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Press Release  
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## Schacht Spindle Co, Inc. Celebrates 40 Years of Passion

Boulder, Colorado. This year marks Schacht Spindle Co., Inc.'s 40<sup>th</sup> year of making quality tools for spinners and weavers. What started by chance soon became not just a livelihood, but a deep and passionate involvement in the crafts of hand spinning and hand weaving.

Schacht Spindle Co., Inc. is a leading manufacturer and supplier of unique, innovative, quality tools for the spinning and weaving market. From the beginning, Schacht has been respected for its superior products designed with the craftsman in mind. "These aren't just off-the-shelf products," asserts company consultant, Melissa Ludden. "The thing that makes Schacht great in addition to the incredible attention to detail and service, is that Schacht approaches things like new product design with a sense of humor to create equipment with personality. It's not a production line thing. I feel so proud every time I read something or hear someone talk about how much they love their Cricket or Ladybug or any other piece of equipment. Schacht has an incredibly loyal following because they're different."

"What has made coming to work pure pleasure all of these years," remarks President Barry Schacht, "is being involved in a field for which I have great passion. This deep interest is what shapes and directs everything we do here at Schacht, from product design, to customer service, to our relationships with our dealers, employees, and vendors."

"We really try to live by our mission statement," notes Schacht. "Our goal from the beginning has been to make products that are unique, well-crafted, a pleasure to use, and work well for their intended purpose. In addition, we are committed to quality and creativity in our products, manufacturing processes, and customer service. I firmly believe that these guiding principles have helped us to grow and succeed—as well as made every day something I look forward to."

As part of their year-long celebration, Schacht will launch a new website in March, sponsor a contest, introduce special limited-edition products, and offer events during Spinning and Weaving Week. Look for updates and special offers for Schacht's Fab Forty Celebration on the Schacht website: [www.schachtspindle.com](http://www.schachtspindle.com)

The company sells its products through a worldwide network of specialty retail craft stores and websites, as well as school suppliers.

**History:** Schacht Spindle Co., Inc. was founded in 1969 during the back-to-earth movement and its accompanying craft resurgence by brothers Barry and Dan Schacht. The brothers ran the company together until 1995 when Dan left to establish his own successful custom millwork business.

The brothers began the business by chance when a friend wanted to learn to spin. Dan and Barry heard about Greentree Ranch in Loveland, Colorado, where the Green family raised sheep and taught spinning. One day the brothers, assorted friends and dogs hopped in their van and drove up to the ranch. Not only did they get a quick lesson in the art of the drop spindle, but they also came home with a commission to make 200 spindles.

When they delivered the spindles, the Greens were delighted, especially with the little green tree they had hand painted on each one. Louise Green, who was just starting to weave, suggested they make a simple loom. "What's a loom?" they asked.

The first model was a portable tapestry loom, a version of which Schacht still makes today. To spread the word about weaving, they taught classes at the Boulder Free School, and soon opened a retail shop to serve their students.

In the beginning, they designed simple looms and accessories at one of the university's woodworking shops. Early manufacturing was handled with the help of a commune and a retired woodworker in Loveland. Later, the brothers set up a shop in their garage, and from there they moved through a series of "real" factory spaces with honest-to-goodness power equipment. In 1985, they built their own 20,000 square foot factory in Boulder, where the business still resides, and expanded the facility to 35,000 square feet a few years later.

**The Schacht Sheep:** Since 1969, the Schacht sheep, a flock of Cheviot and Border Leicester sheep have been associated with quality hand weaving and hand spinning products. These now-famous sheep became the Schacht logo quite by chance. In the early days, as Barry Schacht was touring the Irish countryside, he spied these sheep at the top of a hill and feeling a burst of inspiration, snapped their picture from his car window.

**Products:** Schacht Spindle Co., Inc., manufactures and distributes a broad range of equipment for hand weaving and hand spinning. Weaving products include everything from small table looms to large, sophisticated floor looms, along with all of the tools necessary to weave. Spinning products include a broad range of spinning wheels and the accompanying tools. The full product line can be found on the Schacht website at [www.schachtspindle.com](http://www.schachtspindle.com).

**Distribution:** Schacht Spindle Co., Inc., sells through knowledgeable specialty stores and websites, school suppliers, as well as directly to university and educational institutions. Their website has a listing of all referral dealers. Dealership information can be requested at [info@schachtspindle.com](mailto:info@schachtspindle.com)

**Headquarters:** Schacht Spindle Company, Inc., is located in Boulder, Colorado.

**Current Leadership:** Barry Schacht is the President and CEO. Jane Patrick, Barry's wife, joined the company in 1995 and is Vice President of Sales and Marketing, as well as the company's Creative Director.

**Mission Statement:** Our mission is to spend each and every day in support of hand weaving and hand spinning. Our goal is to make products that are unique, well-crafted, a pleasure to use, and work well for their intended purpose. We are committed to quality and creativity in our products, manufacturing processes, and customer service. It is important to us to cultivate the best relationships possible with our co-workers, customers, and suppliers. We use sound and honest business practices to create a profitable and successful company, and we will do so while acting in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. We will make every attempt to honor and sustain the crafts we love.