

**CONCLUSION** The end result is a beautiful balanced upright spinning wheel along traditional lines with careful attention to detail, traditional Kauri tonings which is fast regaining popularity, low orifice height, squared off pulley centres, non grab belt, fine adjustment on maidens, a connecting rod that does not flap or bang, silent operation, optional double drive band or scotch brake, top quality graphite impregnated nylon bearings on main drive wheel, an economical built in bobbin rack for two fold plying and bobbin storage, full back-up service on spare parts, bobbins and lazy kate etc., and a heavy drive wheel and heavy flyer to create good inertia and restful spinning.

#### **SOLE DISTRIBUTOR**

The sole N.Z. distributor for the Carnaby "CROFTER" Spinning Wheel is Mr Ted Crawford, Managing Director of Carnaby Wools Ltd., Otahuhu 6, Auckland. He says that learners probably will have seen an experienced spinner demonstrating the art of spinning or will have read the spinning procedures from the many publications obtainable from public libraries or book shops. With practice the learner will be surprised at the rapid progress achieved on her "CROFTER" and particularly in the friendly atmosphere of a group or club where more experienced spinners enjoy sharing their skills.

#### **SPINNING FOR BEGINNERS: THE FLEECE**

All wool can be spun, but some wools are easier to spin than others. Wools are classed principally by their fineness and length of fibre, each brand of sheep producing their own fleece characteristics. The fineness or quality is indicated by the crimp or waviness, as the coarseness increases, the wave becomes more extended. For best results the beginner should start with a medium fine crossbred wool such as Romney, Romney Cheviot, Perendale or Perendale Coopworth and should avoid fine Merino or coarse Lincoln wools. Most crossbred wools have a good crimp and sheen and are easier than very fine wools.

**FLEECE TERMS:** Clean & Open; means free from dirt stains and foreign matter, absence of cotts, noils and matted pieces.

**SOUNDNESS:** Free from breaks and colour change in individual fibres, due to poor feeding, climatic conditions, and poor health. The fibres usually break easily when tugged or combed.

**STAPLE LENGTH:** This is the true length of a natural lock of fibres which fall together. This length varies with breed and time of shearing. For best spinning the fibre length should be between 100 and 150 mm.

**CRIMP:** This is the transverse wavy lines in the staple. Up to 2½ crimps per centimeter of length is good for spinning. Crimp gives bulk to wool.

**COLOUR:** Refers to fleece discolouration. A fleece should be free from deep staining after the yolk (which is a mixture of secretions) has been washed out.

**SKIRTING:** Is trimming of all edges and all non-matching wool from the fleece, and the removal of all daggs.

#### **PREPARATION OF THE FLEECE**

There are two types of spinning which may be produced, they are (a) Worsted spinning and (b) Woollen spinning. For worsted spinning, all the fibres of the wool lie parallel, care being taken that there is no doubling back or tangling of the individual fibres. Expert spinners can spin extremely fine worsted yarn especially on the "CROFTER" wheel by spinning the correct staple direct from the fleece. The cut end is fed in first, and the fibres flow onto the bobbin a few at a time for their full length. Spinning in the grease this way requires a great deal of skill and experience, but is the most usual way and the way most spinners try to achieve. In Woollen spinning the yarn is soft and fluffy and is generally part washed to remove the excess grease, dirt and smell. It is undesirable to remove all the grease as about 5% should remain as dry wool is practically impossible to spin.

**TEASING:** After washing, the wool is teased. This can be done by hand or mechanically. To tease the wool by hand, hold the wool and pluck the tips with your fingers. This will separate the tips and allow the locks to be separated by combing or pulling sideways.

**CARDING:** Good spinning to some extent depends on good carding. However most spinners find carding is a tiring business and very tedious. We therefore recommend that either flick carding or mechanical drum carding is best. If choosing a flick carder, choose one with a rounded face and coarse teeth set singly in the carding cloth, as fine teeth in pairs can cause tearing of the staple fibre of the wool. We recommend the Morrison Drum Carder as by far the best product, possibly in the world, for fast, pleasureable and efficient drum carding.