

needle felted bears



Be your own Goldilocks by creating this family of adorable bears.



materials

- wool rovings – multi colours
- felting needle
- Clover needle felting mat or foam block
- 4 tiny buttons
- hand needle & thread
- 2 black beads
- narrow ribbon
- scissors

step 1

Pick up a little of the roving and tease out some fibres, lay them on the foam block in a crisscross fashion; this will make the finished shape stronger. Pick up the felting needle and push the needle into the fibres in a straight up and down action (if you twist the felting needle as you push it into the fibres it will snap as the hardened steel is brittle). Pick up the matted fibres and move them on the foam after every few stabs with the needle or the fibres will become imbedded in the foam. Put the felting needle down, pick up the fibres in your hands and start to form a ball shape by rolling the fibres between your fingers. Keep alternating between needling the wool and rolling it in your hands until the ball is the right size and firmness.

step 2

Make one ball for the head and one larger oval shape for the torso. Attach them to each other to form the body of the bear by pushing the felting needle through both balls until the fibres matt together.

step 3

Make one medium ball and cut in half to create two equal sized ears and one smaller ball for the muzzle, and needle them onto the head.

step 4

For the arms and legs make a sausage shape by rolling the fibres in your hands. Keep alternating between needling the wool and rolling it in your hands until it is the right length and firmness for the arms. Make the legs 15mm longer than the arms and create feet by folding over the end of the leg and needling into the heels. Needle the arms and legs onto the torso and finish by sewing four small buttons over each joint.

step 5

Use a small amount of contrasting coloured wool to needle eye sockets and inner ears. Roll a couple of fibres of black in the palm of your hand to form a small ball and needle this onto the muzzle to form the nose. Roll a couple of black fibres in the palm of your hand to form a small cone and needle this onto the face to form the mouth. Sew a black bead into each eye. Finish by tying a ribbon around the neck.

handy hints

- **Safety** – Felting needles are made of hardened steel so they are sharp & brittle. Be careful when using & handling them. Always work away from yourself & insert the needle into the wool fibres in a straight up & down action. If you twist the felting needle as you push it in it will snap.
- Always use a **foam block or felting mat** under your work & remember to lift your work every so often so that it doesn't matt onto the block.
- **Store** felting needles in a dry place, out of reach of children & pets.
- **Dispose** of broken needles in the same way as other sharps.
- Use a Clover needle felting tool, which holds five felting needles, to cover **larger areas**. Keep the single felting needle for awkward areas, corners & fiddly bits.