



Needle Felted Pumpkin

Materials: (Included)	Tools: (not included)
• ½ oz Core Wool • ½ oz Pumpkin color of choice • ¼ oz wool for stem • sheep locks • 4-6 inch 20G cloth-covered wire • 24" yarn (color can match stem or pumpkin)	• 38G Felting Needle • 40G Felting Needle • Felting mat • Craft Glue • Wire snips • Awl (or other sharp pointed tool for creating a hole for stem wire in pumpkin)

Core Shape:

1. If your core wool is particularly thick, divide it in half lengthwise. Take a 12" length of core roving and tie it in a knot in the center. Hold the tails of the wool close to the knot and gently pull them to tighten the knot.
 - a. Alternatively, if your core wool is narrow and thinner in thickness, you may want to start with two or three equal lengths stacked on top of each other to tie your starting knot as above.
2. Wrap each tail tightly around the knot to create a round shape. As you wrap the tails around, use your 38G Needle to felt it just enough to keep the tail wrap in place.
3. Continue to wrap lengths of core wool around the ball until it is approximately 2.5-3" in diameter.
4. Once you have the ball to your desired size and shape, spend some time felting it with your 38G needle to firm it up and even out the shape and surface.

Add Pumpkin Color:

1. Pull off a piece of your pumpkin-colored wool that is large enough to loosely cover the surface of the core. Be sure the wool is just thick enough to cover the core color below it
2. Using your 38G needle, lightly needle felt the surface of the entire pumpkin to felt the wool to the core but leave it "fluffy" to the touch for now.
3. Check for good coverage of the core with the color. If you see thin spots, add small tufts of wool to cover them.
4. To create the grooves or sections on the surface of the pumpkin, you will wrap the yarn around the pumpkin. (This is just like wrapping a ribbon around a gift box.)
 - a. Fold the yarn in half to find the center.
 - b. Place the center of the yarn on one side of the pumpkin.
 - c. Wrap both ends of the yarn around the pumpkin tightly. On the opposite side of the pumpkin, wrap the tails of the yarn around each other a ½ turn and then back up around the pumpkin. You should now have 4 equal sections between the yarn wraps.
 - d. Repeat step C two more times to create 8 total sections.
 - e. Tie off the yarn tightly and trim the remaining yarn tails short.
5. Using your 40G needle, spend some time, felting each section to tighten, smooth, and shape it. You can deepen the grooves between sections to better define them with your 38G needle if needed.

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Stem:

1. Pull off a 6" length of your stem color wool. (The wool should be about ½" wide)
2. Wrap the wool onto the 20G wire leaving 1" of the wire bare.
3. Hold the wire in your left/non-dominant hand near the end of the wire (the end you are holding will remain bare and be used to insert into the pumpkin). Place one end of a strip of wool on the back side of the wire with your right/dominant hand. Use your Left thumb to hold the end of the wool against the wire.
4. Hold the strip of wool with your right hand close to the wire and pull down gently to keep firm tension on the wool.
5. Begin to roll/turn the wire towards you, rolling the wool onto the wire. Be sure to keep a somewhat firm tension on the strip of wool with your right hand. You want the wool to wrap tightly on the wire. This will keep your shape tight and within the size you want. Also, a tighter wrap means less stabbing with the needle!
6. Continue rolling the wool onto the wire until you reach the end of the wire. With the fluffy tail of wool extending past the end, use a pair of needle nose pliers to bend a small "loop" of wool-covered wire at the end. Then continue wrapping the wool over the loop a couple of times then down back towards the base of the stem. This will help the wool stay on the end of the wire and ensure the wire is well covered by wool.
7. Continue wrapping the wool onto the wire until the desired thickness and shape are achieved.
8. Use the 40G needle to felt the wool tightly together. Be careful not to hit the wire as this may bend or break your needle!
9. Use an awl (or other pointed shape such as a metal skewer) to poke a hole in the top of your pumpkin. (Which is the top? It is your choice...sometimes one side will look better than the other, so it is completely up to you!)
10. Add a small amount of craft glue to the length of the bare wire and then insert the wire into the hole.
11. Once the glue is dry, you can bend/pose the stem to your desired position.

Embellishments:

1. Separate your sheep's locks and pick a few to add to the base of the stem.
2. Place the cut ends of the locks next to the base of the stem and felt them in with your 38G needle
3. You could also add a bow, feathers, or other fall embellishments as desired – Have fun and make yours unique!

Thank you for purchasing this tutorial! If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out! I can be reached via email at FibersOfMySoul@gmail.com or on Facebook/Instagram under @FibersOfMySoul

This tutorial was painstakingly created by a small business owner and is intended for use by the purchaser only. If you loved this project, Thank you! Please tell your friends and share my website or contact information so they can purchase one too!

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Core Shape and Size Guide:

