

Fiber Preparation for Spinning

Category Rules

The category is intended to cover the results from the activity of preparing fibers for spinning, not the activity of spinning itself. The demonstration of the preparation *as an activity* should be judged in the category Demonstrating Period Activities. Here the emphasis should be put on the prepared fibers, and how close they come to being “ready to spin.”

Research and Documentation (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 No documentation provided with entry. Face-to-face judging adds very little information.
- 1 Minimal information is provided for time, place and style. Face-to-face judging adds some background information.
- 2 As in #1, generalized sources are given with no emphasis on primary and/or scholarly resources. In face-to-face judging, no further understanding of the resources is evident. Materials and methods of construction of the entry are described.
- 3 As in #2, there is a good balance of resources: primary and/or scholarly sources well supported by other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provides well developed discussion of research. Materials and methods of construction are described and the reasons for the choices made are discussed.
- 4 As in #3, in-depth and extensive documentation provides a good balance of resources, emphasizing primary (if available) and/or scholarly resources backed up with a significant selection of other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provide a good explanation of original research and experimentation related to the research. Face-to-face judging indicates a keen grasp of the research and the entrant can discuss it easily with active engagement. Appendices included in documentation (if any) help provide further pertinent information to subject and time period.

Materials and Methods (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices.
- 1 Use of modern materials and methods to produce a work that would not be accepted in period but bears some relationship to an authentic work. Entry is inconsistent to period, location, and persona (ex. some period elements, but doubtful authenticity of materials, colors, technique, or design).
- 2 Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was constructed (ex. modern equipment is used to process modern fiber, but the resulting fiber could be spun to resemble a thread that might have been used in period).
- 3 Use of **either** period materials **or** methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was constructed (ex. materials are completely authentic such as wool, silk, and linen, very minor inconsistencies in the combination of elements). Substitutions of modern materials for those no longer readily available will not be penalized so long as an effort has been made to substitute materials with a close appearance and drape/hand to the original. **Substitutions must be explained in the documentation.**
- 4 Use of materials and methods entirely documentable to the period for which it was constructed (ex. the entry looks and feels completely authentic to intended time and place: wool is hand washed and hand combed/carded; silk is prepared for spinning from cocoons; flax is hand-grown and retted, and prepared using authentic equipment, etc.), **or** the use of modern materials in a way that does not detract from the appearance and feels appropriate to the relevant period. Substitutions of modern materials for those no longer readily available will not be penalized so long as an effort has been made to substitute materials with a close appearance and drape/hand to the original. **Substitutions must be explained in the documentation.**

Scope (Score: 0-6 points for each bullet item)

Rank the **ambition**, not the success, of the entry for each of the following elements.

- Type of fiber chosen for processing.
- Scope of processing attempted.
- Animal Fiber (follow the below criteria).
 - Skirting and Sorting
 - Washing and scouring
 - Carding or combing
- Plant Fiber (follow the below criteria).
 - Retting
 - Breaking
 - Scutching
 - Hackling
 - Processing of tow fibers
- Extent gone to ensure authenticity of techniques used.

Skill (Score: 0-6 points for each bullet item)

Rank the **success** of the entry for each of the following elements.

For Animal-Based Fibers:

- Sorting: Are the fibers skirted and sorted? Have less-desirable fibers been discarded from the fleece before processing? Have the fibers been separated into different groups by quality, color, or some other criteria?
- Cleanliness: How clean are the fibers? Is there any remaining grease?
- Vegetable matter: How much remains in the fiber?
- Combing: How well is the fiber combed/carded? Can it be spun from the locks (if appropriate)? How easily can it be drafted for spinning?

For Plant-Based Fibers:

- Retting: How well have the plant fibers been retted? (Are there signs of over-retting? Under-retting?)
- Breaking: How well were the plants broken? Has the plant material been loosened enough from the internal fibers of the plant to allow it to fall away, without breaking the plant fibers?
- Scutching: Has the scutching made good inroads into removing the excess plant-material?
- Hackling: How well hackled are the plant fibers? How fine are the processed fibers? How long (as appropriate) are the fibers being produced?
- Organization: Have the tow fibers remaining from the hackling/scutching been processed? How well organized and cleaned are they?

Ingenuity (Score: 0-4 points)

Judge the ingenuity of the entry. Did the entrant use creative thought to recreate / research their reproduction? Was the entrant resourceful and inventive in the approach to creating their entry? Does the entry reflect the entrant's vision of period context? Is original thought, contemplation, interpretation, and vision evident according to the entry's period?

Judge's Observation (Score: 0-6 points)

Rank the entry as a whole. How well do all the separately judged parts fit together? The entry's overall effect is judged in this section. This is the only section of the criteria where the judges may allow their personality, private opinions, and personal preferences to influence scoring.