

# Michael Williams - Wood Turner/Fine Woodworker

Good quality, hand-made wooden articles for textile crafts made to order.

I have a list of 'standard sizes' for some items but will also work to my customers design and specification. Many items are illustrated on [my web site](#).



I use mainly hardwoods where appropriate and recycle old timber where possible. I specialise in producing well made, beautifully finished items intended for a lifetimes use.

I operate a mail order service or you can see me at a few textile events - see my web site for details.

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## **Contact details:**

Write, phone or email to:

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I AM ALWAYS DEVELOPING NEW PRODUCTS AND IMPROVING OLD ONES, SO DESIGNS MAY CHANGE

IF YOU HAVE NOT FOUND WHAT YOU WANT IN THE LIST BELOW, CONTACT ME TO DISCUSS YOUR PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS

**Post and Packing** is not included in these prices. It will be charged at cost.

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## **SPINNING EQUIPMENT**

**Spindles** In a previous life, I was a Maths teacher for 30 years. I now use my Maths knowledge of rotational motion to make perfect spindles. For any combination of whorl weight and diameter, my spindles will spin for as long as is mathematically possible. There is more to a spindle than a disc, a stick and a hook.

**I test every spindle I make.**

### **Top Whorl Spindles**

Each spindle has a hand set steel hook and a hand-turned shaft. In addition to the more conventional round whorl spindles, I have developed a series of square whorl spindles. Why square? The corners of the whorl have weight which is further from the axis and will produce a longer duration spin. A square spindle of a given side dimension can have a spin value (moment of inertia) 30% greater than a circular whorl of the same diameter and weight. ( I used applied mathematics to calculate the improvement which is especially beneficial in the range 10,12,15 gm).

<u>Type</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>for example</u>	<u>Price</u>
Top whorl - round whorl	10 to 19 gm	10, 12, 15 gm	£35-00
	20 to 65 gm	20, 25, 30, 35 gm	£38-00
Top whorl - square whorl	10 to 19 gm	10, 12, 15 gm	£31-00
	20 to 65 gm	20, 25, 35 gm	£35-00

Ask for a price for any other type/weight/size.  
1oz=28g

### **Kick-Spindle**

A low whorl kick-spindle. It features a ram's horn spiral hook which brings the yarn exactly in line with the spindle axis and produces a perfectly balanced spin. The bottom end of the spindle shaft is held just touching the floor and gripped between your two feet. You then move one foot either forward or back thus causing the spindle to spin.

weight 10-19 gm:	£36-00
weight 20-65 gm:	£39-00

### **Turkish Spindle**

This spindle has flat, straight arms and like all my spindles has been designed by mathematical formulae; meaning that for its weight and length of arm it will spin as long as mathematically possible. It has a beautiful spiral carved hook which brings the yarn to the exact centre of the shaft so spins without a trace of wobble. Made of hardwood throughout; weighing 30 gm in total. A wonderful spindle.

Weight 30 gm	£40-00
spare shaft	£16-00

### **Lighter Turkish Spindle**

This is a small version of the one above: a delight to use.

Weight 20 gm	£34-00
spare shaft	£14-00

### **Even Lighter Turkish Spindle**

This spindle has been tested by experienced spinners and the feedback is excellent. It has superb balance and an amazing "spin value" for a 12 gm spindle. It has been described as THE spindle for lace weight spinning: an utter joy to use.

Weight 12 gm	£34-00
spare shaft	£14-00

### **Hook protector for Drop Spindle (butcher's crown)**

length 35mm - 80p
length 50mm - 85p

### **Akha Spindle**

Used for any short staple fibre and ideal for cotton.

The whorl is 64mm in diameter and the shaft is 230mm end to end. There is a carved hook at one end and a slight taper at the other end (i.e. the handle section). The whole spindle is designed for duration of spin. I take great care with these slender spindles to ensure a perfectly balanced spin and again, **I test every one that I make.**

Weight 10gm	£41-50
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### **Navajo Spindle**

Hand turned (by me) from Maple with a perfectly straight shaft and mathematically designed whorl. A joy to use.

Long shaft - 780mm (30 inches)	£80-00
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### **\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Navajo Spindle Support Base**

This support serves two functions. Firstly it provides a place to support the Navajo whilst spinning, thus preventing the tip skidding across a hard floor. Secondly it provides a stand to safely park your spindle when not in use. The cup that supports the spindle whilst it is spinning is lined with Teflon. This greatly reduces friction and makes spinning easier.

