



## Old Time Crafts and Cooks

# Button Spinner

### Supplies Needed:

- Large Button with 4 holes
- String

### History:

Do you have a favourite toy? Do you remember where it came from? Chances are, that before it came to you, your beloved toy was in a store on a shelf with dozens of other toys just like it. Maybe you and your best friend even have the same toy. For settler children the nearest store could be several kilometers away and probably didn't have a very large selection of toys to choose from. Even then, there was not a lot of extra money to spend on toys. Many toys for the children were homemade. One classic example is a button spinner. It was usually easy enough to grab one of mother's old buttons and a length of yarn.

### How To:

For this craft you will need a large button, one with four holes works best, and a length of string or yarn.

1. First thing we'll do is put the string through one hole.
2. Now cross the middle of the button with the string and put it through the hole in the diagonal, the opposite way that the string was through the first hole.
3. Tie the two ends of the string together tightly.
4. Hold the knotted string between your thumb and forefinger. With your other hand hold the looped end of the string that was through the buttonholes between your index finger and thumb. The button should now rest in the middle of the string.
5. Rotate both wrists to circle the button away from you. This will tighten the string between the button and your hands.
6. Now stop.
7. Gently move your hands in and out while still holding the string. The effect should be the button spinning in opposite directions as you move your hands.
8. It is a bit of a skill to really get it going, but practice makes perfect!
9. Once you get the hang of it you can challenge your friends to see who can make the button spin the longest!