

# *Strauch Fiber Equipment Co.*

Manufacturers of:

Drum Carders ♦ Hand Cards  
Jumbo Ball Winders ♦ Swift/Skeinwinders

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## STRAUCH CHAIN DRIVE DRUM CARDER

### OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

**CAUTION - This machine is not a toy. Do not allow children to play with the carder or use the machine without adult supervision.**

The frame on the wood 200 and the double-wide wood 500 models is 4 inches high. The ratio between the two drums on these models is 4:1. On the "FINEST" the frame is 6" high with a 5:1 ratio.

Tools included: Knuckle-Saving-Batt-Picker, Doffer/Cleaner Brush, small hand brush.

On receipt of your carder, please make sure the bolts in the bearings are tight. They may have come loose during shipment. Attach the crank to the large drum shaft by turning the crank clockwise until tight. When tight, continuing to crank clockwise will engage the drums. To remove the crank, hold the large drum so it doesn't turn, tap the handle counterclockwise to loosen and unscrew the handle.

This bench carder is constructed in such a way that, when in proper adjustment, the teeth on one drum come just short of touching the teeth on the other drum. Please remember: Card the fiber, NOT the carder. If the teeth touch they will eventually become bent and loose. Each machine leaves the factory adjusted and ready to use. However, if the alignment has slipped during shipping, follow instructions for proper adjustment.

**TO CARD:** We recommend carding only **washed fiber**. It is very hard to card fiber containing lanolin or other matter. It is possible to damage the carder by forcing through the fiber. The lanolin will also coat the card cloth and can transfer to fiber carded later. The fiber must be teased before feeding into the machine. Teasing loosens and separates the fibers in a lock and pulls apart heavy clumps. There is potential for damage to occur when very tangled or large clumps of fiber are fed into the machine. Feed the teased fiber into the machine lengthwise so that it will not get broken. Feed a little at a time. Card the fiber by turning the crank clockwise.

As you crank, the large carding drum rotates clockwise while the small drum rotates counterclockwise causing the carding action to the fiber being fed into the machine. (NOTE: The teeth points of the card cloth on both drums aim away from the hopper.) When feeding fiber into the machine do not hold it tightly as it starts under the small drum. Let it feed freely with the operator guiding it. If the operator holds the fiber too tightly, it will wind itself around the small drum so that it will not be picked off by the large drum. Best carding results are obtained by a steady, smooth (not fast) cranking motion. Continue to card the fiber until the large drum is filled. When this occurs, the large drum will no longer pick the fiber off the small drum and it will start accumulating on the small drum.

**TO REMOVE THE BATT:** insert the pointed end of the **KNUCKLE-SAVING-BATT-PICKER** (a tool specially designed for this purpose) along the seam of the large drum, under the fiber. Lift and separate the carded fiber, in sections, all along the seam. With both hands, remove the batt from the carding drum by lifting and rolling the batt off the card cloth. Slowly turn the large drum backward one rotation for complete removal of the batt.

If a more thorough carding is desired, the fiber may be carded again. If you wish to re-card the batt, separate it in strips lengthwise and spread the fibers out to a very thin piece and feed it into the carder as before. Remember, only small amounts of fiber at a time.

**CLEANING THE DRUMS:** The Doffer/Cleaner Brush is used to clean residual fiber from the carding drum when you are finished with a particular fiber or are ready to change colors. The teeth on the Doffer/Cleaner Brush are longer than those on the carding drum which makes it an efficient cleaning tool. Use the center portion of the Doffer brush to contact the curve of the large drum. Starting at the seam, swipe the Doffer brush down the drum in the same direction as the teeth on the drum. Continue across the width of the drum. Slowly rotate the drum backwards (counterclockwise) as you use the brush to clean the entire drum of fiber. Do not brush across the drum since the card cloth may become frayed.

Some fiber may adhere to the lickering as you card. This can be cleaned before you are ready to remove the last batt in any carding session. Dab at any collected fibers on the small drum with the small hand brush (enclosed with your carder) as you continue to crank. This will release the fibers so they can be transferred to the carding drum.

**PROPER ADJUSTMENT:** Loosen all eight (8) bearing bolts. This will allow you to move the drums backward and forward. The drums must be kept parallel with each other and with the ends of the frame. Special attention must be given to the chain drive when making adjustments, The chain must be kept tight enough so it will drive the drums. If the chain slips, then both drums must be moved to the right (or away from the Hopper). Re-tighten the bolts when drums are parallel and the three (3) sprockets are in alignment.

If the chain jumps off the large sprocket, either the drums are not parallel or the sprockets are not aligned with each other. If the chain makes a clicking noise or jumps off the idler sprocket, the problem is most likely the result of fiber buildup (see Routine Maintenance below). Make proper adjustment or do necessary maintenance before proceeding.

**ROUTINE MAINTENANCE:** This machine does not require oiling. NEVER oil the chain. Periodically clean out any accumulated fiber from each shaft where it enters the bearings. Mark the location of the bearings supporting both drums. This can easily be done with a piece of masking tape placed on the frame at one edge of each bearing. Also put a piece of tape on the block so it's reinstalled in exactly the orientation. Loosen the bolts on one bearing at a time. Slide the bearing off the shaft, clean out the buildup and replace. Put a drop of oil on the shaft before reinstalling the bearing. Take care that the bearings are returned in the upright position with the shaft hole near the top of each of the bearings. Repeat for each bearing. By following this procedure, the chance of losing the proper adjustment of the drums is reduced. If fiber buildup is not removed as necessary, the carder will be increasingly difficult to crank. Do not oil. This will attract the fiber causing buildup.

When you clean the bearings on the small drum, you will need to remove the sprocket guard as well. Replace all parts as you found them when cleaning is completed.

**GUARANTEE:** This machine has a seven (7) day money back guarantee if you wish to return it for any reason within that time. A machine purchased direct from the manufacturer is to be returned there in its original carton and with all packaging inserts. Remove the crank and repack in the box with the tools. Ship via UPS, insured for full value or insured Parcel Post and notify us that it is on the way. We will refund the price of the machine on receipt of the carder in undamaged condition. If purchased through a dealer, please contact them for instructions.