

Needle Felted Gnome

Step by step instructions for needle felting an adorable gnome.



Here are a few gnomes I have made. Let your imagination take over and have fun creating your own unique design!



Supplies

1. 38 Gauge and 40 Gauge felting needles
2. Recommended but optional: Multi-needle Punch tool (Clover brand is best)
3. Felting Surface
4. Ruler or straight edge
5. Chop-stick or small dowel stick
6. Toothpick
7. Core wool



8. Short Fiber wool for body, hat and nose/ears
9. Curly locks or other fiber for beard (such as yarn, silk or viscose fiber, or other long staple length wool)



Start with two lengths of core wool that are about ten inches each.

Divide the wool into $\frac{1}{4}$ width sections. It is easiest to divide the wool by pulling it apart in the middle and then separating it up and down the length of the wool.



You should have 8 lengths of wool that are about an inch wide each.

Depending on the thickness of your core wool, you may need to divide it more or less than I have here.



We will begin building the body of the gnome by wrapping the chopstick with core wool.

Starting in the center of your chopstick (about 6 inches from the end) wrap evenly down the length of the stick to the end.

Tip #1:

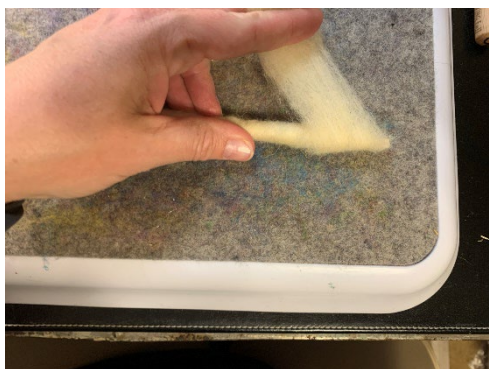
Be sure to keep the wool from twisting as you wrap. You want it to be flat like a ribbon, so you don't end up with an uneven shape.



Stop wrapping right before you get to the end of the chopstick.

Tip #2:

If you wrap tight enough, you shouldn't need to felt much at all with your needle.



If you have more wool left, angle the wool back towards the middle of the chopstick and wrap back down the chopstick.

You should have a tight point to the end of the wool, like the point of a cone.



Finish wrapping the length of wool and smooth the surface with your fingers. You can lightly felt in any fiber that is loose or sticking out with your 38G needle.



Starting where your last strip of wool left off, continue to wrap with another length of wool in the same method as above.



Again, you may need to felt a little bit with your 38G needle to smooth the surface and keep the shape tight against the stick.

Caution! Avoid hitting the chopstick with your needle by poking gently into the wool that is on either side of the chopstick, not directly on top. If you hit the chopstick you may bend or break your needle, so be careful!



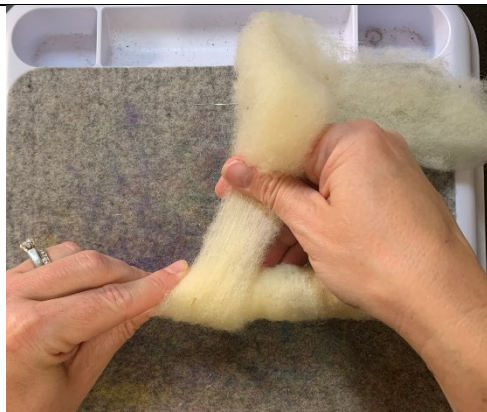
Tip #3:

Try to keep your fingers tight against the end of your wool (center of chopstick, my left hand in the picture). This will keep the wool from slipping over onto the left side of the chopstick – causing your gnome to grow larger.



Tip #4

When adding another strip of wool, hold the end down on the body with your non-dominant fingers....



Tip #4 Continued:

With your dominant hand, hold the wool, grasping close to the body, and keeping it pulled tight as you wrap it around. If you grasp the wool too far down the strip you will likely pull the wool apart and/or the wool will be too loose on the stick.



