

# Spinning with the Majacraft Stylus

The first type of spinning wheel was the quill or spindle wheel.



The Majacraft stylus is a polished aluminium quill or spindle that screws straight on to the flyer shaft. A small bobbin is part of the set and is placed on the shaft first with the stylus snug against it. Make sure the stylus is done up quite tightly so that it doesn't come undone when working. You can treadle it on and off just as with your flyer. The stylus attachment will fit all Majacraft spinning wheels.

## 1. Leader attachment method

A leader yarn is attached to the bobbin and then brought over the end of the bobbin and out to the point of the stylus. As it turns the yarn will slip into the bobbin groove which stabilizes the pull.



## 2. Select your fibre

To use a stylus you need a free spinning sliver for best results. Cotton and other short fibres are especially suitable to be spun on a stylus.

## 3. Choose your ratio

Generally it is best to use a faster ratio, although when you are starting out you may find a slower one easier to manage.

## 4. Stylus technique overview

Treadle your Majacraft wheel in the usual direction and hold the leader yarn out to one side at a suggested angle of between 30 and 60 degrees, with an optimum of around 45 degrees. You will work out for yourself the best angle which is perpendicular to the point for your work. With a Rose or Suzie you may find that laying the handle over to one side will give you a better angle for spinning, and with a Little Gem you can turn the spinning head as required.



## 5. Start spinning

- Attach your sliver to your leader yarn and pull the sliver out using the long draw method.
- Hold it long enough to ensure sufficient twist is in your yarn. It can take more twist than you might expect to start. So it is up to you to judge the amount required.



There are two methods of winding the yarn on to the bobbin when the yarn is how you want it. We recommend the second as it is much faster:

- 1.** Reverse the wheel a little to unwind the yarn from the stylus, then, holding the yarn at right angles to the bobbin, pedal in the forward direction to wind it on to the bobbin. Leave some free as a leader for continuing on.
- 2.** Slow your treadling right down, bring your hand in line with the stylus and gently pull the spun yarn from the stylus. You can now bring your back hand around so it is at right angles to the bobbin and wind the yarn on. Leave some free as a leader for continuing on. All of this happens without changing the spinning direction.

Yarns can be spun in either direction. This method is a very fast way of spinning even though there are two processes – spinning and winding on. It is suitable for very fine spinning as well as more chunky and slubby yarns.

When your bobbin is full remove it and replace with an empty one. The bobbins have a groove around one end so that they can be used on a Majacraft tensioned lazy kate for plying.

**We recommend that you remove the stylus when you are not using it to avoid damage either to it or to people.**