

## **FORSYTH 4-PITCH COMBS**

Traditional English 5 pitch combs are suited to processing lustre long wools and cannot process shorter or finer fibres. Traditional combs may also be cumbersome to use due to the weight, balance and comfort factor. The effort needed to swing the combs may be uncomfortable if combing for an extended period.

**Our own 'mini wool combs' are convenient and portable in use and will process finer fibres very successfully, however if quantity of fibre being processed is a consideration the new 4-pitch design will speed the process up considerably.**

Forsyth 4-pitch combs have been designed for the finer fibres that many of us like to use but find difficult to process.

Our 4-pitch sets comprise of a single comb, hackle, two clamps, together with two tine straighteners and a simple plastic diz. The stainless steel tines are shaped to help loading and lashing fibres, also fingers from being combed along with the fibres.

The comb is designed for comfortable use, having the 'Forsyth' signature handles and good balance. The comb has an overall length of 10.5 inches (27cm), and a weight of 13.5 ounces, (385 gms). Total weight of boxed set is approx. 7 lbs, (3.25Kg)

Made from exotic hardwood named 'Jatoba' the sets come in their own soft wood storage/ carrying box.

We have two designs available, the 4-pitch "FINE" and the 4-pitch "SUPERFINE."

Each type process fibre from your washed fleece into wonderful 'top' for spinning.

Our 4-pitch combs do the job of the traditional 5 pitch combs but have the advantage of being able to process shorter fibres that the traditional combs fail on.

They remove most of the neps, noils and debris from the fibre.

The comb sets are useful for blending colours, they also blend different fibres together, requiring only one or two passes prior to diz'ing off.

De-hairing - the removal of guard hair. This can also be achieved on our 4 pitch design because the longer, and much coarser fibres will project out further than the softer shorter fibers. These can be pulled off first and stored for later use.

#### **4-PITCH “FINE”**

The 4-Pitch FINE will process most fibres with ease, including the coarser wools used with the traditional 5 pitch combs.

The big advantage is that they can process high crimp fibres such as Merino, Polwarth, or Rambouillet, as well as low crimp fibres such as Llama, Alpaca and Silk.

#### **4-PITCH “SUPER FINE”**

The 4-Pitch SUPER FINE are more specialised. The tines are closer together increasing the resistance as the fibres are passed through the comb.

The super fine combs are suitable for processing ‘Tippy’ fibres and fibres such as Angora, Pygora and ‘Suri’ Alpaca. (See notes)

#### **To remove items from the box.**

The buckle is fastened to the lid by a screw.

Turn the box with the lid up.

Unsnap buckle by squeezing sides and remove the lid.

Unscrew the two clamps first, next lift the comb out, then the hackle, take care to keep the items level they are removed. The box is designed to keep the combs from damage and so are a snug fit in the box. There are two straightening tools, one for the longer front tines and a thinner tool for the shorter back tines.

After use replace the tools in reverse order, fit lid and snap buckle shut, adjust strap tension as necessary to retain lid tightly.

#### **WARNING:**

OUR COMBS ARE FITTED WITH SHARP TINES.

Handle with care to prevent injury and keep out of the reach of children.

Store away safely in box when not in use.

### **USING 4-PITCH combs**

The combs work much better with clean fibre. Using raw fibre causes the dirt and oils grab onto the tines making processing much harder. Additionally inhaling the dust, dirt and pollen from raw fibre may lead to breathing problems.

Therefore all fibres should be prepared by thorough washing.

Any residual oils or grease left in the fibres will reduce the amount of fibre that can be loaded on, making combing more difficult but not impossible and will mean that less fibre can be processed at a time.

Our unique design makes the processing much easier as one comb (hackle) is in a fixed position, clamped to a flat surface at a comfortable height. The tines pointing up and away from the user. It may be useful to remember that, in use, the tines of the moving comb are always going to pass the tines of the hackle at 90 degrees. This applies whether the comb is moving in a sideways, or a downward direction.

The fibre is lashed on to the front of the hackle.

The comb is swung in a small arc giving a downward twist at the end of the stroke. As the comb is pulled back the arm is moved in a figure eight motion, this helps to keep the fibres from folding back onto the comb and therefore keeping all the fibres straight.

Continue in this way until most of the fibre is removed off the hackle. Remove the waste and debris from the hackle, then start to lash the fibre back from the comb on to the hackle using a downward swing.

With the finer fibres two passes is all that is required, however, if the fibre has a lot of vegetation or tangles, more combing may be required.

Always finish combing with fibre being transferred back on to the hackle.

Fibre drawn off the hackle becomes top.

The 4 pitch combs blend fibres very easily with just one or two passes. If only one pass is required and you wish to diz off, then load the fibres, by layering, on to the combs and lash off on to the hackle. Always make sure that all the fibres being combed are of equal length. This is because the longest fibres are always pulled off first and uneven blending will result.

## **NOTES.**

### 1. 'Tippy' Fibres.

When testing the 'Super-fine' design Judith Mackenzie McCuin was excited to discover that they were capable of removing weathered tips caused by sun bleaching. These tips are tender and break off when these fleeces are processed. 'Tippy' fibres cause the formation of troublesome neps in the finished yarn.

Loading Tippy fibres. The cut ends of the fleece are loaded on to the hackle. The tips break off during the combing and are left behind on the comb with the waste.

### 2. 'Suri' Alpaca Fibre.

A newly introduced fibre produced by a rare breed of Alpaca. The fibre is soft, lustrous and fine, but is completely without crimp and body. When processed and spun it produces a luxurious fiber to work with, similar to silk.