

# *Strauch Fiber Equipment Co.*

Manufacturers of:

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

10319 Johns Creek Rd.  
New Castle, VA 24127  
540-864-8869  
Fax 540-864-7769  
ors@strauchfiber.com  
[www.strauchfiber.com](http://www.strauchfiber.com)

## STRAUCH PETITE DRUM CARDER

### OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

**CAUTION** - This machine is not a toy. Do not allow children to play with the carder or use the machine, without adult supervision.

**GUARANTEE and RETURN POLICY:** This machine has a seven (7) day money back guarantee if you wish to return it for any reason within that time. A machine purchased direct from the manufacturer is be returned there in its original carton(s) and with all packaging materials/inserts. Remove the crank and the poly cord belt and repack in the box along with the tools. Ship via UPS, insured for full value, or Insured Parcel Post and notify us that it is on the way. We will refund the price of the machine on receipt of the carder in undamaged condition. If purchase was made through a dealer, please contact them for instructions.

Tools included: Knuckle-Saving-Batt-Picker, Doffer/Cleaner Brush, small dabber brush, clamp and two copper rods to use for adjusting the small drum bearings.

**This drum carder** is constructed in such a way that, when in proper adjustment, the teeth on one drum come just short of touching the teeth on the other drum. Please remember: Card the fiber NOT the carder. If the teeth touch they may eventually become loose or otherwise damage the card cloth. Each assembled carder leaves the factory adjusted and ready to use once the crank and poly cord belt are installed. However, if the adjustment has slipped during shipping, follow instructions for proper adjustment. (NOTE: The adjustment is up to the customer on carders that are shipped as KITS.)

#### **SET UP:**

1. Screw the handle onto the shaft.
2. Install the belt being sure to **twist the belt into a figure "8"**.
3. The single clamp included is to be installed using the hole on the crank side of the carder. Insert the wood end into the hole and secure the carder to a table or bench by tightening the thumbscrew. Do not use any other type of clamp, including a C-clamp. Other clamps will damage the carder frame.

**TO CARD:** We recommend carding only **washed fiber**. It is very hard to card fiber containing lanolin or other matter. It is possible to damage the carder by forcing through the fiber. The lanolin will also coat the card cloth and can transfer to fiber carded later. The fiber must be teased before feeding into the machine. Teasing loosens and separates the fibers in a lock and pulls apart heavy clumps. There is potential for damage to occur when very tangled or large clumps of fiber are fed into the machine. Feed the teased fiber into the machine lengthwise so that it will not get broken up. Feed a little at a time. Card the fiber by turning the crank clockwise.

As you crank, the large carding drum rotates clockwise while the small drum rotates counterclockwise causing the carding action to the fiber being fed into the machine. (NOTE: The teeth points of the card cloth on both drums aim away from the hopper.) When feeding fiber into the machine do not hold it tightly as it starts under the small drum. Let it feed freely with the operator guiding it.

If the operator holds the fiber too tightly, it will wind itself around the small drum so that it will not be picked off by the large drum. Best carding results are obtained by a steady, smooth (not fast) cranking motion. Continue to card the fiber until the large drum is filled. When this occurs, the large drum will no longer pick the fiber off the small drum and it will start accumulating on the small drum.

**TO REMOVE THE BATT:** insert the pointed end of the KNUCKLE-SAVING-BATT-PICKER (a tool specially designed for this purpose) along the seam of the large drum and under the fiber. Lift and separate the carded fiber, in sections, all along the seam. With both hands, remove the batt from the carding drum by lifting and rolling the batt off the card cloth. Slowly turn the large drum backward one rotation for complete removal of the batt.

If a more thorough carding is desired, the fiber may be carded again. If you wish to re-card the batt, separate it in strips lengthwise and spread the fibers out to a very thin piece and feed it into the carder as before. Remember, only small amounts of fiber at a time.

**CLEANING THE DRUMS:** The Doffer/Cleaner Brush is used to clean residual fiber from the carding drum when you are finished with a particular fiber or are ready to change colors. The teeth on the Doffer/Cleaner Brush are longer than those on the carding drum which makes it an efficient cleaning tool. Use the center portion of the Doffer brush to contact the curve of the large drum. Starting at the seam, swipe the Doffer brush down the drum in the same direction as the teeth on the drum. Continue across the width of the drum. Slowly rotate the drum backwards (counterclockwise) as you use the brush to clean the entire drum of fiber. Do not brush across the drum since the card cloth may become frayed.

Some fiber may adhere to the lickerin as you card. This can be cleaned before you are ready to remove the last batt in any carding session. Dab at any collected fibers on the small drum with the small hand brush (enclosed with your carder) as you continue to crank. This will release the fibers so they can be transferred to the carding drum.

**CAUTION:** To prevent the poly cord belt from "taking a set" and to extend its life, we suggest that the belt be removed from the pulleys when not using the carder.

**PROPER ADJUSTMENT:** The tray is inserted into the carder under the tray holding brackets until the front end is even with the right hand edge of the clamp hole. (This is the 7/8" diameter hole toward the bottom edge of the night frame.) HINT: Place a piece of tape or make a mark on the tray at the proper position for ease of locating at the next carding session. The tray is stored under the base rail.

To adjust the drum distance, first remove the poly cord belt. Loosen the two thumbscrews on the side panels so bearings can be rotated. Place the copper rods in the small holes on the side of each bearing and adjust the spacing between the two drums so it's minimal and even. The drums must be parallel to each other and the teeth on the two drums must NOT touch. Reinstall the belt being sure to twist the belt into a figure "8".

**ROUTINE MAINTENANCE:** This carder does not necessarily require oiling. If a squeak develops (usually the handle), apply a drop or two of light oil (e.g. sewing machine or 20-wt. oil) at the point where the crank shaft meets the small end of black handle. Periodically clean out any accumulated fiber from each shaft where it enters the bearings. If the fiber buildup is not removed as necessary, the carder will be increasingly harder to crank. Do not over-oil. That will attract the fiber causing additional fiber buildup.

If your carder "hums", you can use bar soap on the drive belt. Use a thin piece of face soap (such as Dove). Notice where the drive belt touches at the figure 8 crossover. Position the soap below the drive belt crossover and soap the "edges" of the drive belt where they touch each other. Crank the carder to soap the full length of the drive belt. Be sure NOT to soap the area of the belt that runs on the pulleys or the belt may slip.