

PAT GREEN CARDERS LTD.

48793 CHILLIWACK LAKE ROAD, CHILLIWACK, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA V4Z 1A6

Manufacturers of Fine Carders and Pickers

(604) 858-6020

PADLOCK YOUR PICKER

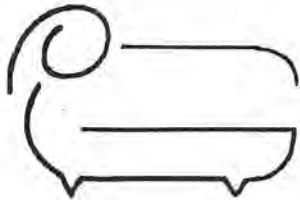
The one 1/4" thumb screw securely fastens the top cradle to the rear locking bar straps to prevent movement during shipping. These need to be undone before the rear locking bar (and the front locking bar) can be removed prior to operating the picker.

We have provided a padlock for your safety/security locking of the top cradle when the picker is not in use. This padlock goes through the same hole in one of the rear cradle straps and locking bar. Use the thumb screw to fasten the other rear cradle strap when the picker is not in use. So, when you have finished using the picker and it is all nicely cleaned up (carefully) ... before you leave it ...

1. Replace the front locking bar and its two wing nuts.
2. Replace the rear locking bar and its two wing nuts.
3. Fasten one locking strap to the rear cradle strap with 1/4" thumb screw.
4. Lock your padlock through the other rear cradle strap and locking bar.
5. Keep your keys in a safe place You have 2 keys. Kept in separate places will make sure you don't lose both keys.

We would be interested in your safety comments.

NOTE: To keep the picker safe during shipping, we have installed the two wing nuts (for height adjustment of the top cradle) on quite tight. You may need to use pliers to loosen for your initial adjustment. Picker teeth are not intended to mesh, or be anywhere near to touching each other. They need space to operate properly.



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WOOL PICKER

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Herewith your picker. Please treat it with great caution. It has needle-sharp points which do a beautiful job on wool, but can rip flesh if you are not careful. Do use the small padlock provided and lock the machine when it is not in use. It is your responsibility to NOT use the machine when children are around and to prevent others from doing themselves an injury. Treat it with the same respect you give a loaded gun or a sharp knife. Do not wear loose clothing that can be hooked by the points or long beads or let your hair hang toward the picker. **WE RECOMMEND YOU WEAR A PAIR OF CLOSE-FITTING LEATHER GLOVES AND A LEATHER BIB APRON.**

Before using the picker, read this Safety page and our "Operating Procedure Notes". If anyone else uses the picker, have them read the instructions before use. If you sell the machine, all the instructions should go with it. We will gladly replace them if they have been lost.

For safety and efficiency, the picker should be mounted securely across a sturdy table that is as wide as the length of the picker and clamped to the table with the clamps provided. This enables you to stand close to the picker without leaning into it and permits the wool to fall freely from the picker into a box or other container. Experiment with table height to determine what precise height is best for you, as even a half-inch makes a difference.

Before feeding wool, do run a few tests to satisfy yourself as to how close the arc of the top picker points comes to the hand that is feeding the wool. They can only swing in that arc, so keep your hand away from that arc area. Use of the picker claw will certainly give you more confidence.



Prepared to pick, using apron, claw and gloves.

As you feed the picker, keep the arm that swings the cradle rather **STIFF AT THE ELBOW**, so your body must move back as you draw the cradle toward you. This keeps a considerable distance between your body and the picker teeth. Swing from the hip. If you have difficulty maintaining this stance to keep a safe distance between your body and the picker cradle, then we highly recommend that you make yourself a waist-length leather bib for protection (we offer one for sale, mukluk quality leather, fully lined). Do insist that anyone who uses your picker understands all the directions and uses the bib. **TIGHT-FITTING LEATHER GLOVES ARE ANOTHER SENSIBLE PRECAUTION.**

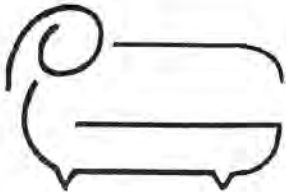
Be sure and use the lock bars if you are carrying the machine and put on lock bars and padlock when it is stored.

If you have any reluctance to feeding your wool by hand, we offer a metal Picker Claw that can be used to hold the wool on the infeed slope.

There are two main areas of danger when operating this tool. The first is when bringing the top cradle toward you. You can control your own safety by keeping clear of the points. But when the cradle is furthest from you, it could put another person at risk, so please do not pick when anyone is within three feet of the picker.

