

## Needle Felted Ornament Instructions

### Supplies needed:

- Felting mat: Protects the table and helps prevent the needle from breaking. Can be foam, wool, or a brush.
- Finger cots: Protective covering for fingers.
- Felting needle: Felting needles have barbs in them - the barbs catch on the wool and help to tangle the fibers to create felt.
- Handle: Makes the needle easier to grip.
- Wool roving (plain and colored): A long bundle of cleaned wool with fibers lying in the same direction.
- Ornament top

### *SAFETY FIRST!*

*Felting needles are VERY sharp!*

*Go slow, pay attention.*

*Use your finger cots.*

*Be sure to do your felting on a tabletop or other solid surface.*

**Step 1:** Put felting needle into handle by removing small wooden insert, turning needle around, and reinserting both pieces into the handle.

**Step 2:** Grab a chunk of undyed wool.

- To separate, you can split it gently lengthwise OR
- you can “break” wool by grabbing firmly with hands separated at a good distance and pulling. If it’s hard, try separating your hands more.

**Step 3:** Roll/wrap plain wool roving into a ball shape (more or less)

**Step 4:** Place wool down on foam mat and start to poke with needle - watch your fingers!

- Poke straight up and down.
- Poke gently but firmly - don’t push all the way through the wool.
- Continue to turn and poke the wool as you shape it into a ball until it’s fairly firm. Add more wool in layers as needed to make it the size that you like.

This takes TIME and PATIENCE!

**Step 5:** Add wisps of colored wool on the surface of the ball and poke, poke, poke! Continue adding small amounts of wool until the surface is covered.

**Step 6:** Add any designs or additional colors that you like - be creative!

**Step 7:** Once you’re happy with your ornament, add the top.

Attach the top by poking the needle through both the top and the ball. Continue until it feels firmly attached.

**Step 8:** When you’re done, you can trim any stray fuzzies using scissors.

Now you have the tools - explore what else you can create!