



Spinderella's Creations Guide to Making Felt

Felt is the process of making a non woven fabric by using animal fibers like wool, alpaca, mohair, etc, and causing them to tangle together to make a fabric.

Felt : "A textile structure composed entirely of fibers physically interlocked and consolidated by the utilization of mechanical work, chemical action and moisture without the use of weaving, knitting, stitching, thermal bonding or adhesives."
(Committee on Textiles of the American Society for Testing and Materials)

Making a durable, usable felt is a fun project and requires time and muscle. It is easy once you learn a few simple steps.

Things you'll need:

- Carded wool roving or batts
- Dawn or a mild detergent
- You might want to make a soap solution of olive oil soap and water
(grate up 1/4 of a bar of olive oil soap and pour a couple of quarts of boiling water over it. Stir to dissolve and leave overnight to cool.)
- Plastic
- Plastic Gloves if you want
- Bowl of hot water or sprayer
- Bubble wrap
- Pool Noodle
- Toile

We suggest learning to felt a small amount at a time. Choose a size like, 12" x 12" so the piece is not so large it discourages you to finish the piece. This will also give you a "feel" for what the fibers do and act like when they are being felted.



Instructions:

From Roving:

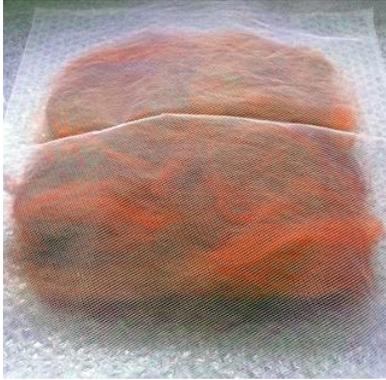
From your roving, pull off tufts and lay it on your bubble wrap.

If using batts, simple layer the batts on top of each other using the same principles laid out here.

Taking more tufts of roving, add another layer, this time going the opposite way.



Add one more layer going the original way and cover with tulle or netting



Now it is time to wet the fibers using a cup, bail or spray bottle.

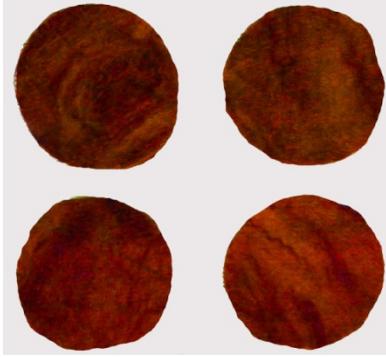


Now roll your creation up using a pool noodle, wrapping the bubble wrap with it. Tie with a piece of sting or cloth. I use nylon strips I use when weaving, but it doesn't matter what you use.

Begin to roll this piece back and forth about 100 times. Now unroll the piece carefully, checking to see if it needs more water. You will see dry spots on the beginning fabric. Now roll it back up again from the opposite direction. Roll this back and forth about 100 times and unroll.

Now take the netting or tulle off the piece and roll it again, from the opposite direction. Know that whichever direction you are rolling it will shrink in that direction. So if you want it not to be as long, simple give the piece a quarter turn and proceed.

Continue rolling and unrolling until you have felt. You will know by performing a pinch test. Take your thumb and forefinger into the felt and



pinch pull to see if you can pull a layer of fiber apart. Once you cannot pull it apart, your felt is done.

The final step before using is to “full” the fabric. This is done by folding the felt and dropping or throwing it in a sink. Rinse your felt and go make something fun. Maybe some coasters or how about a

book or phone cover.

Once you learn the simple step of felting, you can make larger and larger felt- maybe enough to make yourself a jacket!

ENJOY your creation!

Courtesy of Spinderella's Creations

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