£38.00

### **Tibetan Spindle**

This is a SUPPORTED spindle for spinning "off the point" in a support bowl (see below) The whorl is bigger and heavier than that of the Russian spindle, resulting in a longer spin. The shaft is turned and therefore straight and the whole is beautifully balanced. Total length 29cm.

£39-00

### **Russian Spindle**

Another supported spindle for spinning "off the point". It has no separate whorl but instead has a bulb on the shaft just behind the point. This spindle is more centre weighted and will spin faster but not for as long as the Tibetan. Tested by experienced 'point' spinners. Total length 28cm.

£35-00

### **Small Support Spindle Bowl**

This bowl is double-sided. It can be used on a table or turned over and used in your lap. Made of hardwood. Tested by experienced spinners. The base is 7 cm in diameter, height 4 cm; the internal diameter of each bowl is approximately 4.5 cm.

£20-00

### **Tall Support Spindle Bowl**

The 'bowl' is 7cm in diameter and 2cm deep. It is scooped out of the top of a beech wood cylinder 12 cm tall. The cylinder is attached to a base section, 30 cm long x 7cm wide x 1 cm thick. The base section has chamfered edges and a rounded end making it comfortable to sit on to keep the 'bowl' in position, either between your knees or to either side of you. Tried and tested by experienced spinners.

£38-00

### **Spinning Wheel Bobbins**

I will match bobbins on any make or age of spinning wheel.

guide price £78-00 plus cost of bearings.

### **Spinning Wheel Threader**

A turned hardwood handle, 55mm long, with an 80mm length of strong, flexible wire with a hook on the end. A comfortable fit in the hand.

£11-00

### **Lazy Kate**

I can make a lazy kate to your own design in your choice of hardwood - maybe to match your spinning wheel. You may have space for any number of bobbins and they can run vertically or horizontally.

Guide price £200-00 upwards (depends on style, type of wood, number of bobbins etc.)

### **Niddy Noddy**

Traditional design. made from maple or beech. One cross-piece is fixed. The other is a good tight fit, but can be removed for flat storage.

Tiny size, makes a 19 1/2 " (50cm) skein £20-00

Small size, makes a 1 Metre skein £38-00

Large size, makes a 72" skein £44-00

### **Nostepinne**

An ancient tool for yarn ball winding, Produces a ball of yarn with two loose ends which can be used for plying.. Turned to a very smooth finish with a comfortable handle. 250 mm long

£13-50

### **Diz**

An oblong, 7 cm long x 4 cm wide x 3 mm thick, with a concave/convex profile. It has three holes of diameter 1.6 mm, 2.5 mm and 3.5 mm. Made of hardwood.

£10-50

### **Diz Threader**

A 6 cm wooden handle with an 8 cm loop of very fine nylon line.

£3-00

### **Andean Plying Tool**

If you have ever tried Andean plying, winding the yarn round your hand, you will know that eventually your middle finger turns blue. This hardwood tool mimics the action of your hand without stopping the blood supply. Comfortable turned handle and a removable top peg. This has been redesigned to match more closely the dimensions of a hand.

Length 24cm (9½") £44-00

### **Swearie Box**

This is a combined tool box and lazy kate; a traditional piece of equipment used by spinners in Orkney and Shetland. It has a handle and a rod on which the spinning wheel bobbins can be threaded, with space beneath to store bits and bobs. I can make them to match the size of your bobbins.

Guide price £330-00 (actual price depends on the size of box and type of wood used)

### **Great Wheel**

I am delighted to tell you about the fabulous Great Wheel (spinning wheel) that I can now offer for sale (made to order). This spinning wheel is inspired by one made in the USA around 1860. It features a "Minor's" accelerating head - named after Amos Minor who came up with the idea in the early 1800s. The spinning wheel is made of Ash. It comes apart for transportation, although you will need to check that you can get the 42 inch diameter drive wheel through your car door! This wheel is truly stunning; a future heirloom.

The wheel-post can be rotated 180° in its socket, enabling the wheel to be turned by either your left or right hand.

The wheel is 42 inches in diameter and has 12 spokes. The rim, or hoop, is made of 4 layers of Ash ply glued back to back around a former. Each ply is 1.5mm thick and is handmade. The hoop is made in 4 quadrants, then joined together by interleaving the plies (my idea).

The wheel axle is bolted into the wheel post. The receiving nuts are sunk flush to the surface of the post and will never come loose. This also means that the axle will never drop downwards and so will remain horizontal (my improvement)

Great Wheel continued.....