Be cautious when cleaning any remaining wool from the points after you finish picking. It is easy to prick your fingers when doing this, so use a doffer stick or picker claw.

SAFETY FIRST, LAST AND ALWAYS!



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Call Paula at 1-877-898-2273

WOOL PICKER

OPERATING PROCEDURE NOTES (Read safety instructions before using picker.)

1. Clamp machine to a table before you unlock it. The clamps may be used on either side of the machine. There are two levels of holes for clamp mounting to accommodate a thicker or thinner table top. Use a little block of wood or a folded piece of paper between thumb screw and table to protect table.
2. Loosen and remove the four 1/4 inch wing nuts which restrain the two locking bars. These bars prevent the cradle from swinging during transit as well as cover some of the points. Remove the padlock bar first, then the front bar. Replace the 1/4 inch wing nuts on the bolts so that you don't lose them.
3. The cradle may be raised or lowered by adjusting the nuts on the bolts at the top of the machine under the supporting shaft. To raise or lower the cradle, first loosen the two locking wing nuts, then rotate the upper two hex nuts to position the cradle at the height you have selected. Then tighten the locking wing nuts onto the straps. **DO NOT LET THE TOP AND BOTTOM POINTS TOUCH** — they should be no closer than 1/8 inch. The higher the top cradle the easier it is to pick. The lower the cradle, the more work it does. In general, you can use it **LOWER FOR SHORT WOOL AND HIGHER FOR LONG WOOL**.
4. To pick: Wool is fed slowly into the machine by easing it up the sloping board while gently swinging the cradle with the other hand. Do run a few tests to satisfy yourself as to how close the arc of the top picker comes to the hand that is feeding the wool. Practice a rhythmic swing before feeding any wool (see item 10). With one hand operating the top cradle, your other hand firmly grasps a clump (handful) of wool so that you have a good grip on it but it protrudes past your fingertips. Slowly move the tightly grasped handful of wool up the feed slope as you rock the cradle back and forth, keeping your hand in a "claw" shape, under the wooden crossbar. Allow the points to withdraw wool from the clump you are holding. Restraining the wool will give a better teasing action. It also meters in the wool to prevent the picker from being overloaded, which could cause a blockage.
5. If the picker grabs a large clump which jams, don't try to ram it through. Just pull the top cradle toward you and remove the lump and re-feed it a little slower. Should considerably too much wool (particularly long fibre wool) escape your hand and plug the machine so you cannot easily clear it through, there is a simple fix. Rather than fight the situation, loosen the two wing nuts, holding the top cradle straps. Then raise the TOP two hex nuts up to the supporting shaft to raise the cradle out of the blockage. Move it away from the blockage and carefully lift out the offending clump of wool. Lower the cradle into its former position and tighten all the nuts into place. We normally count the turns when adjusting the cradle positioning nuts so it can be returned exactly to its former position.

. . . over

6. Although the picker will work on unwashed (grease) wool, you will find that it gives a much better cleaning action with washed wool because many of the small seeds will fall out more easily, resulting in a cleaner finished product. Grease wool also slows down the process a bit and requires more effort in swinging the cradle. Some Angora goat raisers, however, say that they pick their mohair before washing to remove some of the vegetation and get a more thorough washing, then pick it again before carding.
7. When swinging the cradle, sway from the hips. To keep your body away from the sharp points, keep a fairly stiff elbow on the arm that swings the cradle. As you pull it toward you, your body moves backward away from it.
8. The picker should be clamped to a table that is as wide as the length of the picker. The height of the table is important, so experiment a little to see what height is most comfortable for you.
9. If the action of the picker is not effortless, review items #3 and #4 — you may be feeding too heavily or have the picker cradle too low.
10. To pick wool effortlessly and efficiently, use a long, smooth, easy swing. The front of the top cradle **MUST** pass the further ends of the bottom pads of teeth so that the wool falls off nicely. On the return stroke you sway back from the hips as the cradle comes toward you, and the rear of the top cradle must come past the front of the bottom pads of teeth. Short strokes will ball up the wool, jam the picker and damage your fibers.
11. Be cautious when cleaning any remaining wool from the points after you finish picking. It is easy to prick your fingers when doing this so use a doffer stick, knitting needle or picker claw.
12. Wool does not necessarily need carding after picking. Try spinning directly from the picked wool for an extremely interesting and textured yarn. This is especially effective when you are blending two or more colors, and ideal for knitting or for weaving weft yarn.
13. As soon as you are finished, **DO** put on both your lock bars and padlock. Safety first, last and always!
14. Keep the picker dry. **DO NOT** try to oil the bearings — they are sealed and lubricated for life.

