

Hand crafted spinning wheels and a wide range of woolworking tools for beginners and experts

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LITTLE GEM DOUBLE TREADLE SPINNING WHEEL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY AND USE

PLEASE READ THESE NOTES BEFORE YOU UNPACK THIS BOX

Majacraft's Little Gem is a revolutionary new concept and operates differently to other spinning wheels. The treadle action is the most obvious difference and will take time to get used to. Once you do, you will be surprised how effortless it all is. Practice treadling before you start to spin. Your feet need to be placed well forward on the pedals and the action is a rolling ankle action, somewhat like that on a push-bike. The heel and toe action of other Majacraft wheels will not do here, you will find the pedals will "flop".

Stop treadling with one axle just over upright, and that is now the pedal that is first pushed when restarting your wheel.

The spinning head can be directed to a comfortable angle just by turning it, and may be raised in height by loosening the knob on the side of the upright and lifting the spinning head, and then re-tightening it.

- 1** Your wheel has been fully assembled at our workshop; it has been tested; it has been spun upon; all screws have been fitted. All possible checks have been done.

Please unpack with care and retain the packaging. In the box will be:

- Carry bag in which will be your new spinning wheel in a folded position.
- 3 standard bobbins.
- Flyer including flyer hook.
- The spinning head with scotch tension mechanism.
- Travelling lazy kate with bobbin bars
- Instruction sheets, warranty card and Majacraft user's manual.

- 2** Remove the bobbins from the box.

- 3** Remove the bag from the box and then remove the spinning wheel from the carry bag and place on a flat surface.

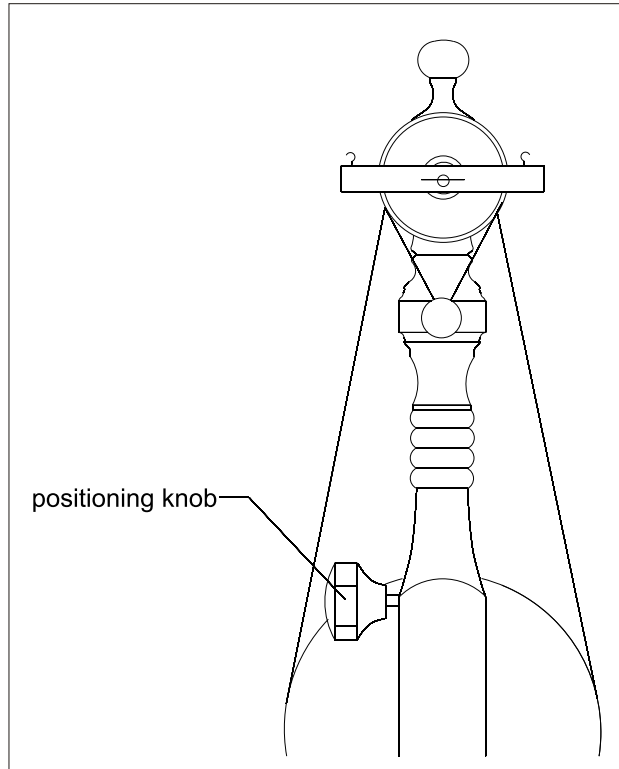
- 4** Remove the spinning head assembly from the inner pocket of the carry bag.

- 5** Move the spine assembly on the wheel into an upright position and fix in place by pushing the locking bolt at the bottom front into the opening in the side plate.

Please note, it will have been locked into the folded position so turn it over and slide the bolt back before trying to raise the spine assembly

6

Fit the spinning head assembly to the spine assembly by gently inserting the metal shaft into the hole. Tighten the hexagonal knob at the side to hold the spinning head firmly in place with the flyer shaft pointing towards you.



7

Fit the narrow drive belt around the outside of the drive wheel and the whorl.