Once your body is about 1 – 1.5” thick, you will want to start building up the bottom half of the body.



Take a strip of wool and wrap just the bottom half (left end in picture) of the body.



You may need to wrap two or three strips on this end to build it up to your desired size.



Once the bottom half is the size you want it to be, continue wrapping to the top of the body to create a cone shape like this.



Spend a few minutes felting the cone shape with your 38G needle. You want the core to be fairly firm and even all the way around.



Tip the cone up on it's end and felt the end of the cone flat around the chopstick.

This is going to be the bottom of your gnome, so if it is flat and firm, it will stand up easier.

Once the core is firmly felted, slide it off of the chopstick.



Adding color for the body:

Take a strip of top coat wool and wrap the bottom ½ of the core. Depending on how thick your beard and hair is, you may or may not see this color.

Needle felt this with your 38G needle until the surface is well felted and smooth.



Cover the bottom of the cone with more top coat wool.



Felt the color onto the bottom, wrapping the wool up over the edge onto the sides of the body.



Felt with your 38G needle until smooth, adding more colored wool where you may see bare spots.



Preparing for the hat:

Take a strip of your wool you are using for the hat and wrap just the top end (2-3 inches) of the cone. We will make the rest of the hat later so don't worry if there is an area of core showing between the body and the hat color.



Felt this using the 38G needle until the surface is smooth and tight.



Nose:

Take a strip of skin tone wool that is about 1 inch in width. Begin wrapping your toothpick tightly.



Wrap the wool around the toothpick so that the wool is only about 1.5 inches wide.

Tip# 5:

If you wrap the wool using a "figure 8" technique, you will have a much tighter shape. In this picture the wool is wrapped towards the right....



Tip #5 continued:

As I wrapped the wool around the end of the toothpick, I shifted the direction I'm pulling it towards the left. This will create a point of wool on either end with the thickest part being in the center of the shape.



Your nose should look like a football on the toothpick.

Felt with your 40G needle to get the desired shape and to make sure the wool will hold together when you take it off the toothpick.



Gently slide the wool from the toothpick. Felt one end of the wool to create a rounded end. This will be the tip of the nose. Leave the other end fluffy for now.



Continue felting if needed to adjust the shape and to make sure it is firmly felted.



Place the nose on the body just below the top edge of the body color (fluffy end should be at the top). Using the fluffy end of the nose, felt it onto the body with the 40G needle.



Gently felt around the edge of the nose to attach it on all sides



Ears:

Wrap a thin (1/2" wide) strip of wool around the toothpick like you did the nose above. Again, the shape should look like a football – pointed on the ends, thicker in the middle. Make two of these.



Holding the ear down on the ends with one hand, carefully felt the center to flatten it. Do this to both ear shapes.



The left ear in both pictures has been felted flat in the middle.



Take the ear and fold it into a “C” shape.

If you want pointed ears, felt the top end a bit to create a point leaving the bottom end fluffy for now. Then skip to the attachment step below.



Again, carefully hold the folded ear shape with one hand and felt it with your 38G needle until it holds the “C” shape.



I Like to make the ears one right after the other before attaching them, so I am sure they are the same size and shape.

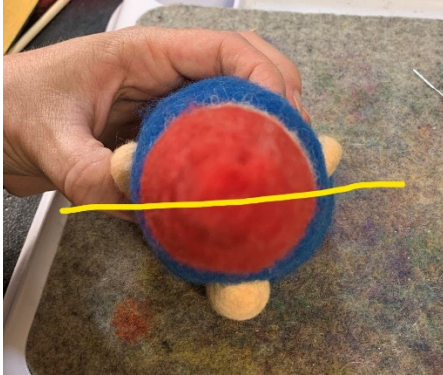


Placement of the ear on the gnome:

The ears should be attached at the same level as the nose. When we add the hat, the lower edge of the hat will be attached right above the nose and ears.



Using your 40G needle, attach the ear using the fluffy ends of the "C" Shape.



