

#skeintwister



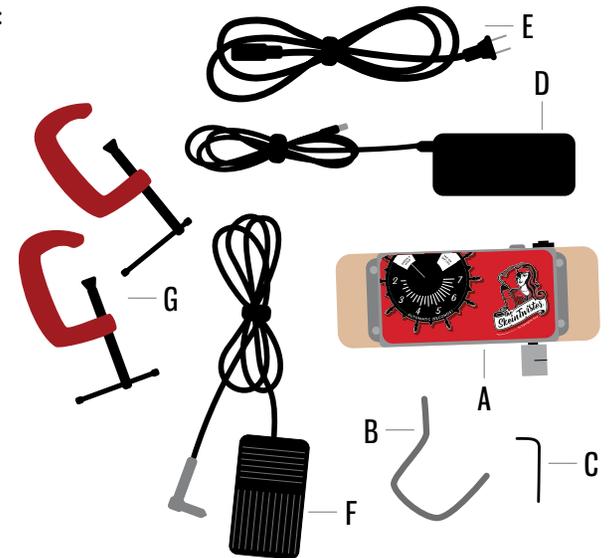
# Captain's Guide



## 1 *Unpack Your SkeinTwister*

In the box, you should have:

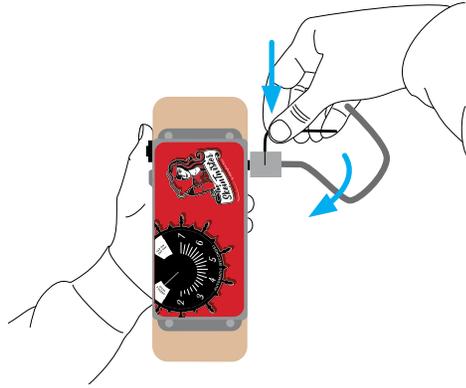
- A. The SkeinTwister
- B. The Hook
- C. L-Key (2.5mm)
- D. Power Supply
- E. Power Cord
- F. Foot Pedal
- G. C-Clamps (2), if purchased from Alpenglow



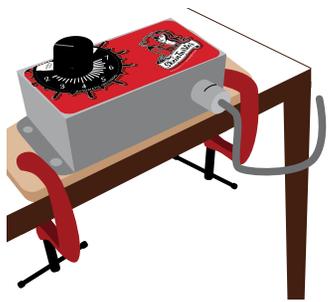
## 2 Set Up Your SkeinTwister

### A. Install The Hook

- I. Insert the hook into the coupler until it hits the shaft. Back it out just a tiny bit.
- II. Using the L-key provided, firmly screw down the coupler as much as you can. Insert the short arm of the L-key into the forward screw on the coupler, keep downward pressure on the L-key as you tighten it, and twist the long arm of the L-key using a lot of force. When properly tightened, the hook will not come out of the coupler no matter how much you pull out on it.
- III. Note that the motor shaft will be locked as you do this — you won't be able to turn the coupler. This is normal and good.



### B. Clamp the SkeinTwister firmly to a table using 3" C-clamps

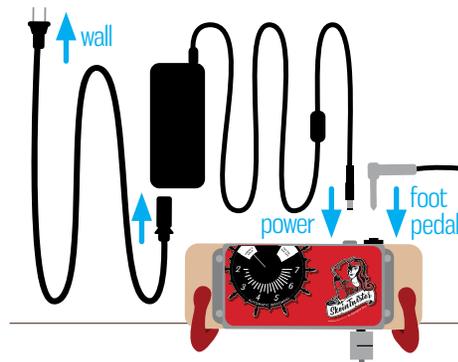


- I. If you want to use the SkeinTwister while standing, the most ergonomic table height will be a little below your belly button. If you want to use the SkeinTwister seated, any table height will do, but it's best to also use a chair with adjustable height.

### C. Plug the foot pedal into the SkeinTwister.

### D. Plug the power supply into the wall, then into the SkeinTwister.

### E. That's it! You're SkeinTwister is ready to use! (Nothing beeps or moves when you plug it in.)



## SkeinTwister Lifespan and Repairs

The SkeinTwister's motor and gearbox are moving parts that will eventually wear out. How long they'll last is very individual and will depend upon hours of use, weights of skeins, type of fiber, and how tightly you like your skeins twisted. Springy wools, looser twists (in any fiber), and skeins 4 oz and under produce less wear and tear and the motor/gearbox will last longer. Cellulose fiber, tighter twists (in any fiber), and skeins over 4 oz are harder on the motor and it'll wear out sooner. Replacement motors will be available at [alpenglowyarn.com](http://alpenglowyarn.com), we can provide instructions for user replacement or we can replace your motor ourselves for an additional fee.

