

Fiber Prep Tools

Wichita Weavers, Spinners & Dyers Guild

September 2017

Use	For	Fiber	Cautions	Result
Picker	Opening large quantities of raw fiber; coarse blending	Clean, raw wool – not too fine	Capable of causing serious injury!! Can damage fine wools.	Mostly fluffy pile, ready for further processing
Flicker	Opening raw wool lock by lock	Clean, raw wool, washed to preserve lock structure	Use protective cloth or leather on lap.	Ready to spin worsted or semi-worsted
Hand Cards	Separate/align raw fiber, blending colors, blending fibers including those of different staple lengths	Almost any clean fiber except very long staple. Use cotton cards for very fine, short staple fibers.	Keep a light touch (don't let the teeth mesh), and watch the knuckles!	Open, semi-aligned fiber, usually rolled into rolags for woolen spinning, but can be rolled sideways or dizzed off for semi-worsted
Drum Carder	Separate/align raw fiber, blending colors, blending fibers including those of different staple lengths	Almost any clean fiber except very long staple.	Be sure fiber is opened first, don't overload drum. Do not hold fiber back while feeding.	Open, semi-aligned fiber, usually rolled off in batts for woolen spinning, but can be rolled sideways or dizzed off for semi-worsted
Combs	Removing short fibers & aligning long staple fiber, blending fibers of similar staple length. Helps remove some vegetable matter.	Clean, longer stapled wool, especially washed to preserve lock structure.	Capable of causing serious injury!! Expect a significant amount of 'waste' fiber (may be used other ways).	Aligned fiber, dizzed off for worsted or semi-worsted top
Blending Board	Loosely combining fibers, sometimes with lots of texture	Almost any clean fiber, including non-cardable add-ins	Don't expect thoroughly blended fibers.	One or multiple rolags or punis from each batch, for woolen or art yarn spinning, or diz off for roving
Hackle	Combining and/or blending fibers of similar staple lengths – especially good for striped roving	Almost any clean fiber of medium or long staple	Can cause injury!	Pull or diz off; great for art yarn spinning