger.

If you have made rugs or blankets, keeping them as clean as possible will help in preventing the need for frequent washing. When they do need to be cleaned, you should choose the method suitable for the particular material. Woolite, or another similar mild product, can work well for washing rugs and blankets. As rugs and blankets are large, drying them on a clothes line is recommended, unless they are made from yarn. Handmade rugs and blankets do not respond well to a clothes dryer, so it is best to avoid this method.

Woolite is also a good choice for cleaning woven cloth. While mild detergent will not damage most kinds of cloth, Woolite will help it to stay brighter, fresher, and in nicer condition.

You have put time and hard work into creating lovely items. It is only natural for you to want them to stay in perfect condition for a long time. When they look as good as when you first made them, your handmade creations will bring you many years of enjoyment and pride. Putting a little extra time into their proper care is certainly worth the effort. Everything you make will be something to treasure for many years to come. You may even find your handmade products become keepsakes and heirlooms to delight future generations. All it takes is some extra care to preserve them in their original, beautiful condition.

What Can You Do With Your Creations?

You may have made many nice items, or are thinking about ones which you would like to make. You may be wondering how many fun and practical uses there are for your handicrafts. If you are like most people who spin, weave, and dye, the more good uses you have for your products the more you will enjoy making them.

One use for your handicrafts is to enjoy them yourself. After all, you have put your time and hard work into learning these crafts, and even more time into practicing, so it is only natural for you to reap some of the rewards.

You can make your own clothing if you wish to do so. Once you have seen how special and unique your handmade cloth is, you know that it is much nicer than anything you can find in a store. Equally important, each article of clothing you make is one of a kind. No matter what color, pattern, or design you choose, there is nothing quite like it anywhere.

You can also make furnishings for your home. Rugs, blankets, and batik wall-hangings will look great in any room of your house. They will give an air of individuality, as they were all made specially by you.

While enjoying your own creations is wonderful, you likely do not want to keep them all to yourself. Part of the fun of creating unique products is to share them with other people. Many of the products you make are ideal to give as gifts. Whether you are thinking about Christmas, birthdays, baby showers, or “just because,” nothing will make your recipients feel as special as a gift which you have made by hand.

Making homemade gifts has a decided advantage. If you have ever had difficulty deciding what kind of gift to give to someone on a special occasion, this will no longer be a problem when you choose to give your homemade crafts. Instead of settling for gifts that are not quite appropriate, you can custom-make each gift individually for each lucky recipient.

Gift-giving with handmade products is always better than purchasing items from a store. Sizes, colors, patterns and designs are all up to you to decide. You can be guaranteed that each person you present with your handicrafts will appreciate and treasure something you made just for him.

When all of your friends and members of your family see your creations, their delighted responses may give you the idea of turning your new free-time hobby into a productive home business. While starting your own business does require some careful thought and planning, it does not need to be difficult at all.

There are a number of options for starting a trade with spinning and weaving. You can make the items, and then have them sold in a consignment shop. Most large cities have one or more of these shops. If you choose this method, the items you make will be entirely up to you. You can make however many items you wish, and whatever kind you enjoy making the most.

Another option is to advertise for special orders. When you are confident in your abilities, you can place an ad in a widely-circulated newspaper or magazine. You can also start a website to advertise your creations. If you opt for this method, do not be surprised if your new home business begins to build very quickly. The combination of items being made by hand and made to order is very popular. Customers love the idea of selecting a product they want, and having it specially made just for them. You may even gain more customers when the people who buy your products show them off to all of their friends.

There is another practical, fun use for your handicrafts. It is something which you may not have thought about before. There are plenty of worthwhile groups and charities consistently in need of help. You can do an amazing service for your community by considering the possibilities.

One idea is to offer your homemade products for fundraising raffles. In many communities, this is often done at annual fairs or other events. You can approach an organization which you are familiar with, and ask if they would like one or more of your products for their raffles. When the proceeds go directly to these kinds of worthy causes, you will feel inspired by your contribution. You will also know that your handiwork has been put to good use.

Another idea is to offer your creations to agencies which help the less fortunate. Most large cities have shelters for homeless persons, special residences for battered women, and services for youth and children. It does

not take much effort to find out what kinds of agencies are in your area. It is one of the best ways in which you can assist people in their time of need.

All of these kinds of agencies are almost always in need of clothing, blankets, and other similar items. They usually rely on donations, which are often not enough to help all of the people they serve. If you can make some extra blankets, sweaters, and other articles of clothing, you will be providing a wonderful service for men, women, and children who are less fortunate and experiencing a difficult time in their lives.

As you can see, there are many, many things that you can do with your handicrafts. After you have become an expert in spinning, weaving, and dyeing, you may find that you like making certain kinds of products or using certain methods more than others. You may even decide that you want to specialize in one of them. This is a sign that you have perfected your techniques, and have grown to love your new craft. It is also a sign that your spinning, weaving, and other handiwork has the potential of becoming much more than a part-time hobby. Whether you choose to begin your own home business, make wonderful contributions to a favored charity, or simply delight all of your friends and family members, you have reached the point of being able to do so.

Spinning and weaving is not a difficult art form to learn. It does not require a great deal of expense. All it really requires is the commitment to learn, to practice, and to perfect, until you are completely satisfied with the results. The joy you receive from making personal handiwork is your best assurance of this satisfaction coming easily. Spinning and weaving will feel like a natural part of your life very shortly after you have begun learning.

If you have taken the initiative to buy and read this book, you are already well on your way to many years of a craft that will definitely enrich your life. With just a little time on your part, you are well on your way to success!