## More Resources

- Check out [alpenglowyarn](http://alpenglowyarn.com) and [#skeintwister](https://www.instagram.com/skeintwister) on Instagram and YouTube for more videos
- Read through the FAQs at [alpenglowyarn.com](http://alpenglowyarn.com)
- Have more questions? Email us at [info@alpenglowyarn.com](mailto:info@alpenglowyarn.com)

## Tell the World!

We love to see our tools in action and rely on word of mouth to keep making tools, so please don't hesitate to post photos and videos to Instagram and Facebook and tag us [@alpenglowyarn](https://www.instagram.com/alpenglowyarn) and [#skeintwister](https://www.instagram.com/skeintwister). We also love email feedback.

## Let's Keep in Touch!

Get updates on the SkeinTwister and other tools by joining our infrequent newsletter: [alpenglowyarn.com/newsletter](http://alpenglowyarn.com/newsletter)

Thank you for purchasing a SkeinTwister — happy twisting and we hope this seriously helps your yarn business and enables you to grow!

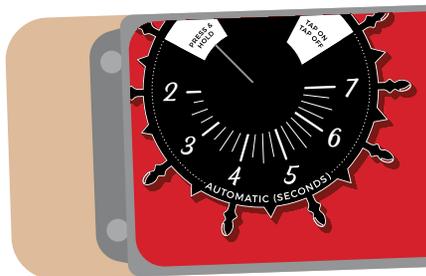
## 4 SkeinTwister Modes

**Press & Hold** — as long as you are pressing the foot pedal, the SkeinTwister will twist. Release the foot pedal and the SkeinTwister stops.

**Automatic** — Set the Twister to the number of seconds you want it to twist for. Tap the foot pedal once to start the Twister, and it'll automatically stop after the number of seconds have passed. This mode is very repeatable, and we recommend using it for normal production.

*Tip: If you need it to stop sooner because the skein is getting too tight and is hurting your fingers, DON'T PANIC. Just tap the foot pedal again.*

**Tap On / Tap Off** — Tap the foot pedal once to start the Twister. In this mode, it will twist until you tap the foot pedal again. It'll also do a quick "blip" when you initially tap the foot pedal — that just reminds you that the SkeinTwister will NOT automatically stop in this mode, and you'll have to press the foot pedal again. There is an ultimate "oops, my cat stepped on the pedal in the middle of the night" timeout after 30 seconds.



## 5 Helpful Tips

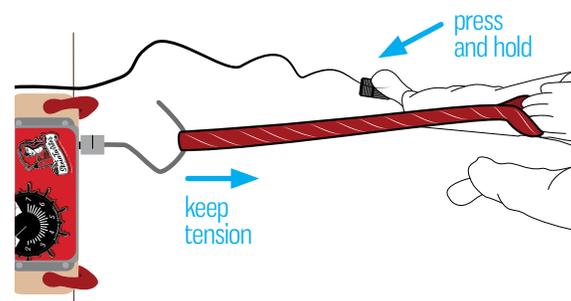
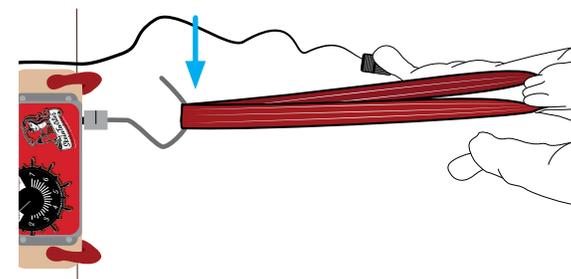
- Minis will take longer times to twist, jumbo skeins shorter times.
- The shortest time the SkeinTwister can be set to is ~1.5 seconds, if you move the knob to just past **Press & Hold**.
- The longest time the SkeinTwister can be set to is ~7.5 seconds, if you move the knob to just before **Tap On / Tap Off**.
- Need a longer twist time for a super skinny mini, say 12 seconds? You can use the **Press & Hold** or **Tap On / Tap Off** modes, or you can set **Automatic** to 6 seconds and do 2 twist cycles.
- Super springy wool will need less twist to produce a tidy skein, cellulose fiber will need more twist to look tight and tidy.
- The SkeinTwister can twist up to about 8 oz skeins. We recommend twisting larger skeins slightly looser, as this will result in less wear and tear on the gearbox, and your motor will last longer.

