

# *Strauch Fiber Equipment Co.*

Manufacturers of:

Drum Carders ♦ Hand Cards  
Jumbo Ball Winders ♦ Swift/Skeinwinders

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## HINTS FOR CARDING WITH STRAUCH DRUM CARDERS

### “All Carders Are Not Created Equal”

Card only **washed, clean** fiber. The lanolin in wool makes it difficult to card "in the grease" and can cause damage to the card cloth teeth since it keeps the wool from pulling apart. The lanolin will also leave a residue on the drums that you may not want transferred to the next fiber you card. The carder is not designed to remove vegetable matter from your fiber. What falls out while carding is just a bonus.

Tease the fiber before feeding into the carder. Pull apart clumps or discard if too tight for you to completely separate. Feed the teased fiber into the carder lengthwise while turning the crank clockwise. Fill the carding drum evenly across the drum. Continue until the drum will not accept additional fiber.

Remove the batt by separating at the seam using the Knuckle-Saving-Batt-Picker tool included with your carder. Starting at the separation, use your hands and thumbs to guide the batt off the drum while slowly moving the drum backwards and “rolling” the batt off the teeth.

When you finish with a particular fiber or color and are ready to card something different, clean the carding drum with the Doffer Brush tool included with your carder. The Doffer resembles a Flicker but is designed for a totally different purpose. The teeth are 1/8 inch longer than the teeth on the carding drum so that the Doffer teeth will reach through the denser teeth on the drum and collect all the remaining fibers. Use the Doffer by brushing around the circumference of the drum in the same direction as the teeth are pointing. Begin at the seam and clean a section of the drum, rotate the drum counterclockwise and continue brushing until the drum is clean. **DO NOT** brush across the teeth (the width of the drum) with the Doffer brush or any other tool.

Drum Carding with the Brush Attachment: We recommend using the Brush when carding all fibers, and especially the fine and slippery ones like kid mohair and angora bunny.

Some fiber will collect on the small drum. Stop feeding and keep cranking until the fiber transfers from the small to the large drum. It will finally end up on the large drum (unless the large drum is full and will not accept more fiber!).

When blending these slippery fibers, try "sandwiching" them between two thin layers of wool (or other fiber you are blending). If the wool fiber can be carded more than once, card a full batt, remove from drum and separate making two thin batts. Layer the slippery fiber on top of one "slice" and cover with the second "slice". (You may want to work with smaller units and can separate the batts in smaller widths.)

As you feed the "sandwich" into the carder, lay your hand flat, palm down, on the fiber "sandwich". Press down on the fiber, moving your hand toward the drums at the same speed the fiber is moving. Repeat moving your hand with the fiber until all the fiber is carded onto the carding drum. This pressure prevents the middle layer from slipping out of the "sandwich" and results in all 3 layers transferring to the large drum. You may want to re-card this batt if you want more thorough blending.

Use caution in carding very fine fibers, e.g. merino. Spend more time in fiber preparation so that a minimum of carding will accomplish your desired results. Keep the fiber in locks when washing; snap the locks between your fingers to elongate them and feed through the carder cut end first, one lock at a time. Card the locks onto the carding drum, repeat until the drum is as full as you want and remove the batt. Carding does make neps/noils, so only one pass through the carder is recommended for these very fine fibers.

Follow the Maintenance information in the Operating Instructions to periodically clean out any accumulated fiber.  
(Refer to Proper Adjustment section if needed.)