

I Bought a Fleece.... Now What?

From raw fleece to roving
(or yarn....)

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Buying a Fleece

What: Beginner fleece, Nice Medium wool and Well skirted (no dags, no urine stains, little VM)

Where: Fiber show or local farm

How: Look for judged fleeces or ask for help

How Much: \$45-100



Washing and Drying

Step 1: Cold soak

Step 2: Very hot water with a little soap (Unicorn Power scour is best, but can use Dawn), mix and add the fiber, soak ~ 15 min

Do NOT put water down sink

Step 3: Take out of soapy water, gently squeeze, put warm water in bucket, add fiber and soak, gently stir

Step 4: Squeeze water from fiber, set out to dry



Picking Locks

Pulling apart locks before carding

- By hand
- Pet combs. ~ \$10-12
- Viking combs ~\$143-170
- Swing picker \$600-1000



Carding

Carding aligns the fibers and gets them ready to spin

Hand carders: wire teeth mounted on wooden paddles \$70+

Produces a rolag, small “burritos of fiber ready to spin



<https://joyofhandspinning.com/how-to-prepare-fiber-with-hand-carders/>

Drum carders: wire teeth mounted on drums \$600+
Produces a batt, a big fluffy rectangle of fiber



Spinning

Twists the fiber into a yarn that can be used for crochet or knitting



Drop spindle: <https://joyofhandspinning.com/spinning-yarn-with-a-drop-spindle/>



Make your own drop spindle:

<https://joyofhandspinning.com/how-to-make-a-drop-spindle/>



Drop spindle: ~\$5 to make....\$33-\$500 (for fancy hand made of specialty wood)

Do It Yourself Cost vs. Mill Cost

Fleece: \$60-100

Soap: \$5-\$22

Combs: \$12-\$170

Carder: \$70

Drop Spindle: \$5-35

Total: ~\$150-400+

5 pound minimum depending on mill

Fleece: \$60-100 (may need to buy
2 to meet minimum

Roving or batts: \$16 per pound

Total: \$80

Or Yarn \$42 per pound = \$210

Wait time: 6-24 months