

# Using a Majacraft diz

This lesson teaches how to turn a single colour of hand carded wool into a roving (also known as a sliver or top). Because all the fibres are aligned, spinning these rovings becomes much easier.

## 1. Preparing the wool.

Staples of wool are hand carded into a batt. It's actually easier if the fibres don't shift too much longways.



## 2. Loading the batt.

Load the batt onto a comb by pressing it with about 1-1½" (30-40mm) overhanging the back of the comb. We're using a 3" (75mm) dog comb we used to card the wool with, clamped to the table top.



## 3. Threading the diz.

Pull some fibres from the ends of the batt through the hole in the diz with the hook provided. Then pull through a substantial amount with your fingers.

Position the concave side of the diz toward the batt, using the big hole for starters.



## 4. Drawing the roving.

With the back hand, draw the roving from the diz, but only about one third of the staple length, while the other hand restrains the diz from moving away from the batt. Stop and re-grasp the roving about ½ - ¾" (10-20mm) from the diz and repeat the draw.

The restraining hand should not be clasping the roving, let it just slide between your finger and thumb. Not all the fibres drawn through the hole, get caught in the roving, and you use these to judge if the diz is the correct distance from the comb.

These fibres appear stationary when the roving is being pulled through and they should stick through about ½" (10-15mm). (If you grasp these fibres it is hard work to pull the roving through, so re-grasp just outside these fibres.)



### **5. Drawing the wool.**

As the wool is progressively drawn off the comb, the diz gets nearer and nearer to the comb.

Near the end the roving gets a lot thinner also.



### **6. The finished roving.**

The finished roving is ready to spin from.

Using a smaller hole will make a longer roving, allowing you to spin finer yarn with more control over the evenness. The smallest hole is used with fine wools such as Merino, Polwarth and Halfbreed.

There is always some waste at the end (next to the diz and hook)



*Alys and John Vreede*