The spindle post carries the spindle and the maidens for the accelerating head. There are 2 drive bands: the main band from the Great Wheel to the accelerating head plus another from the accelerating head to the spindle pulley. This enable 3 ratios to be achieved:

- (1) Direct drive - first pulley groove - ratio 1:38
- (2) - second pulley groove - ratio 1:54
- (3) - third pulley groove - ratio 1:144 *continued.....*

Both drive bands can be tensioned. Two brass knobs on the maidens cause the accelerating pulley to rise or fall, thus tensioning the spindle drive band. Now the clever part: the spindle post is joined to the leg below it in a block and the two behave as one unit. The block pivots making the leg come forward as the spindle post moves backwards thus tensioning the main drive band. The device which adjusts this leg is hidden under the bench.

See my website for pictures of this fabulous wheel. Since it is made to order, it can be tailored to suit the customer: just contact me to discuss.

**Guide price: £2,900-00**

**Flax Distaff and Stand** This is a free-standing cone-shaped distaff with adjustable height setting. At its lowest height, the top of the cone is 105 cm above the floor. At its highest setting it 155cm above the floor. Other heights between can be obtained by use of the sliding pegs which have stops every 10 cm.

The cone section is approximately 33 cm tall. The footprint is a circle of diameter 33 cm.

It is made of maple throughout and beautifully finished. £930-00

## WEAVING EQUIPMENT

**Small Tapestry Frame** This rigid hard wood frame is very strong and designed to be hand-held. All the corners are rounded and all edges are comfortable in the hand.  
Internal dimensions (i.e. the space within the frame): 11" x 7". £25-00

**Medium Tapestry Frame** A strong and rigid frame, best held in my frame supports. Made from hardwood.  
Internal dimensions (i.e. the space within the frame): 16" x 10". £39-00

**Tapestry frame supports** (a pair) Pivoted brackets to hold a tapestry frame at a comfortable working angle. Made to my own design, they provide a very secure grip on the frame. Can be clamped to a horizontal or vertical surface: one of my best sellers!

Supplied	with G clamps	£49-00
	without G clamps	£38-00

**Tapestry bobbins in 3 sizes** Hand crafted from close-grained hardwood and sanded to a smooth surface, but without any top finish. A natural patina develops with use.

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<u>Large</u>	The bobbin is 16.5 cm long, with a thread area 7.5 cm long.	£5-40
<u>Small</u>	12.5 cm long, with a thread area 44mm long.	£3-50
<u>Miniature</u>	only 10 cm long, with a thread area 33mm long	£3-50

N.B. I am no longer making bobbins from exotic hardwoods.

**Aubusson 'Bone' bobbins** These are tapestry bobbins but without the beating point. Instead they have a ball shape at each end. Why 'Bone'? Because they are shaped like a dog bone: they are made of close-grained hardwood. I make two sizes:

Small:	overall length 87 mm, width 11 mm. Thread area is 65 mm long, 5 mm diameter.	£3-10
Medium:	This has an axial hole running through, end to end which enables it to be used on a bobbin winder. overall length 114 mm, width 17 mm. Thread area is 81 mm long, 8 mm in diameter.	£4-40

### **Pick Up/Shed stick**

Designed by a tapestry weaver. I make three sizes. They have both ends tapered for pick up. They are 13 mm high with an 8mm broad base and a 4 mm top. This makes them very stable when used as a shed stick. They are made of maple, well finished and very smooth.

15 cm long (6 inches)	£6-30
23 cm long (9 inches)	£8-10
30 cm long (12 inches)	£9-30

### **Warping posts**

Strong hardwood posts, 15cm high

Single post	£20-00
Double post (17 cm apart)	£26-50
3 posts (17 cm apart)	£31-50

### **Boat shuttle bobbins**

I make these from hardwood to fit your shuttle. They have a raised shoulder at each end to make the yarn more manageable. I would need one to copy or for you to send me the shuttle to be sure that the bobbins fit correctly.

£12 each

### **Spool Rack**

Made of maple, 36" high, 24" wide. Strong, stable and beautiful with dovetail joints. It incorporates six horizontal rods to hold spools, a thread guide and a 4" wide top shelf to which a ball winder or swift can be clamped.

£700-00

### **Sword Beater**

Made from maple, 27cm long in total. The blade is 14cm long. The handle has no sharp edges and is comfortable to hold. Suits right or left-handers.

£11-60

### **Standard Beater**

(19cm x 4 cm x 5mm thick) made of hardwood. Both ends are rounded for comfort in the hand. The beater tapers towards the beating edge. Well finished and very smooth.