## 3 Start Twisting!

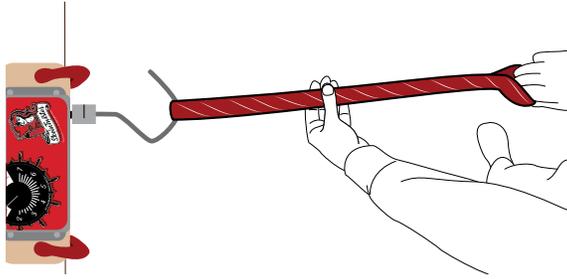
*Tip: The way you hold the yarn and motions you use with the SkeinTwister are going to be different than the ones you're used to when you twist yarn by hand. It'll probably take 15-20 minutes to adjust to your new tool, and figure out what works best for you. Be sure to check out the [alpenglowlarn YouTube channel](#) and the [Instagram #skeintwister](#) to see some different methods.*

We recommend trying the following method first:

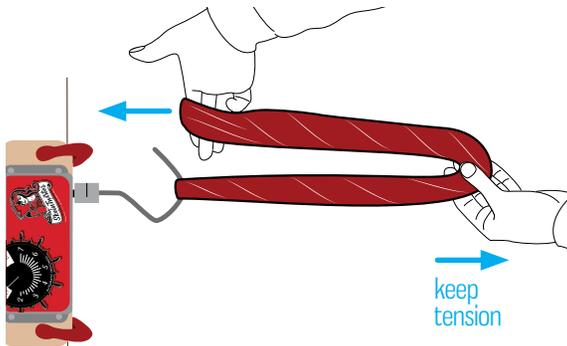
- Set the SkeinTwister to "Press and Hold" mode for your first few skeins. In this mode, the SkeinTwister will only twist while you're pressing the foot pedal, so if the skein starts to get too tight or twist back up on itself, just take your foot off the pedal and it'll stop.
- Start with a 4-oz skein of relatively springy wool (if you only dye/manufacture cellulose, that's fine too, just use whatever you're most familiar with).
- Place one end of the skein on the hook.
- Hold the other end of the skein in your hand, with 2 or 3 fingers inside the loop.
- Back away from the SkeinTwister until there's no slack in the skein. You'll need to pull against the skein and keep a fair bit of tension it as it's twisting, otherwise it'll twist back up on itself.
- Press and hold down the foot pedal.
- Keep tension on the skein as it twists.
- When you feel like there's enough twist in the skein, release the foot pedal. Note that you'll probably need more twist than you think, it feels different than when you twist by hand.



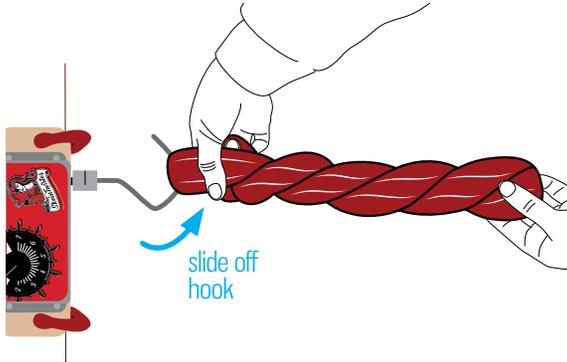
I. When the motor stops, use your free hand to pinch the middle of the skein.



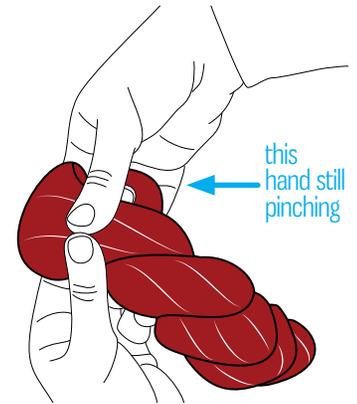
J. Move the hand with the yarn to the hook, keeping tension on the yarn with both hands.



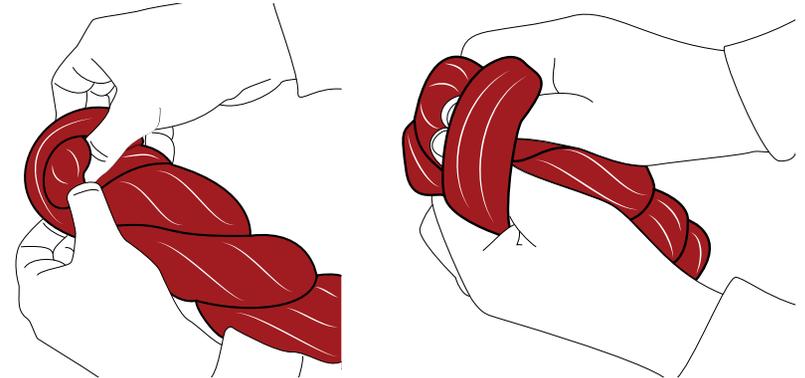
K. Pinch the skein at the base of the hook with your yarn hand's thumb, gently release and guide the twist into the skein with your other hand. Slide the yarn off the hook.



L. Take your free hand, and mirror the hold of your yarn hand — put 2-3 fingers near the loop, and your thumb over the tail.



M. Push the tail through the loop with both thumbs.



N. Ta-da! You're done. You can tidy up the twist with a couple of quick motions if you'd like.

This method is just what works best for us at Alpenglow Yarn. The important thing is to experiment and find the motions that work best for you.

