

# Hand Carders



## What are they?

Hand carders are used to card wool, making it much easier to spin into yarn. Carding separates, straightens and aligns the fibres, similar to brushing.

## What was it used for?

A small amount of wool is brushed between the carders. This is repeated until the wool has transferred from one card to the other. The carders are then swapped and the action is repeated.

The wool is then rolled into a roll known as a rolag, ready to be spun into yarn that could be used to knit garments, or woven to make cloth.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Sheep wool contains a natural oil or grease called lanolin. This makes it easy on the hands to work with, and adds water resistance to the finished garment.



## Brief History

Wool has been in use since sheep were first introduced by Neolithic farmers over 6000 years ago.

After the sheep were shorn there was a supply of wool for the family to make into clothes and blankets. The wool was carded and spun to make yarn.



Woman carding wool

Image: NMI Collection

Hand carding was a tedious and repetitive job. Children often carded the wool, and the women in the house would spin it into yarn.



Spinning and carding wool, Ardara, Co Donegal

Image: NMI Collection

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# Cardálaithe Láimhe



Bailiúchán Láimhseála AMÉ

## Céard atá ann?

Baintear úsáid as cardálaithe láimhe chun olann a chardáil, rud a fhágann go bhfuil sé i bhfad níos éasca a shní isteach i snáth. Déanann cardáil na snáthíní a scaradh, a dhíriú agus a ailíniú, amhail scuabadh.

## Cén úsáid a mbaintear as?

Déantar méid beag olla a scuabadh idir na cardálaithe. Déantar é seo arís go dtí go n-aistríodh an olann ó chardálaí amháin go cardálaí eile. Déantar na cardálaithe a mhalartú ina dhiaidh sin agus athdhéantar an gníomh.

Déantar an olann a rolladh i rollán ina dhiaidh sin, ar a dtugtar rollóg, réidh le sníomh ina snáth a d'fhéadfaí a úsáid chun éadaí a chniotáil, nó le sníomh ina héadach.

AN RAIBH A  
FHIOS AGAT?

Tá ola nádúrtha nó bealadh ar a dtugtar úsc olla in olann chaorach. Fágann sé seo go bhfuil sí éasca ar na lámha agus tú ag obair leis, agus cuireann sé friotaíocht uisce leis an éadaí críochnaithe.



## Stair Ghairid

Tá olann in úsáid ó thug feirmeoirí Neoiliteacha caoirigh isteach den chéad uair níos mó ná 6000 bliain ó shin.

Tar éis do na caoirigh a bheith lomtha, bhí soláthar ollla ann don teaghlach chun éadaí agus blaincéid a dhéanamh. Rinneadh an olann a chardáil agus a shní chun snáth a dhéanamh.



Mná ag cardáil olla  
Pictiúr: Bailiúchán AMÉ

Ba thasc leadránach agus athchleachtach é cardáil láimhe. Ba mhinic a rinne na leanaí an olann a chardáil, agus rinne na mná sa teach í a shní ina snáth.



Ag sní agus ag cardáil olla, Ard an Rátha, Co Dhún na nGall  
Pictiúr: Bailiúchán AMÉ

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