

Spinning

The Navaho spindle differs from those of other Southwest tribes. The disk whorl is located near the bottom of the spindle stick which is about      inches long. The spinner rests the stick on the ground leaning it against the thigh, and with a twirling motion winds the hand stretched wool onto the spindle. Stretching properly is a most important factor of good spinning. Wool is always spun twice, sometimes more, depending on the <sup>desired</sup> fineness of the yarn. The first spinning works the strands of wool loosely together. On the second spinning greater stretching is possible and good weaving yarn is produced. Since the American occupation of the Southwest, traders and others have tried to introduce the spinning wheel, but the Navaho women have always rejected it, preferring to use their spindles of ancient origin.

Add at bottom of page 99

Knitting

The Navaho also practise knitting, though interestingly enough it is the men who knit. They make footless stockings ~~xxxxxx~~ for ceremonial use. These are open threaded stockings with designs created by the use of four or five needles.

The Navaho also practise knitting, though interestingly enough it is usually the men who knit, making leggings or footless stockings. Originally sticks of a hard wood were used, later wire or the ribs of an old umbrella. Regular knitting needles were ofcourse, carried by the traders when the demand for them was manifest. As many as four or five needles are used. The knitters created a raised rim on



Many students of Indian culture in the Southwest have believed that the Navaho learned the art of weaving from the Pueblo People, b  
However, recent research is pointing more and more to the probability that the Navaho brought the knowledge of weaving with them when they migrated to the Southwest. During these travels they came through country where other Indian tribes were already spinning and weaving, and it is quite possible that this is ~~the source~~ of where the Navaho women learned to make and use the spindle and the loom. ~~The~~ The Navaho spindle differs from that of the Pueblo, <sup>because she</sup> of it ~~and the use is even~~ <sup>which is now distinctive</sup> ~~more so~~. Had the Navaho learned from the Pueblo weavers, they would <sup>have</sup> probably used the same techniques. And there are other differences. Pueblo looms are stationary whereas Navaho looms are portable. Among the Navaho it has always been the women who weave ( with rare exceptions) while among the Pueblo, <sup>the weavers are</sup> ~~it is always the men who weave~~.

Pueblo weaving is dominated by traditional forms and designs with little variation, while Navaho weavers are emphatically creative. While it is true that traders of many areas have influenced types and designs to some extent, within these bounds there is great variety. Over the long years of production from Navaho looms, the infinite variety of design, color, and weaving patterns, have stamped the Navaho as masters of their art.