

London Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers



Information Sheet: Spinning

The Guild meets once a month on a Saturday afternoon at St Stephen's, 48 Emperor's Gate, London SW7 4HJ. As well as general information, news and a textile-related lecture there is a small library and a notice board.

We don't run courses but there is a spinning group which meets four times a year in the morning before the main meeting for spinning skills sessions. There are also two spinning groups which meet at the Royal Festival Hall and the Wetlands Centre. Find out more information on these from our website.

How can I learn?

Classes and courses

The Handweavers Studio

www.handweavers.co.uk

140 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 7NS

The Introduction to Spinning course costs £95. It's a one-day course run by Brenda Gibson who is a Guild Member. There are generally at least two courses a term.

The Gilliangladrag Fluff-a-torium

www.gilliangladrag.co.uk

20 West Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1BL

Beginner spinning courses are £89. Courses are held regularly throughout the year.

Videos

Katie from Hilltop Cloud has some good video links at:

www.hilltopcloud.co.uk/videos.html

including beginner drop spindle spinning 1:

youtu.be/rPUORvO-GZE and 2:

youtu.be/WAVYmG9zeK8

Where can I ...

... buy a spindle?

Ian Tait Crafts

www.thewoodemporium.co.uk

based on the Isle of Wight but all spindles come packaged in sturdy cardboard tubes that they can be stored in.

Michael Williams

www.michael-williams-wood.co.uk/sitefiles/spindles.htm

based in Sheffield, provides beautiful handmade items, including the well-known square whorl spindles that spin for longer.

Books

There are lots of good books available on handspinning that you can buy from your local craft/yarn shop, bookshops or Amazon. The ones listed below are all still in print:

Abby Franquemont

Respect the Spindle

Beth Smith

The Spinner's Book of Fleece

Anne Field

The Ashford Book of Spinning

Brenda Gibson

The Complete Guide to Spinning Yarn

Sarah Anderson

The Spinner's Book of Yarn Designs

Deborah Robson

The Field Guide to Fleece

Hilltop Cloud

www.hilltopcloud.co.uk

Katie sells some lovely and cheap starter spindles, and is the author of the instruction leaflet.

If you're feeling really adventurous you could even make your own:

www.instructables.com/id/Make-An-Awesome-Drop-Spindle

[Etsy](https://www.etsy.com/) and [Ravelry](https://www.ravelry.com/) are also good resources for hand-crafted items, as well as many of the general fibre craft suppliers.

... buy some fibre?

There are many, many places where you can buy wonderful fluff of different varieties! Here are a few of our favourites and the bigger stockists.

John Arbon

www.jarbon.com

based in Devon, selling beautiful fibre, yarn and socks from his own mill.

Porpoise Fur

www.porpoisefur.com

Rachel from Yarn in the City's own fibre shop contains a variety of hand dyed fibre blends and hand-spun yarns.

Hilltop Cloud

www.hilltopcloud.co.uk

Katie sells lots of hand dyed and blended fibres, and has fibre clubs and various other goodies.

The Handweavers Studio

www.handweavers.co.uk

Handweavers stocks a wide variety of fibre and yarns for most crafts.

World of Wool

www.worldofwool.co.uk

a good resource for all types of fibres, with a custom blend function for larger quantities.

George Weil

www.georgeweil.com

a general craft stockist that has a selection of fibres and other spinning products.

Etsy is also a good place to look for small indie dyers, as well as **Ravelry** and fibre festivals such as **Iknit Fandango**, **Fibre East** and **Unravel** which are all held in or near London.

... buy a wheel?

Lots of second hand wheels suitable for beginners can be found on **Ravelry** (the **UK Spinners** group has a sale thread), **Gumtree** and **Ebay**.

If you want to buy a new wheel, you will need to find the stockist for the brand you want. Ashford are a good cheap brand that are widely available, and the Handweavers Studio has a selection of these in their shop that you can try out.

We recommend getting some advice when choosing a wheel – the Guild or other spinning groups and forums are good resources to help point you in the right direction and show you how to set up and care for your wheel.

... meet more spinners?

The London Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers always welcomes new members! We have two spinning groups that meet at the Royal Festival Hall and the Wetlands Centre, as well as monthly guild meetings and quarterly spinning skills sessions. More information can be found on our website: www.londonguildofweavers.org.uk

The London Guild is part of the **Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers** which is a national umbrella body for all the guilds in the UK (and beyond). You can look up other guilds and events on their website (www.wsd.org.uk), including the Online Guild for those not able to get to a local guild.

Ravelry is a good place to find like minded fibre addicts. There are **UK Spinners** and **London Spinners** groups, as well as lots of others dedicated to various areas of spinning.

Look for local groups – there are some local craft and spinning groups around London that aren't affiliated to the Guild, that work like knit nights.