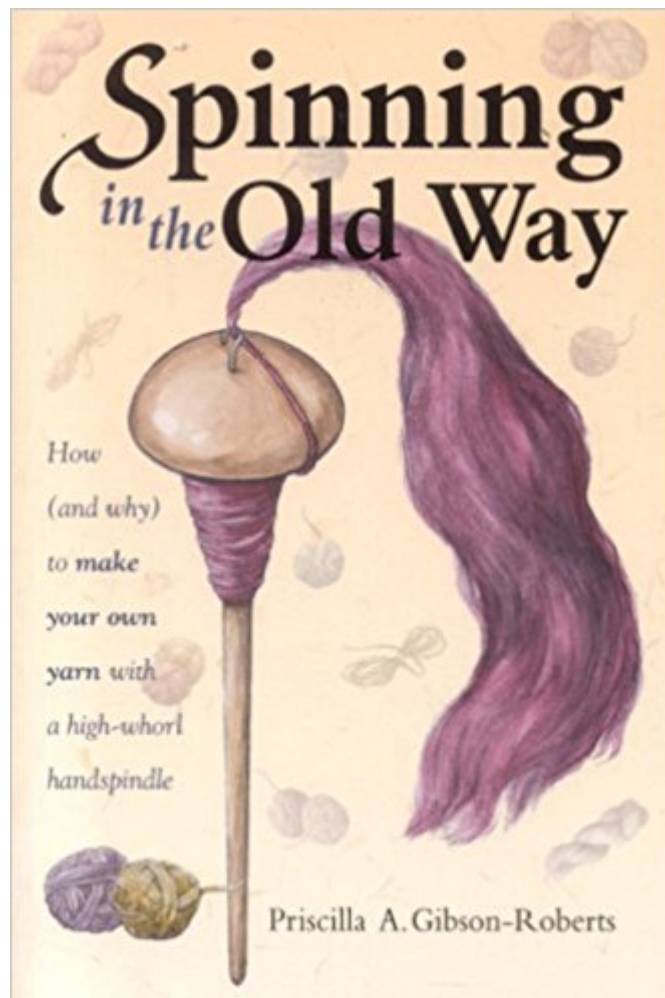




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# Spinning In The Old Way: How (and Why) To Make Your Own Yarn With A High-Whorl Handspindle



## Synopsis

Knitters are discovering the pleasure and satisfaction of spinning their own yarns. Master craftsman Priscilla Gibson-Roberts guides readers in the fast-track, low-cost, high-quality approach to spinning. No spinning wheel required.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

... [A] timely and comprehensive handbook . . . that is never overwhelming. -- Carol Huebscher Rhoades in *Spin-Off* on Fall 2006  
Gibson-Roberts's conversational instructions are accessible, and her passion will leave you inspired to expand your crafting resume. -- Amanda Keiser, *Vogue Knitting*

I have several books on hand-spinning and this is THE best. My only complaint is lack of photos but that would jack up the price and isn't really necessary. The illustrations do a good job as is. I learned to spin on a high-whorl spindle by buying one and doing the spinny thing with my fingers - this book shows how you get WAY more spin by spinning it (in the old way!) up or down your thigh. At first this sounded hokey. I thought I had a good spin using my fingers. I was wrong. Now I'm a convert to thigh-spinning! (I know it sounds weird, but this author knows what she is talking about!) The book also talks about how you can use cheap and inexpensive things as spinning tools. I like the author's idea of keeping it simple and portable. I also like the section on plying - lacking in a lot of books. The author actually tried a bunch of ways and rated them for ease, and then tells how to do it in the

easiest way. That's useful. I love the book and would recommend it to anyone. If you don't have a drop spindle yet, BUY THE BOOK FIRST, then shop for your spindle when you know something about the difference between a good, useful one and a bad one. I had to get rid of my first "beginner" spindle - it wobbled, had a bad hook, and no notch.

I've been using this book for a couple of weeks now and have been spinning for about 2 months. It has everything you need to start using a spindle and making yarn. It is concentrated on high-whorl drop spindle but can definitely be used with other spindles. Gibson-Roberts does a great job sorting between the different techniques and clearly explaining the ones she finds most efficient. It has some basic (good) info about drafting, plying, even a little bit about how to use control card to make sure your yarn comes out even. On the minus side - the author chooses her techniques and sort of dismisses other techniques quite disdainfully. As a beginner, I don't want to dismiss any technique before I've tried it. But I must admit - starting off with techniques that work really boosted my spinning skills. And there are other books out there which will teach me the techniques that "don't work". Overall - a highly recommended basic book for a beginner.

This book focuses on using the hand spindle which the author argues is just as fast as a wheel if done properly. It is illustrated as well. Anything you want to know about spinning, plying, dyeing etc. is here. However, I was only able to get the Kindle version. Paperbacks are available on from outside sellers. Be careful before clicking on any of them since one of the sellers wants over \$200 for this used paperback. I used this great little book to learn and do spin very quickly. I had no clue what to do at first, but this sorted me out. I highly recommend it

Interesting material, although I don't agree with all of it. It's written from the point of view of someone who learned spinning by herself. Useful information, not as detailed as some books (such as Respect the Spindle.)

This book has no photographs! It does have plenty of illustrations, which are often easier to understand. The information is presented clearly and concisely, with plenty of detail and description just where you need it. All aspects of spindle spinning are covered, and covered sufficiently. This book goes a bit beyond the basics, although those are covered, too. This is the best spindle spinning book I have read yet.

from this book, even the experienced spinners! I haven't read any of Priscilla's other books, so the reprint issue is irrelevant, but as someone who gave up on trying to spin with a bottom whorl spindle, the top whorl spindle is a revelation, and I have yet to see a book available to Australian spinners that has the wealth and variety of information that is explained in this book! Even if you don't spindle spin, there is a lot to learn about fibre preparation, plying and other aspects of spinning that it is so often taken for granted that we know! If you don't have the original, beg borrow or steal a copy if you can't get it here!

I bought my first copy of this book because I wanted to learn how to spin on a high whorl handspindle. I read the book and easily learned how to spin. Now I am spinning fine yarn for socks, (fingering to sport weight). I just got 2 more copies to use to teach other people how to spin, I have a couple other books on spinning but found this the most helpful. This is a book to learn techniques, and then apply on your own to your own projects. There is only spinning covered here, there are no projects for using handspun yarn, however there are other resources for using handspun yarns. I enjoyed this book and found it useful.

Very helpful to a beginner spinner

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