

Discover the Art of Needle Felting

Build your own masterpiece from a beautiful garden to climbing ivy; now you can knit something quick and embellish it with textured art.

About needle felting

Needle felting uses special barbed needles to adhere the fibers of an appliqué to a base fabric to create a permanent design. The in-and-out motion of the needles provides a very localized version of the same type of agitation that happens in your washing machine when you felt a whole project. The small size of the needles allows you to create very detailed and intricate designs.



Getting ready to start

Clover has designed a new tool that makes needle felting much faster and safer than it used to be when we used single needles and just stabbed away at the fabric. It seems like one of the first things everyone did when learning to needle felt was to painfully stab themselves in a finger or thumb. The large, comfortable handle of the Needle Felting tool holds 5 felting needles that are surrounded by a protective plastic sheath. When the tool is pressed down on the fabric to be felted, the sheath slides up to let the needles plunge into the fabric. This protective sheath prevents accidental stabbings and keeps the needles directed at just the spot on the design that you want to secure to the base fabric.

Inspirational sources for needle felting designs are everywhere! Look through old embroidery books, crazy quilt books, quilting and painting stencils, even clip art. You can memorialize kids' refrigerator art by replicating it on a felted school bag or backpack. Monogram scarves, hats, mittens and bags. Add little curlicue designs to the toes of felted slippers. You can outline a design with yarn, then fill in the center with yarn, roving or fleece to create solid colored appliqués.

To Use the Needle Felting Tool

- 1) Position your design on the base fabric.
- 2) Carefully pick up the base fabric and place it on the Needle Felting Mat. Or, if you are needle felting onto something three-dimensional like a hat or bag, slip the Needle Felting Mat inside, under the base fabric where the design is to be felted.
- 3) Lightly tamp down your design with the Needle Felting Tool, then review to make sure it is as you want it. At this point, you can still gently remove and rearrange things before you do the final securing.
- 4) Once you have the design placed as you want it, secure it with repeated "punches" of the Needle Felting Tool to make it permanent. You will want to stop once the design is embedded in the base fabric, but before it gets punched down so far it appears muddled with the base fabric.
- 5) You can create your design in stages, perhaps outlining shapes, then going back to fill them in. The small punching surface of the Needle Felting Tool allows for great maneuverability and design intricacy so you can either felt your design in layers or move step by step across it.

You will find that needle felting is addictive. Play with twisting two different colors of yarn together or see how a hand-dyed yarn turns out when felted to a solid color base fabric. You can also sew on buttons and beads to give even more dimension to your designs.



Needle Felting Tool

Equipped with 5 fine tipped needles so you are ready to begin straight from the package. Safety lock to keep protective casing over needles when not in use.

The fine tipped needles included work well with roving or fleece. If you want to use yarn for your design we recommend using the heavy tipped needles sold separately below.

80307 Retail \$16.50 **Your Cost \$13.20 Save 20%**

Available at http://www.knitpicks.com/tools/tools_display.aspx?itemid=80307



Needle Felting Mat

Use with the Needle Felting Tool, the brush-like mat enables smooth punching with little resistance, allowing the fibers of the appliqué to mesh well with the base fabric. Use a comb to remove any stray lint after each project. 6¼" x 4½".

80308 Retail \$17.50 **Your Cost \$14.00 Save 20%**

Available at http://www.knitpicks.com/tools/tools_display.aspx?itemid=80308



Felting Needle Refill (Fine Weight)

Replacement needles come in sets of 5. To be used exclusively with the Needle Felting Tool. Recommended for working with roving or fleece.

80309 Retail \$7.50

Your Cost \$6.00 Save 20%

Available at http://www.knitpicks.com/tools/tools_display.aspx?itemid=80309



Felting Needle Refill (Heavy Weight)

Replacement needles come in sets of 5. To be used exclusively with the Needle Felting Tool. Recommended for working with any weight yarn.

80310 Retail \$7.50

Your Cost \$6.00 Save 20%

Available at http://www.knitpicks.com/tools/tools_display.aspx?itemid=80310