Winders are machines that turn long lengths of nonwoven fabric into rolls. Most winders roll the fabric onto paper tubes called cores though some winders can make rolls without cores. There are many types of winders. The simplest winder is a two roll winder as shown in the photo below. Winders can have top riding rolls to aid in compaction and variable speed main winding rolls to be able to set a draft between the rolls. Winders can have cut off devices and automatic methods to load cores and start a new roll of fabric. Some winders even have knife systems to facilitate taking samples. On high speed lines the winders will often be made so they can start a new roll of fabric “on the fly”. This way the winder never stops and an accumulator device is not needed.

The ability to slit the fabric is usually built into winders. Some have complex systems for producing many narrow rolls of fabric while some just use slitting to trim the edges. A special type of winder, called a sliter-rewinder, is used for cutting parent rolls of fabric into narrow rolls of usually shorter lengths. This is usually done apart from the production line and is called off-line slitting.

“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

Alvin Toffler