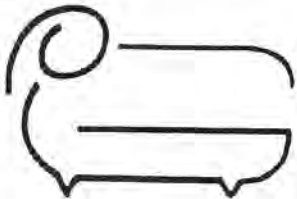
PICKER CLAW

We offer this metal claw as a safety measure and an aid to better picking. The wool must be held firmly during the picking operation. Otherwise it will not be thoroughly picked and large clumps may be grabbed by the swinging cradle points, resulting in a clogged machine.

When using the claw, the wool is held on the infeed slope by the claw like a cat holds a mouse — moving backward in one-inch steps as the wool is taken in by the top cradle. The claw may also be used to clean the picker points when changing from one color to another or when you are finished picking.

LEATHER BIB

For additional peace of mind, safety and picking pleasure. Soft, comfortable calf suede leather, fully lined. Make one for yourself or buy ours.



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TRIPLE PICKING NOTES

The Triple-Picker has over three times as many teeth, for a much finer picking action. Whether you spin your yarn direct from this picker or go on to card it before spinning will depend on two factors: the type or texture of the yarn you desire, and the quality of the fibers used. If you want a rather textured yarn for knitting or weaving (especially weaving), then do try it from the picked condition. With ideal fibers and a varied spinning technique, you will find that you can still produce a smooth, evenly spun yarn if desired. For weaving, no matter how much texture is in the yarn, the finished effect will counteract it and show much less texture.

As you feed the picker, be sure to swing it with a LONG stroke, this does a much better job. On each stroke, both forward and back, the cradle must pass beyond the end pad of the bottom teeth, to clear the fibers. Short strokes can cause a tangling of wool, in addition to being inefficient. And, keep the arm that swings the cradle rather STIFF AT THE ELBOW, so your body must move back as you draw the cradle toward you. This keeps considerable distance between your body and the picker teeth. Swing from the hip. If you have difficulty maintaining this stance to keep safe distance between your body and the picker cradle, then we highly recommend that you make yourself a waist-length leather bib, for your protection. (We do offer one for \$50.00). Do insist that anyone who uses your picker read the directions first, and uses the bib. IF the directions are lost, we will replace them on request.

Try to feed the unpicked wool in the center of the sloping infeed board, to encourage the fibers to stay in the center of the picker on their way through, not slipping off to the side beyond the reach of the teeth.

The Triple-Picker, because of its density of teeth, requires more cleaning. Do be very careful when cleaning wool off the points, using a doffer stick or picker claw or knitting needle to keep from pricking your fingers. You will note that with some long fibers, the "cleanings" off the to cradle will be the equivalent of worsted-carding. IF this interests you, clean off the top cradle about every 1/2 pound of wool, by grasping the fibers between the rows of teeth of the forward (farthest away from you as you pick) upper pad, and pull them downward and back. You can set aside this fiber, and if you are doing a considerable amount of picking, this may be enough fiber to use in a separate type of yarn.

When you want to blend common wool with exotic fibers, it often helps if you pre-pick the wool, then combine it with exotics. If the wool is purchased as roving or top, this is not necessary, but a bit of shaking and fluffing will be helpful.

You cannot get quite as even a mix (by weight) of several colors or several different fibers, as you would with carding (for a large amount). By this we mean a uniform blend, pound after pound. This can be counteracted by blending BOXES of fiber. Weigh out your chosen proportion of fibers into a pound (or any desired amount) of fiber, then pick it. Set this box of picked fiber aside, and repeat the process, for the total amount of fiber desired. Then, mix the boxes and proceed with either spinning or carding to prepare it for spinning.

Libby Dewees has one other use for this picker that may interest you. She picks greasy Merino and extra-dirty mohair BEFORE WASHING, saying that the pre-picked and then washed fibers are so much cleaner. It does not take as much heat to get it clean, and does not have to remain in the bath so long. Another picking when it is dry and it is ready for use. One of Libby's wonderful yarns was spun from triple-picker processed dyed baby kid mohair, dyed silk and bunny, plied with a very fine metallic multicolor to make a most luxurious and opulent yarn.

