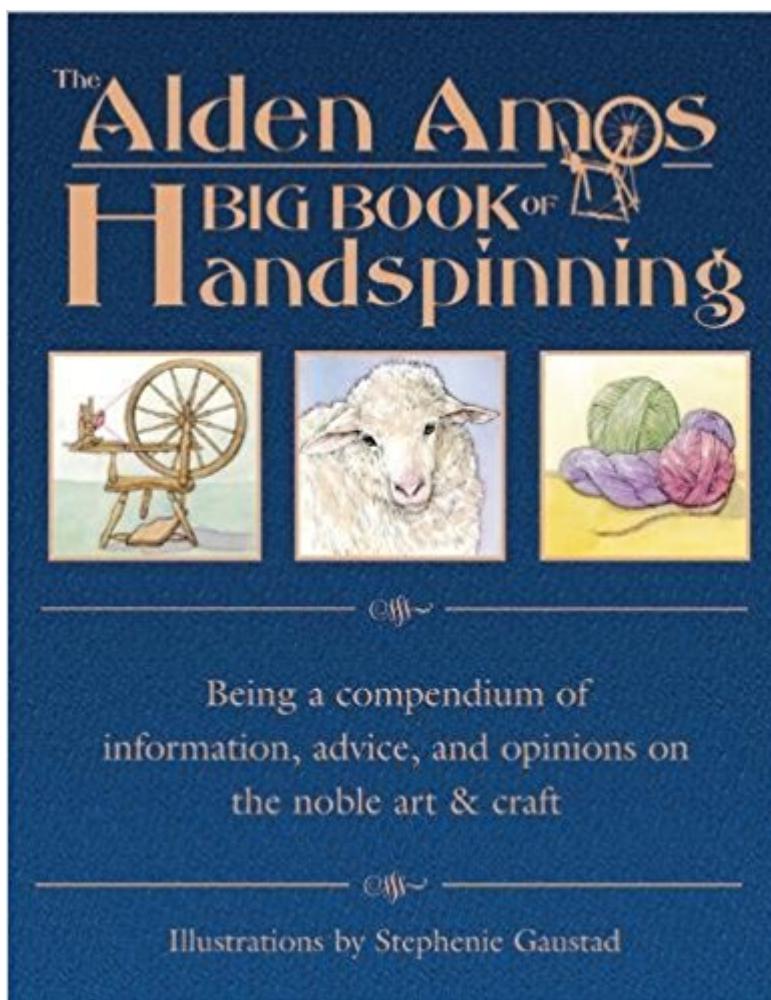


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The Alden Amos Big Book Of Handspinning: Being A Compendium Of Information, Advice, And Opinions On The Noble Art & Craft



Synopsis

Alden Amos shares his deep knowledge of wheel mechanics, spinning fibers, wheel construction, and yarn, as well as a wealth of spinning history and traditions. Every aspect of handspinning is explored, including dissolving lanolin, washing fleece, rotating wheel position, and choosing types of wool. Also discussed are various hand positions, which can result in everything from smooth, fine thread to funky, bulky yarn.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Just when double-treadle spinning wheels had become popular, Amos caused quite a stir by suggesting that they were not necessarily God's gift to the handspinner. As the owner of a double-treadle spinning wheel, I couldn't resist looking to see if his opinion had changed in the intervening years. Nope. Amos argues here that you don't really need this type of wheel unless, among other things, "you are such a klutz that you cannot keep the wheel going with one foot." Amos, who has been making spinning wheels and studying handspinning for more than 40 years, has finally distilled this experience into a definitive book deserving of its title. Even the most knowledgeable spinner will learn something and will be entertained in the bargain. This major contribution to the literature should be in any library where there is demand, though small public libraries may prefer less comprehensive books, such as Lee Raven's *Hands on Spinning* (1987) or Connie Delaney's *Spindle Spinning: From Novice to Expert* (Kokovoco, 1998) to offer beginners.

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This is a wonderful book. Could have been called The Complete Book Of Spinning, had the namers a pedantic turn of phrase. This is a big book, that can be read from front to back, or sampled, as one prefers. While very readable, this book has technical sections that will not appeal to all spinners, but they exist to help those who need this information. So buy the book with the understanding that while it's almost all here, you don't have to embrace any more of it than you want to. I bought this book for any information that will help me in building wheels. There are a few chapters on the wheels themselves that will really help a builder, or spinner, understand the why's of different designs. It was surprising to come across a reference to Super Quench, a cutting edge quench for mild steel, but it does belong here. It was also surprising to see little information on band drives, even if the author doesn't prefer them. Amos has obviously offended some readers with comments on double peddle wheels. Yet he later mentions that with enough drag the Scotch tension can get hard to push. Hello? If there are a few phrases in the whole book in which Amos lets go a few of his preferences, all the better. This book is an important link with the craft that will do a lot to keep spinning alive. For all that it's fun to read. Quick update. Since I wrote this review, craft spinning wheels have moved on through several major redesign steps. This book is more about traditional wheels, not about craft wheels. Still useful, but the new gear is not represented here.

Should be in every spinners reference library!

This is now a collectable since Alden Amos has passed on. It's a very interesting book. If you're a beginner get it anyway because you'll begin to understand as time goes on and it will be a very valuable book for future learning.

This book reads something like a Farmers Almanac, with history and anecdote distributed throughout the very informative pages. He has included extensive footnotes that are not necessary to appreciating the text, but are a thorough and humorous look at just about every aspect of spinning. Indexed so its easy to find the information you need, but fun just to read straight through as well. Includes "An Opinionated, Annotated Bibliography".

There is so much information in this book. And it is written so you can decide for yourself how deeply you want to investigate a subject but still have a good knowledge of the subject.

This is the first book to buy if you are new to spinning. Not a technical manual, but a spinner's own notes. Written in a colloquial style, it makes good reading.

I love this book! You can open it up anywhere and just start reading! It's reader friendly!

Received on time. Book was in much better condition then I expected. Very satisfied and happy with the purchase.

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