8

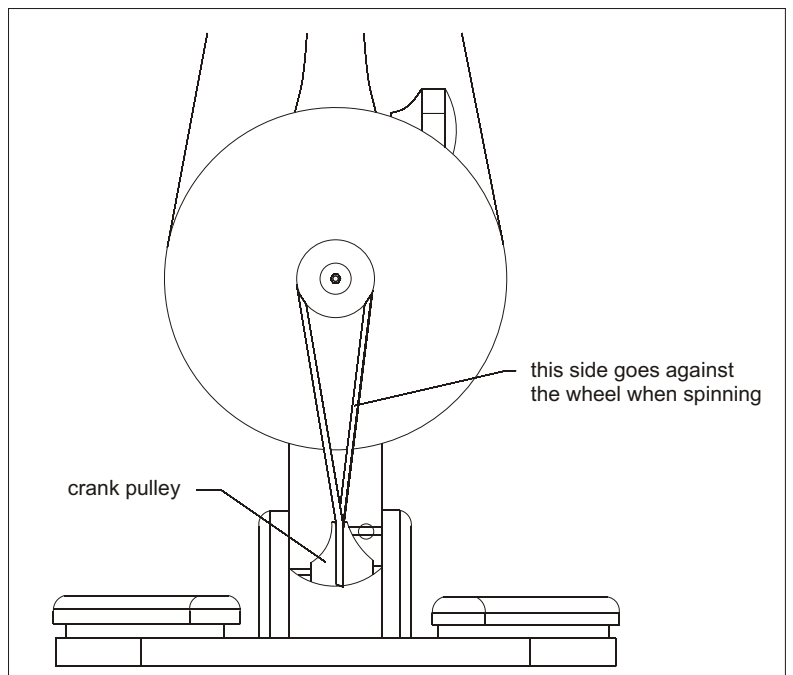
Fit the crank drive belt around the outer pulley of the drive wheel and the crank pulley between the pedals, crossing it as shown in the diagram.

With the drive wheel pointing towards you, put the belt onto the drive wheel pushing the right hand side on first.

This will let you spin (or ply) clockwise.

To ply (or spin) counter-clockwise cross the upper drive belt.

If you cross the belt, turn the spinning head a little to one side so that the drive belt does not rub on itself.



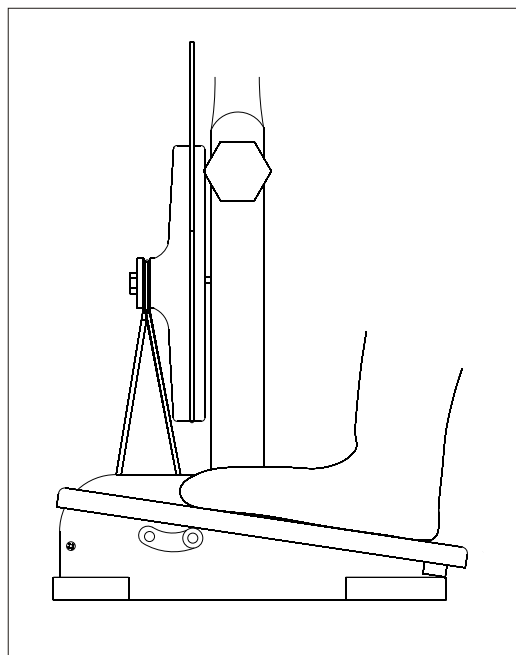
9 Put the bobbin onto the flyer shaft, placing the brake tension cord around the bobbin groove.

10 Fit the flyer onto the flyer shaft by turning it as far as it will go while holding the whorl in your other hand. The flyer may also be placed onto the shaft by treading, with the drive wheel moving in a clockwise direction while holding the flyer in your hand against the start of the thread on the shaft. When the flyer is as far on as it will go, hold both the flyer and the whorl steady and tighten just a little more by hand. To take the flyer off, reverse this procedure, treading with the drive wheel moving in an anti-clockwise direction.

11 You are now ready to start spinning!

Place your feet as shown in the sketch with your heels well forward on the treadle.

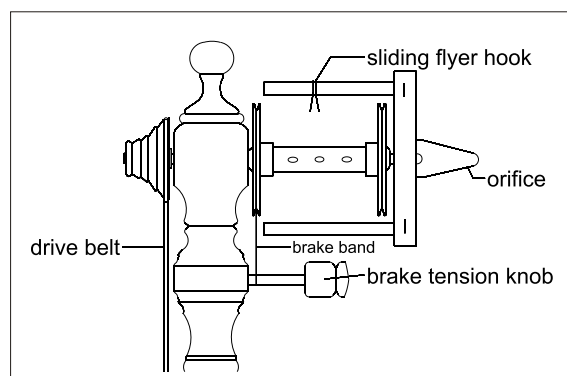
The treadles are angled to ease foot strain, sit down firmly, sit back, and now treadle with your ankles Relax.