£8-00

### **Long Beater**

(50cm x 6 cm x 7mm thick) made of hardwood. Both ends are rounded for comfort in the hand. The beater tapers towards the beating edge. Well finished and very smooth.

£18-00

### **Small Shuttle**

(15.5cm x 2.5cm x 4mm thick) made of hardwood. Each end is tapered to move easily through the shed. Well finished with no sharp corners.

£8-00

### **Combined Shuttle/Beater**

(16.5cm x 4cm x 5mm thick) made of hardwood. A very popular item: well finished and very smooth

£10-20

### **Netting/Band Shuttle**

This shuttle is based on a traditional netting shuttle. It has a tapered edge for beating and a shaped end for picking up pattern threads. It is ideal for Baltic style pick-ups and, of course, can be used for all band weaving and tablet weaving. I make three standard sizes. The small shuttle is 20cm long and 3 cm wide. The large shuttle is approximately 25cm long and 3.5cm wide. The greater length makes it easier to weave wider bands. Both are made of maple. I have now added a mini shuttle for extra fine weaving. It is 13 cm long and 2 cm wide.

Small shuttle	£18-00
Large shuttle	£19-00
Mini shuttle	£16-50

### **Rigid Heddle**

A simple rigid heddle for weaving narrow bands with a backstrap. It is 6" long and 5½" high with 23 slats, giving a maximum 45 warp ends. It is made of maple and is light but strong.

£48-00

### **Rigid Heddle for Patterned Band Weaving**

This heddle has been designed by Susan Foulkes. It's main advantage is to help less experienced band weavers to learn to weave pickup designs with a larger number of pattern threads. It enables the pattern threads to be selected more easily than a conventional rigid heddle, by utilising long slots, shorter slots and holes. It can be used to weave bands with 13 or 15 pattern threads. The price includes a leaflet written by Susan which explains the use of the heddle and shows examples of patterns that can be woven.

£104-00

**\*\*\* NEW \*\*\* Roman Heddle (Croatia)** Susan Foulkes sent me a photo of a newly discovered Roman-age heddle found at a site in Croatia. I have faithfully reproduced it.

The heddle measures 74mm x 48mm and is 3.5mm thick. It comprises 3 slots and 4 holes plus what we think is a hanging hole. It is made of 2 thin plies of Ash with the grain of each ply at right angles to the other. This makes it very strong for its thickness.

The heddle has been tried and tested by Susan and declared to be wonderful.

£11-00

**\*\*\* NEW \*\*\* Roman Heddle (Spain)** This is based on another Roman-age heddle, found in Spain.

It measures 70mm x 45mm and is 5.6mm thick. This heddle has 5 slots of 1mm width and 6 holes of diameter 1.3mm. Instructions for warping up, written by Susan Foulkes, are included.

£7-25

**Band Lock** This is a small wooden device to connect the band being woven to a back strap. It allows adjustment as weaving progresses. Simple but effective.

£6-20

### **Crescent-shaped Inkle Loom**

The crescent shaped body, which is made of maple, is 42cm tall, holding 11 fixed pegs which are 15.3 cm long. The sliding peg tensioner is very easy to lock and unlock with a ratchet lever handle. The base is 50cm x 21 cm which makes the loom very stable.

There is an extra pair of upright pegs on the base, behind the crescent body, which are set at the correct distance apart for using to tie leashes of the correct length. Leashes can also be stored on these two pegs.

The weaving width is up to 14 cm and the longest path around the pegs is 216 cm (85 inches).

The loom is very handsome and a joy to use.

£465.00

### **Tape Loom**

Tape looms have been used for over 200 years with the specific purpose of weaving narrow bands., including belts, straps, garters, apron ties etc. During my research I found tape looms with various features and I have put some of them together in this little loom.

The heddle has 16 slots and two rows of holes, one row contains 15 holes and the other 17 holes. The heddle is kept firmly in place, while working, by two turned knobs which pass through the sides of the box and engage the heddle.

At the rear of the box is the spool or drum which holds the warp threads. The rear wall of the box has two holes through which you can pass a cord to anchor the loom while in use.

There is a handmade ratchet and pawl to lock the drum in position which has a very positive action. The box has a wooden base and acts as a tray to keep bits and bobs tidy.

And now the clever part: the heddle can be removed when not in use and becomes the lid of the box.

The loom measures 29 cm from front to back, 18 cm across and 32 cm high when the heddle is in the upright position.

The joints of the box are precisely made and are on display to enhance the beauty of the piece. The loom is made of maple, superbly finished, and looks fabulous. It is a future heirloom.

