



Nuno Felted Scarf

Materials: (included) • 2-3 Ounces of Wool or wool/silk blend • Silk Scarf • <i>Optional: Luster fibers such as silk top, viscose top, or bamboo top</i>	Tools: (not included) • Table, 6-8 ft long is best • Towels • Heavy Duty Bubble mat • Standard Bubble Wrap • Painters Plastic sheeting • ½ length pool noodle or 1.5-2" wooden dowel • Sheer Fabric • Ball Brause • Warm Water • Olive Oil soap • <i>Optional: Palm washboard or similar felting tool</i>
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- When designing a Nuno felted scarf, the layout options are infinite. For this Tutorial, I will show the “Chevron” layout in the main instructions. This is a beautiful pattern visually, especially when using fiber blends such as Merino-Silk or multi-color blends. It is also a great way to obtain full coverage of the silk with a very thin but even layer of fiber with shrinkage that is typically even in all directions. At the end of the instructions, I will briefly describe alternative layout options.
- When choosing the fiber you wish to use for your scarf, look for fiber with a micron count of 19 or lower. This will ensure a soft felt with a nice drape that is less likely to be “itchy” or rough feeling against your skin.

Felting Table Set up:

1. Cover the length of your table with 1-2 towels laid out lengthwise and end to end.
2. Lay down a 6–8-foot length of Heavy-Duty Bubble
3. Lay down a table width and length piece of painter’s plastic over the HD bubble.

Silk Preparation:

1. Pre-wash the silk scarf in a gentle detergent such as Soak, Woolite, or Synthrapol to remove any fabric treatments or oils from your hands.
2. Hang Dry and Iron Scarf

Scarf Layout:

1. Lay the scarf onto the painter’s plastic in the center of the table.
2. Divide your wool lengthwise into 1-2” wide strips. This gives you an easily controllable width of wool to pull your wisps from and will give you a much more even layout.
3. Flatten a length of wool so that it resembles a ribbon and is not twisted.
4. Grasp the wool section with your left/non-dominant hand approximately 4-6 inches from the end of the fiber.
5. With your right/dominant hand, grasp the very thin tip of the fiber flat between the base of your thumb/palm and tips of your fingers and pull gently to remove a thin wisp of fiber. The wisp of wool should be an even thickness across its width.

6. Starting at the corner of one end of the scarf, lay down a row of fiber along the short edge of the silk. Overlap each wisp with the previous wisp by about 1/3 so that there are no holes between the fiber wisps. Try to match up the edge of the fiber evenly with the edge of the silk as best you can. Small fringes of fiber overlapping the edge are not a problem as they will shrink during felting and will “disappear.”
7. Starting with your second row, lay down a wisp of fiber at a 45° angle to the edge of the row before it. Overlap the top edge of this row slightly with the row above.
8. Pull the next wisp from the wool roving and lay it down next to the first at the opposite 45° angle. Overlap the end of the fiber with the first wisp by about 1/3 to ½ to form a “V” shape.
9. Continue laying down wisps of fiber at alternating 45° angles to form a row of “V’s”.
10. For the subsequent rows, try to keep your “V’s” lined up with the row above it. Again, slightly overlap the ends of the row above, and be sure your wisps within the row overlap each other slightly.
11. Once the scarf is covered with wool, go back, check for any thin or bare spots, and add small tufts of wool as needed.
12. Check your edges for evenness and to ensure there are not large amounts of wool hanging over the edges of the silk below it.
13. If desired, you may add embellishment fibers at this point. (See Embellishment section below).

Wetting out your Scarf:

1. Fill a bucket or large bowl with lukewarm water. If using liquid soap, add approximately 1 tbs of soap to the water and gently mix. If using a solid soap such as Olive Oil Soap, drop the bar in the water to dissolve slightly for about 10 minutes. (Alternatively, you can use a cheese grater tool to “shave” off some bar soap into the water to dissolve)
2. Cover the scarf layout with your sheer fabric. (I use an inexpensive white sheer curtain from Wal-Mart).
3. Using your water sprinkler, begin adding water to the surface of the layout. I typically start at one end and work in 12-18” sections. After sprinkling generously with soapy water, gently use your hands to press water into the wool and press the air out. DO NOT RUB – just press. Add water as needed until all the fiber is completely saturated.
 - a. Note: if you find the water seems to be repelled, add soap to your hands and press it gently over the area until the water soaks in.
4. Now that the layout is completely wet and saturated, begin to rub very gently – do not apply any pressure, just barely let the weight of your hands rest on the surface.
 - a. Work in 12-18” sections and rub for 3-5 minutes then move to the next section. Every few minutes, gently lift the sheer fabric from the surface of the project to ensure the fiber is not felting into it. At this point, you can readjust any fibers that may have moved from the desired location.
 - b. Be sure there is enough soap and water. It does not need to be overly sudsy, but it should feel smooth and soapy. There should be just enough water so that if you press your finger into the surface, water pools around your finger and then reabsorbs when you release your finger. If there is too much water, gently use a towel to absorb some of the water through the sheer fabric.
5. After lightly rubbing the entire surface of the scarf, slightly increase your pressure as if rubbing a baby’s back. Continue to lift the sheer every so often to check the fiber and to ensure it is not sticking to the scarf. Add Soap and Water as needed. Spend approximately 20 minutes rubbing the entire surface (divide into sections and rub for 3-5 minutes per section).
6. Pinch Test: Lift the sheer from the scarf and check the felting stage in several areas. Gently pinch the surface of the wool and try to pull it up. If the fibers pull apart easily and/or can be moved around

freely with your fingers, replace the sheer, and continue rubbing the surface. At this point, you may want to use a washboard-style tool to very lightly rub the surface to aid in the felting process.

