

The Clemes & Clemes Blending Board

These are basic instructions on how to use your new blending board. Beyond these instructions there is a world of possibilities for blending fibers and spinning unique yarns and creating felt from what you choose to blend.

Accessories you will need:

Flick

Handcarder

Brushes*

Dowels of varying diameters. **

*If you did not purchase a brush with your board, you might want to get an inexpensive 3-4 inch paint brush, preferably with stiff bristles. Or you could use a wallpaper brush. An assortment of brushes will give you more options. Figure 1



Figure 1



Figure 2

**You will want a dowel $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter and 4 inches wider than the diagonal of the carding cloth (19 inches total length for the dowel). If you are not going to roll off in the diagonal a 15 inch dowel will do. An assortment of dowels will give you more options. Figure 2

Parts of the Board

Handle

Carding Cloth

Keel

Keel Bolt

Bolt Holes

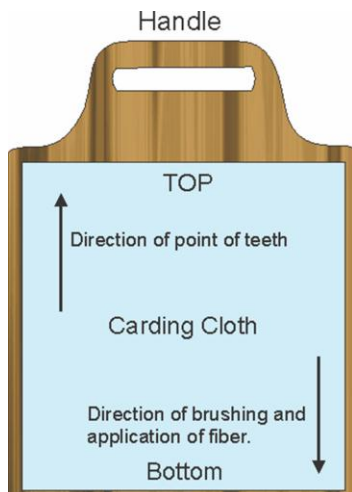


Figure 3

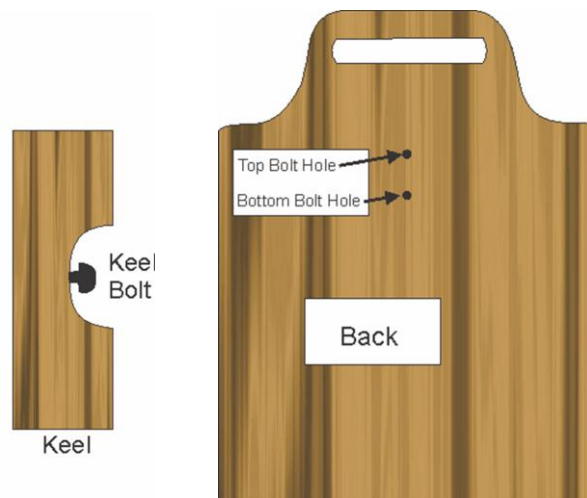


Figure 4

Positioning the Board

The board can be set on a table or sat in your lap.

Lap setup:

The board was designed to be used on the lap by screwing the keel in either screw hole depending on your technique and comfort. It is not necessary to tighten the screw too tight as you might want to pivot the keel at different angles as you work. Place the board in your lap top away from you with the keel between your legs.

Table setup:

To set the board up on a table, screw the keel into the screw hole nearest the handle this will give a low angle on the board. You can also use the other hole to give a higher angle. Tighten the screw fiber tight. That is the top of the board. You might be tempted to clamp the board to the table by the handle but this will position the cloth in a difficult direction for processing the fiber.



Place a rubberized cloth on the table under the board to help keep the board from sliding.

Applying Fiber to the Board

No carding method:

- Take some top or roving and wipe it onto the board where you want it. Wipe from the top to the bottom of the board. Or you can wipe across the board in any direction. Wiping from the bottom to the top is not effective.
- Take a brush and brush from top to bottom across the board after applying a layer of fiber.
- Apply another layer of fiber and repeat until you are satisfied with the amount of fiber on the board.

Carding methods:

- Apply any type fiber to the areas of the board where you would like it. This may be in small blotches or over the entire board.
- Using a handcarder or flick, depending on whether you want the fiber to remain where it is or to blend across the whole area, card the fiber right where you want it. Generally a few brushes across will do the trick.
- Apply another layer if desired and repeat until the desired amount of fiber is on the board.

Removing the Fiber from the Board

Rolags:

Rolags can be made in numerous ways. The basic method is to roll the fiber off from the bottom of the board to the top using a dowel to wrap the fiber around. If you roll off all of the fiber on to the dowel you will have a very large rolag that you can elongate.

Rolags can also be made by using a fine dowel and rolling the fiber off in smaller amount making about five rolags for each application of fiber.

Advanced methods would be to roll the rolags off at an angle. It is not affective to roll the fiber off from top to bottom.

Batts:

You can remove all the fiber off the board into a batt. Starting at the bottom, gently lift the trailing fiber up slowly. Use a brush if necessary to catch any fiber in the teeth as you lift. You can then do anything with the batt that you would if you had purchased a batt or created one on a drumcarder.

Roving:

You can pull out roving from a batt that you removed from the teeth. Or you can use a diz and pull the fiber through by starting at one of the bottom corners and pull through the diz as you work the fiber off the board working back and forth across the teeth.

Cleaning and caring for your board

Use a flick, brush or doffer to remove all fiber from the teeth of the cloth. Then use one of the brushes to remove all of the dust, dirt and vegetable matter from the bottom of the teeth. Use a clean damp cloth to wipe the wood down. It will not hurt to use a little lemon oil on the wood portions or a mild dishwashing soap to keep the wood clean.

Store you carding board flat by unscrewing the keel. A canvas bag with pockets just larger than the board makes an excellent tote to hold everything you need.

Synopsis

Pick wonderful fibers and place it on the in different patterns. Use two or more colors, lengths or textures. Remove from the board in different ways to create different effects. The possibilities are endless.

You may contact Gwen Powell (gwen@mresource.com) for workshops on using blending boards.