£1300-00

## **TABLET WEAVING**

### **Set of wooden tablets**

12 hardwood tablets (50mm square, 1.8mm thick) with 4 holes (one in each corner) for tablet weaving (also called card weaving):

£19-00 for 12 tablets

## **Tablet Weaving Tension Bars**

These bars may be clamped to a table and spaced apart at a distance to suit your warp. They are made from maple hardwood and incorporate a dovetail joint for strength. The bar has a hand turned peg at each end to keep it securely in place. The distance between the two uprights is 150mm and the height of the bar above the table is 85mm. The tension bars are sold in pairs.

£66-00 per pair

## **BRAID MAKING EQUIPMENT**

### **Japanese Marudai and Bobbins** (Made to Order)

These Marudai are lovingly made and are likely to be future heirlooms. The 25cm diameter top is hand turned from sycamore or maple and very finely sanded to a beautifully smooth surface. No wax or varnish is applied as the action of the threads will produce a lovely patina in time.

The square base and hand turned legs are made of hardwood and finished with a low gloss varnish for protection. The height from base to top is 42 cm (16.5 inches).

The bobbins are individually made with great care and attention.

Marudai	(Not a flat pack)	£440-00
Bobbins	37g each	£179-00 Set of 8
	70g each	£182-00 Set of 8
	100g each	£190-00 Set of 8

**Hand Held Marudai** A thin yet rigid square of hardwood, measuring 13cm x 13cm (5 mm thick) with 6 slots per side, plus 8 tiny hardwood bobbins and a ½ oz. weight. Ideal for use in planes or waiting rooms!

£44-00

Extra set of 8 bobbins £17-60

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Naalbinding Needle** Made from various close grained hardwoods. Measuring 110mm x 13mm x 3mm with a long **rectangular** eye. The eye measures 14 x 4 mm

£3-90

**Prodder (or Progger)** A simple tool for rug making. Fits comfortably into the palm of the hand. Made of hard, dense woods.

£8-30

**Short Prodder (or Progger)** This short prodder has a blunt point so that the work is not stabbed. It is made of hardwood and the handle is a lovely fit in the hand

95 mm end to end £8-30

**Wing-nut spanner** Adjustable frames often use wing-nuts to tighten joints or other adjustable bits. This little wooden tool helps you get extra purchase on the nut without hurting your hand.

75 mm long £3-70

**Inch worm** a small wooden rectangle, accurately shaped to make calculating a 'wrap' easier.

**This is a combination inch and centimetre** £4-10

**Shawl Pin** Wooden pin for fastening a shawl or wrap. The 'pin' section is 13cm long and 5mm in diameter, tapering to a point. The 'knob' is usually thistle shaped, but I am happy to work to your own design. Made from various combinations of hardwood.

£18-20

### **Couronne Stick**

Used in needle lace to form a buttonhole ring. Precisely turned from maple with a beautiful finish. In three standard sizes: I can make larger sizes if desired.

	<u>diameters of the divisions (in millimetres)</u>	<u>stick length</u>	
small	3mm to 10.5mm in 6 steps	11cm	£8-00
medium	12mm to 19.5mm in 6 steps	11cm	£8-20
large	21mm to 30mm in 7 steps	12.5cm	£9-00

### **Felting Needle Holder**

turned wooden needle holder (for dry felting). Customers have been asking for the needles to be closer together and to be in line rather than pentagonal. Therefore this design holds 3 needles in line with closer centres than previously. Designed to fit comfortably into the palm of the hand. (Felting needles not supplied).

£17-00

### **Skein Winder**

This is a 4 paddle winder made of maple throughout. The standard paddle produces a skein 2 metres in circumference, but smaller paddles can be ordered. The base unit is heavy and extremely stable. The paddle unit runs in slots lined with strips of Teflon, making for easy turning. I make these winders in two versions; one with a counting mechanism and one without.

The clock counter has two pointers. One shows every turn (i.e. 2 Metres of yarn) and the second pointer counts every 10 turns; up to 300 turns altogether. It then starts again from zero. The gearing mechanism has been designed by myself and is lovingly and precisely made from maple and brass with dark wood pointers. There is a clear perspex plate covering the gears to keep out fingers and yarn whilst allowing the beautiful mechanism to be seen.

The base unit is 45 cm (18") wide and 30 cm (12") deep. The height to the top of the paddle is 82 cm (32").

The winder is a joy to use and stunning to look at.

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| (i) Basic winder without counter mechanism  | £770-00  |
| (ii) Winder complete with counter mechanism | £1270-00 |

