

Artful Dodges - Notes on Basic Felt Making Workshop

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You will need:

Merino wool tops, various colours . Towel . Bubble wrap . Water shaker (old plastic bottle filled with hand hot water and small holes pierced in the lid) . Bamboo mat

1. Lay out a piece of bubble wrap, bubbles facing upwards.
2. Choose a background colour of wool. Pull out thin tufts of this wool and lay these down onto the bubble wrap in rows, each tuft of wool slightly overlapping the previous tuft (approx. square 20x20 cm)
3. Add a second layer using the same coloured wool, at right angles to the first layer.
4. Add a third layer using the same coloured wool, at right angles to the second layer.
5. Make a picture or pattern out of little tufts of different coloured wool and yarns. Drift a very thin layer of wool fibres over the yarn or any man made fibres used to lock them on to the surface of the felt.
6. Shake water over the wool until it is no longer fluffy, put a piece of bubble wrap on top (bubbles facing down wards) smoothing it down gently. You may use a little soap with the water but it isn't necessary for this project.
7. Moisten the surface of the bubble wrap and rub it all over for several minutes until the wool underneath mats together. The heat and friction causes little tiny 'hooks' or scales on the wool fibres to open out and lock together ...forming FELT.
8. The felt is holding together now but still delicate. Make a roll of the bubble wrap (felt still inside) and roll it backwards and forwards several times. Remove the bubble wrap and roll the felt inside the bamboo mat, backwards and forwards several times. This hardens the felt off ... see how it has shrunk. Now your felt can be rinsed and dried and admired!

Suppliers:

Wingham Wool Works
Fibre crafts
Specialist Crafts

Merino Wool and Angelina fibre (sparkly)

www.winghamwoolwork.co.uk

www.fibre crafts.com

www.specialistcrafts.co.uk