

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 Woolfest and a few other textile events - see my web site for details.

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.

SPINNING EQUIPMENT

Spindles Hand crafted from various hardwoods. Mathematically designed for maximum duration of spin for a given weight and diameter. All spindles are made with special attention to concentricity of whorl and shaft to produce a beautifully balanced spin. Finished to a deep lustre or may be left plain if desired.

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 gms).

Bottom Whorl Spindles

Made with the same attention as my top whorl spindles. This spindle has a steel hook instead of the more usual groove or notch and so spins as well as my top whorls.

Spindle prices

| <u>Type</u> | <u>Weight</u> | <u>Price</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Top or bottom whorl - round whorl | 10 to 19 gm | £26-00 |
| | 20 to 65 gm | £29-00 |
| Top whorl - square whorl | 10 to 19 gm | £24-00 |
| | 20 to 65 gm | £27-00 |

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

Turkish Spindles

As with all Turkish spindles, this comes apart for easy transportation. It comprises a shaft and two interlocking semi-circular arms. I have made it with far greater attention to balance than is normally found in this type of spindle. It has a beautiful **spiral** carved hook which brings the yarn to the exact centre of the shaft and so spins without a trace of wobble. Made of hardwood throughout and weighing around 30 gms.

£36-00

Hook protector for Drop Spindle (butcher's crown)

length 35mm - 50p

length 50mm - 60p

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 whorl is maple. The whole spindle is designed for duration of spin and also for fast 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

£28-00

Navajo Spindle

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

Long shaft - 750mm (29 inches)

£35-50

Shorter shaft - 470 mm (18 inches)

£32-00

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.

£32-00

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.

£29-00

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 6.5 cm in diameter, height 3cm; the internal diameter of both bowls is approximately 3.5 cm.

£8-50

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.

£25-50

Spinning Wheel Bobbins

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

guide price

£48-00

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.

£7-80

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 any number of bobbins and they can run vertically or horizontally.

Guide price

£90-00 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 | £15-00 |
| Small size, makes a 1 Metre skein | £22-00 |
| Large size, makes a 72" skein | £26-00 |

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

£10-80

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.

£7-80

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

£2-00

Wool Comb Clamp The clamp holds a wool comb very securely in two positions (the tines are either vertical or horizontal) without the slightest risk of it rotating in use. It has a metal pin through the clamp into the handle. Each clamp is tailored to a particular pair of combs and I need to examine one of the combs to take accurate dimensions.

£84-00

Andean Plying Tool If you have ever tried Andean plying, winding the yarn round your hand, you will know that eventually your middle finger turn 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") | £25-00 |
|-------------------|--------|

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 | £95-00 (actual price depends on the size of box and type of wood used) |
|-------------|--|

****** NEW *** 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 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)

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

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: £2,000-00

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". £18-00

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". £25-50

Large Tapestry frame A very strong and rigid frame (not flat pack). I will make any size. Made from hardwood, the corners are tenoned, glued and cross-dowelled.
Internal dimensions(i.e. the space within the frame): 26" x 14" £44-50

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 | £34-50 |
| | without G clamps | £28-50 |

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.

In addition to the 3 sizes in maple, I can now offer the same sizes in more exotic tropical hardwoods. Utterly gorgeous

| | | price | each |
|------------------|---|-------|--------|
| | | maple | exotic |
| <u>Large</u> | The bobbin is 16.5 cm long, with a thread area 7.5 cm long. | £4-10 | £4.70 |
| <u>Small</u> | 12.5 cm long, with a thread area 44mm long. | £2.60 | £3-20 |
| <u>Miniature</u> | only 10 cm long, with a thread area 33mm long | £2-60 | £3-20 |

Warping posts Strong hardwood posts, 15cm high

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Single post | £10-30 |
| Double post (17 cm apart) | £15-50 |
| 3 posts (17 cm apart) | £18-50 |

Warping boards A very strong rigid frame (not flat pack). Made from hardwood, the corners are tenoned, glued and cross-dowelled. The posts fit tightly but are removable for transport.

Suggested size for easy transport: 75cm x 75 cm £77-50

(gives a maximum warp length of 10 Metres)

Larger size: 92cm x70cm £83-50

(gives a maximum warp length of 11.5 Metres)

I can make other sizes to your requirements. Contact me for a price.

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. £5-00 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. £250-00

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. £8-20

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.

£5-50

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.

£13-00

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.

£5-50

Combined Shuttle/Beater

(16.5cm x 4cm x 5mm thick) made of hardwood. Well finished and very smooth

£6-50

Split Shuttle

This shuttle is unusual in that it splits into 2 parts making it easier and faster to remove the yarn from the shuttle when the weaving is complete. (10" long)

£20-50

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 two 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.

Small shuttle

£11-90

Large shuttle

£12-90

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.

£34-00

Rigid Heddle for Patterned Band Weaving

This heddle has been designed by Susan Foulkes. Its main advantage is to help less experienced band weavers to learn the 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.

£79-50

Crescent-shaped Inkle Loom

This inkle loom attracted a lot of attention at Woolfest 2006. 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, made of a dark hardwood such as mahogany. The base 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.