BELOW ARE PORTIONS OF PAULA'S ARTICLE IN THE JUNE 1989 ISSUE OF SPIN OFF MAGAZINE on "Picker Safety and Efficiency"

PICKER BIB PATTERN

This bib can be cut out of good, "mukluk-quality" leather, which is heavy enough for protection, yet light enough to be sewn on most household sewing machines. Your choice of style may depend upon the shape of your piece of leather.

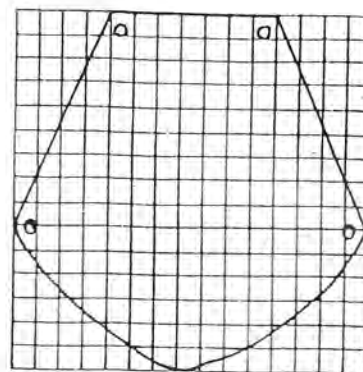
The bib is much more pleasant to wear if it has a lining; I use medium-weight taffeta and cut it to the exact size of the bib. To make sure that the bib and lining match well, I lay the cut-out bib on a flat surface, place the cut-out lining on top, and iron lightly with a medium-hot iron. Then I trim off any excess lining.

The leather bib and taffeta lining can be sewn together easily if they are held in place around the edges with clothespins. Eight clothespins spaced around the outside will do the job.

With the lining still positioned on top of the leather, I join the layers all around, using a fairly long zigzag stitch and keeping the stitching line about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch inside the edge. Then I press the lining side once more before adding another line of zigzag stitching, this time right at the edge. This second stitching secures the layers and neatly finishes the edges of the taffeta.

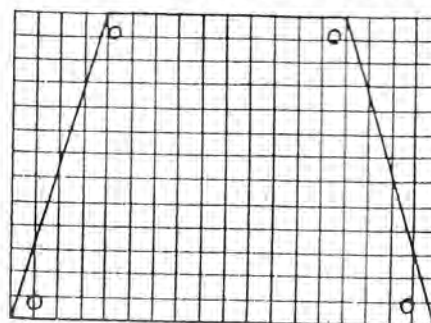
Straps can be handled in one of two ways. You can sew them on at the dots indicated on the pattern, or you can put grommets at the same points and attach the straps by tying them on.

Wear the bib pulled up high in front, with the lower straps right at the waistline.



Small size

Increase 1 inch at each edge for medium size.



Medium size

Increase 1 to 2 inches at each edge for large size.

(1 square = 1 inch)

Picker safety

Safety is only a word until you put it into practice. Treat your picker with great caution.

obtain a small padlock and always lock the machine when it is not in use—even for a short period, and especially when others are, or may be, around. It is most important to cultivate this habit.

Ideally, the picker should be mounted securely across a sturdy table that is as wide as the length of the picker. It can be held in position with clamps. If the picker is in a permanent location, I suggest that you screw or bolt it to the table for additional rigidity.

The appropriate table width enables the user to stand close to the machine without leaning into it, and permits the picked wool to fall freely into a box or other container. Experiment to determine which table height is best for you; even a half-inch can make a difference in your comfort.

The most important piece of advice I can offer is to protect yourself as you feed the picker. There are several ways you can do this. They are all essential.

- First, it is best to pick when you are alone and can concentrate on what you are doing without being distracted by people, television, or other interruptions.

- Second, before beginning to feed wool, run a few tests to see how close the arc of the top picker-points comes to the hand that will feed the wool. The picker-points can swing only in that arc, so keep your hand clear of the arc area. You can further protect your hands by wearing tight-fitting leather gloves and using a picker claw (see illustration).

- Third, when you are picking keep the arm that swings the cradle *stiff at the elbow*, so your body must move back as you draw the cradle toward you. This will maintain a considerable distance between your body and the picker teeth. Swing from your hips, in a long motion.

If you have difficulty keeping yourself in the stiff-elbow stance, or if you would like the extra measure of safety, make or buy yourself a waist-length protective leather bib. Patterns for the ones we recommend and sell are included here.

In addition, be cautious when you clean excess wool from the points after you have finished picking. Use a doffer stick, knitting needle, or picker claw for this task, so you don't prick your fingers.