

Make a Button Spinner

Spinning toys made from disks with holes in the center and pieces of string go back hundreds of years in many cultures.

This is the version we made as kids on rainy days when we had to stay indoors!

Make your Spinner

- 1. Find a button (maybe there is a jar of loose buttons somewhere at your house). The bigger (and heavier) the button, the better. Buttons with two holes or four holes both work.**
- 2. Find some string (or sewing thread, if your button is small). The string needs to be thin enough to slide easily through the holes in the button without binding, so the button can spin easily. Kite string is usually great! Cut a three-foot piece of string.**
- 3. Thread each end of your string through a hole in your button. If you are using a button with four holes, thread the string through holes that are diagonal from each other.**
- 4. Tie the loose ends of the string together. Any kind of knot will work.**

Make it Spin

- 5. Slide the button to the center of the loop of string. Hold the string with one or two fingers through each side of the loop.**
- 6. Make circles away from you with your hands to swing the button and twist the string up to the button on both sides.**
- 7. Now, pull your hands apart gently. This will unwind the twists in the string and make the button spin. Try to feel the right time to move your hands together again and let the string re-twist. Every button spinner is different, so you will have to experiment!**
- 8. With practice, you will be able to make the button spin for as long as you want, and make it spin slower or faster!**

Some button spinners make a humming or buzzing sound as they spin, and this gives the toy its alternate name, "Buzz-Saw".

I still like making button spinners and playing with them - Have fun!

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