To make sure the ears are placed opposite each other on the head, I look at the gnome from above and place your finger where the second ear should go.



Attach with your 40G needle.



Curly tip/end



Blunt or Cut End

Beard and Hair:

You can have a beard and hair or just a beard if you like.

Start by separating your locks from each other. Look for the curly tips of the locks.



Separate your locks by holding the curly tips and pulling it away from the other locks so you don't lose the curl structure. If you just start pulling them apart randomly, you will end up with a fuzzy mess.



Begin by attaching locks to form the beard first.

Start at the ear and place 2 or 3 locks next to each other on the head, felting each lock's cut end to the head. Then, place 2 or 3 more locks next to the first moving down the face on a diagonal toward the chin, like a natural beard grows on a face.



Once the beard is felted in place, pick two nice locks for the mustache.

- Lay one lock across the face just under the nose. Felt it to the face just in the center of the lock.
- Now fold the lock so that both ends are on one side of the nose and felt the folded end that is under the center of the nose. You will have half of a mustache.
- Repeat this process for the other side of the mustache.



Adding Hair:

Attach a row of locks over the front of the face, attaching them just above the level of the nose and at the top edge of the body color. Fill the space between the nose and ears on each side with locks.



If you want hair to hang down in the back, continue the row of hair all the way around the head. The locks should be at the top of the body color and can extend up above it a little – we will cover the top ends of the hair with the hat next.



The locks on the face should fall around the nose and ears like a curtain.



Hat:

Pull off enough wool to make a square that is wide enough to go around the head of your gnome just above the nose and ears. The size will vary based on the size of your body.



For the gnome here, my wool was about 6 inches wide.

Using a punch tool, felt the top few inches of the square, leaving about a ½-1 inch fluffy border along the bottom edge.

****If you don't have a punch tool, use your 38G needle – It will take a little longer but will work fine.**



You do not need to completely felt this wool into a solid sheet, you just want to be sure it holds together while you put it on the body.

Fold the fluffy edge over and hold it in place with your hand. Felt the folded edge with the punch tool to create an even border. (this is the bottom edge of the hat)

Tip: hold the “sheet” of wool up to the light to look for thin spots. Add small amounts of wool as needed to create an even thickness of wool.



Place the bottom edge of your hat wool across the bridge of the nose. Wrap the wool around the head. The hat should wrap all the way around and meet in the back with just a slight overlap. If you have too much, you can pull off the excess fiber before attaching it.

****I don't recommend cutting off wool with scissors as it is harder to blend cut edges of wool together.**



Begin felting the hat in place above the nose and work around the bottom edge of the hat to the back of the head.



Once the bottom edge is felted tightly in place, smooth the wool up the length of the cone. If you have excess wool at the top, you can gently pull it away. If you leave this excess fiber in place you will end up with a very bulky tip of the hat.

*****Option: instead of removing excess wool, push it down toward the bottom of the hat to create folds or wrinkles in the surface of the hat. See example picture at the beginning (red hat, white beard).**



Where the wool overlaps in the back, remove any excess wool and felt the seam closed.



Continue to felt the wool tight against the cone shaped core, starting at the bottom and working your way to the top. Using a punch tool will help give a smoother finish.



Your hat is done. If desired, you can add decorations to the hat, a hat band, or any other embellishments that you wish!



In this example, I used some art yarn to create a hat band and added some feathers as well.

I would love to see your finished gnome - post a picture on your social media and tag me!

Where can I purchase more Wool & Supplies?

For needle felted gnomes, I recommend our “MicroBattz” short fiber wool for the various colors used on the body and hat.

Fibers Of My Soul and Wooleyboogers Felt Creations now carry a wide variety of felting and spinning fibers, needle and wet felting tools and felting kits! If you would like to purchase fiber or felting tools for this and other projects, please contact us:

FibersOfMySoul@gmail.com or on Facebook/Instagram

WooleyboogersFelt@yahoo.com or on Facebook/Instagram

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