

Tips for Buyers

for the Auction of Spinning and Weaving Equipment

- 1. Pre-register online.** Fill out the [online form](#) so you can pick up your bidder's card in the express lane. You can also register for a bidder's card at the desk in the Auction Tent at any time during the preview or even during the auction itself. You DO need to register in order to place a bid or to participate in the buy-it-now.
- 2. Preview.** Before the auction, walk through the auction tent. There isn't time to examine an item while it's being auctioned. In addition, some sellers may opt to mark their items with a buy-it-now price. For these items, you can simply pay the buy-it-now price, and the item is yours.
- 3. Be prepared.** Bring a tape measure, string suitable for a test drive band on a spinning wheel, reading glasses, and whatever else you think you may need to assess the items for sale. Have tools and moving blankets in your car so you can dismantle your purchases if necessary and bring them home.
- 4. Write down numbers.** Make sure you have a pen or pencil. Record the numbers of the lots in which you are interested and your notes on a notepad, or use the back of your auction card.

We will be auctioning lots in numerical order. It's impossible to say exactly when any particular item will come up for sale...but you *can* estimate. It takes roughly a minute to auction off an item (usually a little less). This means that if the lots you're interested in are numbered 5, 11, and 27 you had better be at the auction tent with your bidder card at the ready when the auction starts at noon. On the other hand, if all you want is lot number 123, it's probably safe to have a leisurely lunch, do some more shopping, and meander over to the auction tent at about 1:30 to check on the auction's progress.

- 5. Ask questions.** Auction staff and volunteers are not experts, but they may be able to help you identify items, and might even be able to let you "test drive." Fellow festival-goers are friendly, and may also be able to tell you more; occasionally, you might even find a seller loitering by his or her consignments.

Additional Information for Buyers

- Keep your bidding card in a safe place. Please report any lost cards to the auction tent and/or auction.mswf@gmail.com immediately, so we can cancel the old card and issue a new one.

- The state of Maryland requires the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival to collect sales tax (6%) on purchases made at the fiber-equipment auction unless you present an exemption certificate issued by the state of Maryland.
- If you decide that you want to take the items you won before the auction ends, make sure you get one of the auction parking passes *after* you pay for your items, but *before* you make the trek to your car.
 - Please return the parking pass to the merchandise pick-up desk upon your return so that another buyer can have the use of it.
 - Due to traffic congestion during the first few hours of the Festival, it will not be possible to drive up to the Auction Tent to load purchases until after 1 PM.
- Historically, some amazingly great deals have occurred near the end of the auction. Even if you've already bid on all the lots on your wishlist, you may want to stick around to watch the action, and perhaps even score a bargain for yourself!