12 When you are comfortable about treading, tie on a leader and lead the fibre from the bobbin, around the INSIDE hook of the flyer arm, around the plated hook and down through the orifice. No threader is required. The sliding flyer hook works best with the tips pointing away from you.

Tie your leader around the core and NOT through the holes. A piece of scotch tape will secure it firmly.

- The bobbin is thin walled, lightweight and very responsive to tension adjustments.
- It has an increased yarn capacity.
- It has super smooth cord grooves.
- It is functional and very strong.
- It may be immersed in boiling water and other substances, to set twist or dyes.



13 To move the flyer hook, just squeeze the wings gently and slide it along the flyer arm. Bobbin filling can now be even and it will be easier for unwinding. Finding that lost end is also easier as the hook placement identifies the place where it will be.

14 To spin wool fibers use the whorl grooves closest to you as these are the lowest ratios. As you change to fine fibres such as Merino, silk, cotton, etc. use the grooves furthest away from you, which are the higher ratios.

15 The ratios on the Little Gem are calculated as treadle beats to flyer revolutions. There are 5 ratios available on the Little Gem.

Principal ratios are:

smallest whorl groove	12.75:1
	10:1
	8.5:1
	6:1
largest whorl groove	4.5:1

16 We suggest that when spinning you start with no tension at all and tighten the brake band just a little until it starts to grab. The Little Gem has more drag on the bobbin and so less tension is required.

Always use the minimum tension for satisfactory draw in and no more. There is sufficient cord supplied to remove a worn piece and please, if you have to replace it, use a braided material and NOT monofilament fishing line which will cut a groove in any bobbin. Braided cord is cheaper than new bobbins.

17 You may raise the spinning height of the flyer orifice by loosening the positioning knob on the side of the spine and lifting the top turned portion to the height you require.

At this time you may also adjust the angle of the flyer so that you may spin with the flyer orifice pointing more to the left or to the right. This makes it easy for left or right handed spinners to be comfortable. Tighten the positioning knob when you have the height and the flyer set as you want them

18 To ply or spin S (flyer rotating anti-clockwise), you should cross the upper drive belt. This will allow you to pedal in the normal 'forward' direction. Turn the spinning head slightly to one side to prevent the belt rubbing on itself.

19 Keep bobbin grooves clean. Cotton and silk should be spun with virtually no tension, no friction-drag of any dirt in the groove and the flyer shaft must be clean too. Give the shaft a wipe with very light oil or vaseline.

20 The woodwork of your wheel has been varnished with a pre-catalysed lacquer, a wipe with a damp cloth is usually all that is needed, a drop of detergent on the damp cloth for a really dirty wheel may help. A mark made by a hard knock can be masked by putting a drop of furniture or linseed oil on the spot and allowing it to soak in. Please note that like all natural timber products your wheel needs to be kept away from direct sunlight, hot fires and if possible, extremely dry or humid environments. Majacraft has a polish made from organic lavender oil and manuka beeswax which is very effective in keeping your wheel attractive.

21 To move your Little Gem you may find it easiest to pick it up by the knob on the top. When carrying it in the bag, we suggest that a folded towel or similar padding will save the pedals from being marked next to the drive wheel.

22 Accessories for your Majacraft wheel include:

- Lazy Kate with tension device
- Dolphin niddy noddy
- "E" system
- Baby bobbin set
- Lace kit
- Fast whorl for fine spinning
- Wheel skeiner - fits on in place of the flyer
- Plying set

Visit our web site at www.majacraft.co.nz to learn more or contact your dealer for a full colour brochure.

Majacraft guarantees to replace or repair all faulty parts free of charge for two years from original purchase. Fair wear and tear resulting from usage excluded. In the unlikely event of a failure please contact your dealer.

WARNING

There are many moving parts on spinning wheels when in use. It is possible that moving parts could cause injury.

We urge you to take care and be aware of others, especially small children, so that your spinning brings a lifetime of pleasure.

MAJACRAFT

Little Gem Folding Wheel

Drawing & Design © Owen Poad 6/7/2000

