

## Review: Technospindle



This delightful new twist on the CD spindle is attractive, economical, and a good spinner. Of course, the laws of physics dictate that all CD spindles are pretty good spinners: they have large whorls relative to their weight, and are thus long-spinning. They also are relatively slow-spinning, though you wouldn't know it to look at the flashing designs of a Technospindle.

The colorful, often intricate, kaleidoscopic designs on the Technospindle are printed on the whorl—this is a far cry from the standard recycled-CD spindle with a sticker. As of this writing (April 7, 2008) there are 257 different designs to choose from. Whether you like high-tech neon, antique china, exuberant tie-dye, or elegant oriental carpets, you're sure to find a design that resonates with you. The whorl consists of a printed CD backed with a black CD; this two-CD whorl adds some necessary weight to the spindle and also keeps the single from slipping too much around the un-notched whorl as the spindle fills.

The hook appears to be a screw-eye that's been reshaped by hand into a diamond- or squared-off hook. Personally, I don't like square hooks, though this one does not unhook when I'm thigh-spinning (as many do, which is why I don't like them). The single also seems to me to be coming up off the back of the hook, a little bit off from the actual axis of the spindle. Still, this does not seem to be enough off-center to cause the spindle to wobble.

Although the website shows the spindles as top-whorl, they can also be set up as bottom-whorl, if that's your preference. The shaft is made of clear plastic tubing that contains a spiral of colored wire for decoration. (You can choose the color of the wire when you order the spindle from the manufacturer; retailers will have chosen a coordinating color for you.)

Since the Technospindle doesn't have wood parts that might become damaged by water, I wet-spun some flax roving on it. It's still possible to get a decent grip and spin on the spindle with wet fingertips—the problem actually seems to be excessive stickiness from the flax, rather than the expected excessive slipperiness from the water. I also tested regular wool roving; the spindle will be good for fingering weight and heavier, but is probably too heavy and slow-spinning for laceweight (very fine singles were underspun and tended to wisp apart). Of course, I personally like sub-ounce spindles for laceweight; your results may differ.

The spindles are shipped disassembled. The manufacturer chose the grommets with care, so they are a perfect—and tight—fit. I recommend using a dab of petroleum jelly to help get the whorl onto the shaft.

The Technospindle will be a great beginner's spindle, as well as a fun and unusual addition to a more-experienced spindler's collection. Check it out!

## Spindle Stats: Technospindle

<b>Weight</b>	1.7 ounces; 50 grams
<b>Whorl Diameter</b>	4.75 inches
<b>Overall Length</b>	12 inches
<b>Shaft Diameter</b>	3/8 inches
<b>Shaft Length Below Whorl</b>	adjustable, maximum of 11 1/8 inches
<b>Price</b>	\$25 (The manufacturer charges \$4 shipping for a single spindle, combines shipping for multiple spindles, and offers a discount for orders of 3 or more spindles.)
<b>Manufacturer's Website</b>	<a href="http://www.technospindle.com/">http://www.technospindle.com/</a>

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