



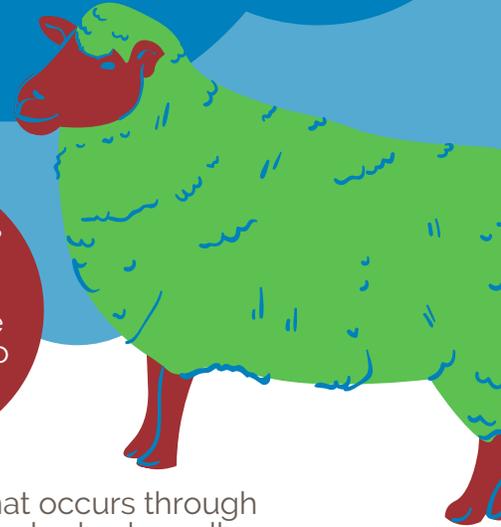
# Needle Felting Take & Make Kit

## Kit contents

- barbed felting needle
- foam block
- wool roving
- band-aid

**Need more colors?**  
Dye wool with food coloring or Kool-Aid

**Wool contains lanolin, a natural oil.**  
Some people are allergic to lanolin.



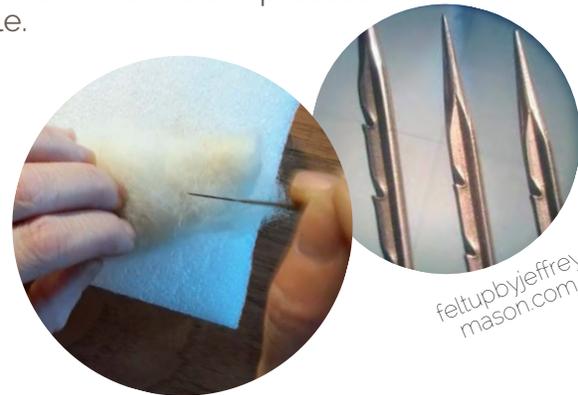
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## What is felting?

Felting is an irreversible fiber fusing method that occurs through heat or agitation, such as repeated snarling by a barbed needle. Felting occurs when the keratin scales on each wool fiber lift up, allowing the fibers to tangle with each other. This ancient process creates a sturdy and tear-resistant textile.

## Safety tips

- Accidentally stabbing yourself with a barbed needle hurts! We gave you a band-aid, but we don't want you to need to use it!
- While felting, hold your felt like a chef holds an onion: palm down, with just your fingertips holding the felt against the foam. Always work on top of the foam.
- Move the needle straight up and down and try not to bend it. Felting needles snap easily!



feltupbyjeffreymason.com



## Design

- Design your needle felting sculpture. What components will you make to create it?



## Body

- Loop wool into the rough shape of your sculpture.
- Place the wool on the mat and repeatedly poke the barbed needle up and down.



## Appendages

- Create appendages separately and tack them to the main structure with needle pokes.
- Once firmly attached, trim excess wool.

# Felting Techniques



## Armatures

- Bend pipe cleaners into an armature, an internal framework around which to build your sculpture.
- Wrap the pipe cleaners in wool and begin using your needle, taking care not to strike the wire with your fragile needle.
- Check out this tutorial: [tinyurl.com/WireArmature](http://tinyurl.com/WireArmature)

## Equal sizes

- If your design calls for multiple shapes of equal sizes like wings or ears, begin by dividing your wool into equal piles. Once you've felted one paw, it can be hard to remember how much wool it contains.
- When dividing roving, gently tease it apart along the grain.

## Intricate details

- When creating intricate details on the surface of your sculpture, begin by shaping the felt in your hands. Once you have an approximate shape created - tiny spheres for eyes, for example - place them on your sculpture and needle them until they are fused in place.
- You'll notice that poking repeatedly in one place creates a smooth indent. Use that technique to sculpt details.

## Flat shapes

- To create flat pieces, lay the wool on the foam, and needle felt it into shape, flipping it over frequently to prevent it from adhering to the foam.
- Leave a loose "comet's tail" to attach these shapes to your sculpture.

## Wet felting

- Try wet felting, a felting technique using warm water and agitation to fuse fibers.
- Check out Sierra's tutorial for wet felting around a bar of soap here: [tinyurl.com/FeltSoap](http://tinyurl.com/FeltSoap)

## Keep Exploring



Check out the needle felting tutorials on ImagineIF's arts and crafts site Creativebug. Get started at [imagineiflibraries.org](http://imagineiflibraries.org)



Add scrap wool from home to your projects for extra color



Be inspired by other artists' needle felt creations like these hyperrealistic cat portraits by Japanese artist Wakuneco ([waku-neco.com](http://waku-neco.com))



Flickr user Casey9499