

CRAFTKIT



Abstract Felting

Craft Kit #18 Instructions

Step 1: Using scissors, carefully cut out your design from your colorful prefelt

Step 2: Arrange your cut prefelt piece onto the white piece of prefelt until you are happy with your composition. Then place the design on a large plate.

Step 3: Gently pour warm, soapy water over your design making sure the entire design is wet. Pieces may shift during this step, so just try your best to place them back in the right spot!

Step 4: Once the design is wet, put some warm soapy water on your hands and begin to gently rub your pieces into the white prefelt.

Step 5: Continue this step for 5-8 minutes, making sure your pieces are fully adhering to the prefelt underneath. You can begin rubbing harder and can even turn your piece upside down and rub from the other side switching back and forth.

Step 6: Once your design feels blended together well, ball it up in your hand to squeeze out the excess soapy water. Rinse your design and lay flat on a towel.

Step 7: Add embellishments by sewing down yarn or other craft materials. Add hand embroidery for extra composition!

For more information about the exhibition and step-by-step instructions,
visit: www.108contemporary.org/resources

Use the hash tag #108CraftKits when sharing your artwork on social media!



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CONTEMPORARY

Art. Craft. Design.

The State of Craft: Oklahoma Members

December 1st – January 21st

Craft Kit #18

Abstract Felting

What is felt?

- Felt is a textile material that is produced by matting, condensing, and pressing fibers together. Felt can be made of natural fibers such as wool, or from synthetic fibers such as acrylic, or wood pulp-based rayon.



History of Felt

- Wool felt is one of the oldest known textiles, thought to have been discovered over 5000 years ago in Asia.
- It has been used in clothing, as decorative rugs, and even tents and yurts!
- Artists and craftsmen use felt today for its extreme versatility and flexibility.

What is prefelt?

- Prefelt is the stage between fluffy wool fibers and fully felted wool. It can be purchased in sheets or made by hand.
- Since it is partly felted, prefelt is able to hold its shape while you are working with it. It can be used to create an image with sharper, more detailed edges.
- Prefelt is used in both wet and needle felting. It can be used as an embellishment or as a piece of art on its own!

Wet felting vs. needle felting

- Wet felting is the term used to describe the method of making felt by wetting and agitating the fibres. This process, which we will use for our project, involves warm water and soap.
- Needle felting is done by rolling a small amount of wool and stabbing it repeatedly, adhering the fibers to one another and compacting the wool.

Examples of Prefelt



This is an example of what a prefelt design would look like before it has been wet down.

The squares shapes have been cut from prefelt and will blend with the fibers beneath it

From Lithuanian artist, Nadin Smo

Prefelt Design: before and after

As you can see, the artist has used prefelt as well as soft wool and yarn as an extra embellishment



Finished Prefelt Design

Details of prefelt which have been added to a wool jacket



Let's begin!

- To start, think of what you want your composition to be
- You can make something representational which means something something recognizable like a flower, a cat, or a building
- Or you can create something abstract meaning simplified shapes that are not meant to accurately depict an object or a person

What is a composition?

- Composition is the placement or arrangement of visual elements.
- The ways in which objects are oriented in relation to each other in an artwork.



Example of *Representational*



Adriaen van der Spelt 1658

Example of *Abstract*



Wassily Kandinsky, 1910

Step 1

- Using scissors, carefully cut out your design from your colorful prefelt



Step 2

- Arrange your cut prefelt onto the white piece of prefelt until you are happy with your composition. Then place the design on a large plate



Step 3

- Gently pour warm, soapy water over your design making sure the entire design is wet. Pieces may shift during this step, so just try your best to place them back in the right spot!



Step 4

- Once the design is wet, put some warm soapy water on your hands and begin to gently rub your pieces into the white prefelt.



Step 5

- Continue this step for 5-8 minutes, making sure your pieces are fully adhering to the prefelt underneath. You can begin rubbing harder and can even turn your piece upside down and rub from the other side switching back and forth.
- To see if the prefelt is fully adhered, rinse off some of the soapy water. If your design can still lift up from the white background, add more soapy water and continue massaging the pieces together

Step 6

- Once your design feels blended together well, ball it up in your hand to squeeze out the excess soapy water. Rinse your design and lay flat on a towel



Step 7

- Add some embellishment with embroidered on yarn. Use the needle and thread from you craft kit and stitch the yarn on to your design!



Final Step

- Use your abstract design to embellish a piece of clothing or hang your masterpiece on the wall!
- For stability, try tacking it onto a small piece of cardboard or foam board then pin with tacks.

Resources

- Felting background: <http://www.madehow.com/Volume-7/Felt.html>
- Wet felt: <http://www.craftexpert.co.uk/wet-felting-make-your-own-wet-felt.html>
- History of wool and felt:
<https://www.contrado.co.uk/blog/what-is-felt/>
- Needling felting: <https://bearcreekfelting.com/felting-101/>