

Using a blending board

Blending boards are built to offer you greater control over fibre you wish to blend. This means that you can place the fibre exactly where you want to create rolags for spinning or alternatively you can felt the completed batt.



The Majacraft blending board has some added features to set it apart and make it extra special. We have an elegant integrated metal handle and have used a special edging on the carding cloth that helps secure the cloth to the board as well as making a very tidy finish and no frayed cloth edges visible.



This tutorial is simply a primer to introduce you to the blending board and how to work with it. Read other Majacraft tutorials for more detailed information on creating rolags for spinning or using the blending board as a tool for felting.

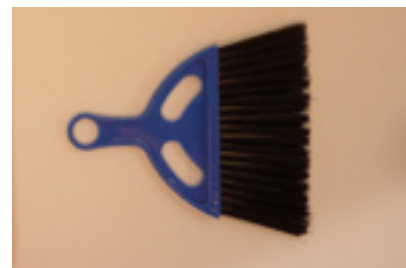
In your blending board set



Blending board



Keel (with lock bolt)



Packing brush



Dowels

The dowel diameter has been carefully chosen to be optimal for creating your rolags. Plus we make them longer than the cloth width so you don't end up scratching your fingers on the carding cloth!



There are two holes on the underside of the blending board containing threaded metal inserts. These are used to secure the keel to the underside of the board. The hole nearest the metal handle is intended to be used for holding the keel when you wish to work on a table. The hole furthest from the metal handle is for the keel when you wish to use the blending board in your lap.

Using the Keel

The keel has a lock screw held fairly firmly through the hole in the centre. This is screwed into one of the two holes in the underside of the blending board.

If you would like to work on a table top then screw the lock bolt into the hole nearest the handle and tighten it up with the keel aligned across the blending board. The lock bolt does not need to be super tight, just enough to hold the keel in place while you work.



Place the blending board on the table now with it tilted toward you. If you prefer to work flat, then hang the keel over the edge of the table and use it as a stop to prevent the blending board from moving - a simple alternative to this is not put the keel on at all as the shape of your table may force you to have the blending board too far from yourself.

If you are choosing to work with the blending board in your lap, the keel needs to be screwed in to the threaded hole furthest from the handle. Position it initially parallel with the blending board. When screwed on, the keel need not be tightened so firmly it cannot move.





When using the blending board in your lap, the initial obvious way to support the board is straight out in front of your body. However, this may not be the most effective method. People's arms tend to work more naturally in a diagonal motion across the body. The back and forth motion of placing the fibre on to the blending board straight in front of your body may soon become uncomfortable.

What we suggest is sitting down with the keel secured between your knees and the handle of the blending board furthest away from your body. Rotate the blending board about 30 degrees counter-clockwise if you are right handed or 30 degrees clockwise if you are left handed. This may be an easier position to work in. Experiment with this and see what works best for you. Also, you may want to rotate it as you blend to get an optimal working angle. The point is, don't lock the keel solidly onto the board so there is no possibility of adjustment.



The blending board sitting straight in the lap and then rotated to a more comfortable angle



Using the brush on the blending board

We hope this introduction to the blending board is helpful to get you started. Remember to check out the Resources area of www.majacraft.co.nz for more fibre blending tutorials.



Rolags - image courtesy of Suzy Brown (www.woolwench.com)