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.

£225.00

TABLET WEAVING

Board for Tablet/Card weaving

A solid wood board 1.8M x 13cm with a strong hardwood post, 10cm high, at each end. The board is usually clamped to a table to provide a hard weaving surface for tablet weaving.

£54-00

Screwthread Tablet Weaving Board

This tablet board has an inbuilt steel screw thread which allows you to release the warp tension as it builds up. There is approximately 5" of adjustment. Beautifully made and very strong.

£240-00

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):

£12-50 for 12 tablets

BRAID MAKING EQUIPMENT

Lucet An ancient tool for cord-making; made of polished hardwood. Includes a wooden locking bead which fits tightly onto one of the prongs to keep your work in position when the lucet is not in use. Designed in conjunction with Jaquie Teal.

- (i) 10 cm from top to bottom x 4 cm wide £14-20
or
- (ii) a long handled version, 17 cm top to bottom £15-30

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!

£31-50

Extra set of 8 bobbins £12-50

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 polyurethane for protection.

The bobbins are individually made with great care and attention from tropical hardwoods.

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|------------------|
| Marudai | (Not a flat pack) | £196-00 |
| Bobbins | 37g each | £84-00 Set of 8 |
| | 70g each | £89-00 Set of 8 |
| | 100g each | £102-00 Set of 8 |

MISCELLANEOUS

Naalbinding Needle Made from various close grained hardwoods. Measuring 110mm x 10mm x 4.5mm with a long **rectangular** eye. The eye measures 14 x 4 mm

£2.70

Prodder (or Progger) A simple tool for rug making. Fits comfortably into the palm of the hand. Made of hard, dense woods. £5-70

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 £5-70

Double-pointed Knitting Needles Turned from hardwood, perfectly straight - I can make any length or diameter, ask me for a price.

Example price - for 41cm long, 4.5mm diameter £24-50 per needle

Giant Knitting Needles Turned from hardwood (maple), perfectly straight The shoulders have two 'flats' to prevent them rolling away. I can make any length (up to 80cm) or diameter

Example price - for 56cm long, 33mm diameter £55-00 per pair

French Knitter

Turned from hardwood and shaped to fit in your hand. Very well finished.

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| with 4 pegs | £7-40 |
| with 6 pegs | £9-60 |
| with 8 pegs | £11-70 |

Tunisian Crochet Hook

Made of maple or beech with a raised shoulder at one end and a hand-carved hook at the other. I can make these to any length and diameter to suit your requirements.

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------|
| Sample prices: | 125mm x 6mm | £8-60 |
| | 350mm x 15mm | £16-70 |

Double-ended Tunisian Crochet Hook

These are 41 cm long, with a hand-carved hook at each end. The shaft is turned on a lathe and, being of maple, is far straighter and much stronger than those made from commercial dowel rod.

I can make any diameter, from 6mm upwards. £19-40 Price for other lengths on request.

Beading Frame

The wooden frame measures approximately 690 x 306mm. It has strongly jointed corners and 5 small hand turned pegs at each end to attach the warps. The warp threads are spaced by trapping them in an unstretched coil spring at each end.

The frame is well finished and very portable. £89-70

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 | £2-70 |
|------------|-------|

Inch worm

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

This is a combination inch and centimetre £3-00

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.

£13-20

Darning Mushroom:

Made of hardwoods. The dome is 7 cm in diameter and the handle is 11 cm long. I can make any size; to suit your work.

£18-60

Japanese Style Embroidery Frame

This frame is designed to hold the fabric drum-taut. The whole thing comes apart for easy transportation. It comprises:

- 2 horizontal bars (750mm long) with lacing holes every 2 inches.
- 2 weft (vertical) bars (507mm long)
- 2 rollers split along their lengths (520mm long)
- ratchets on each roller

When assembled, the distance between the horizontal bars is 382 mm (15 inches) and the distance between the rollers, centre to centre, is 555mm (22inches).

£200-00

Embroidery Thread Organiser:

A hardwood plate, 20 cm x 6 cm x 4 mm thick. It has 16 holes around the circumference for holding the threads. The holes are ½ " in diameter. It is very smooth with no sharp edges.

£9-30

Needlecase

turned from various hardwoods with a beautiful finish to show off the wood grain.. The lid is a tight push fit. It will accommodate needles up to 80mm long. The design incorporates 2 flats to prevent the case rolling off the table.

£19-40

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 | £5-80 |
| medium | 12mm to 19.5mm in 6 steps | 11cm | £5-90 |
| large | 21mm to 30mm in 7 steps | 12.5cm | £6-70 |

Wet Felting Tools These tools come in matching pairs; one has a concave face and the other tool is convex. Both tools have concentric grooves on the felting face. There is a choice of handle type - like a door knob to hold in your palm or slimmer to grasp in your fist. I can vary the dimensions to suit your own requirement.

£40-00 per pair

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).

£12-40

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 | £360-00 |
| (ii) Winder complete with counter mechanism | £600-00 |