7. Once the fibers begin to hold onto each other when you pinch the surface, you have achieved what is called a “surface skin” and can proceed to the rolling stage.

Rock – n – Roll!

1. Replace the sheer fabric with the standard bubble wrap with the bubbles facing the project.
 - a. Double-check the project for adequate soapy water.
2. Starting at one end, roll the pool noodle across the surface of the bubble wrap to help smooth it out and push out any air bubbles.
3. From one end of the scarf, roll up the “Bubble Wrap sandwich” (consisting of the HD bubble, painter’s plastic, project, and standard bubble wrap.) Your bundle should look like a giant jelly roll.
4. Then roll the bundle in one of the towels to secure it and to catch any water that gets pushed out.
5. Using medium downward pressure with your hands, roll the project back and forth on the table 100 times. After 25 rolls, stop and turn the bundle $\frac{1}{4}$ turn so that the side not resting on the table is now resting on the table. Do this after every 25 rolls so that each side of the bundle contacts the table for a portion of the 100 rolls. This ensures even felting around the bundle.
6. After rolling 100x, unroll the bundle to smooth out the project and check your progress. Peel back the bubble wrap and do a pinch test. It will likely be slightly more felted but still needs more rolling.
7. Cover with bubble wrap, smooth out any air bubbles, and roll up around the pool noodle from the opposite end of the scarf from the last round of rolling.
8. Repeat #5 & 6 above 2-3 more times. After each round, smooth out any wrinkles, add soapy water if necessary, and do another pinch test. The fibers should gradually be more and more difficult to separate from each other.
9. After 4 rounds of rolling, the wool should be felting nicely but likely has not shrunk much. At this point, Unroll the bundle and remove the top bubble wrap.
10. Gently flip the painter’s plastic and scarf over and then remove the painter’s plastic. The wool side of the scarf should now be facing down onto the HD bubble and the silk facing you. Cover again with the standard bubble wrap. You may notice a few wool fibers starting to come through the silk fabric.
11. Repeat steps 5 -8 four more times.
12. Rub the thickness of the felt/silk between your fingers. At this point, you should not feel the layers of fiber and silk moving separately but it should feel like a single layer of fabric. Check the felt in several areas. If you are still able to move the fibers around, continue felting either by spot felting with your hands/felting tool or by rolling as in steps 5-6.
13. Once the felt and silk feel like one layer of fabric, you are ready for the Fulling Stage!

Fulling:

- The stage of wet felting where the newly formed felt is tightened and most of the shrinkage occurs.
1. Gently gather the fabric together in a “crumpled pile,” lift it off the table surface, and let it fall back down onto the table. Do this a dozen or so times, each time shifting the fabric around so that different sides hit the table.
 2. Increase your force and begin “throwing” it down on the table several times.
 3. Spread the fabric out on the table to check for areas with uneven edges or areas that feel “fuzzy.” Add a bit of soapy water where needed and rub any areas that may need more work.

4. You should now be seeing rapid shrinkage of the felt depending on the thickness of the felt and any embellishments used (thicker felt and level of embellishment can slow/reduce the shrinking).
5. Check the silk side of the fabric. You should see uniform “puckering” of the silk. This is called Rouching (pronounced “roo-shing”). This happens because the wool shrinks but the silk does not. Since they are now bonded to each other, the shrinking wool pulls the silk together causing this beautiful texture.
6. If you notice any areas where there is little rouching or where the wool does not seem to be well felted into the silk, rewet with soap, and water and rub with your hand or tool.
7. Once you are happy with the shape, size, and density of the felt, it is time to rinse!
8. Under running water rinse the project first in cold water to remove all soap. Then rinse for a moment with hot water – be careful not to scald your skin!
9. Gently squeeze out as much water as you can (do not “wring” it out or twist it as this may damage the silk). If too heavy or long, you can roll it up in a dry towel to press out the water.
 - a. Check once more for any areas that do not look/feel well felted – repeat step 6 above if needed.
10. Fill a bucket with water and add a generous splash of white vinegar or a tablespoon of citric acid powder and stir. Add the project to the vinegar water and let soak for about 10 minutes while you clean up your felting table.
11. Remove from the vinegar soak and squeeze out excess water (or roll in towel) then lay flat to dry or hang from a laundry line/rack to dry.
12. Once dry, steam iron the scarf on the silk setting. If you need to iron the silk side, cover first with a thin piece of cotton fabric.
13. You are now ready to enjoy your beautiful piece of wearable art!

Alternate Wool Layouts for Nuno Felted Scarves:

In general, a Nuno scarf should be lightweight with a flowing drape. To achieve this, the wool layer should be thin but a relatively even thickness. Having a silk fabric layer gives you a solid and sturdy scarf to begin with and the wool layer becomes the decoration rather than just the structure of the scarf. In addition, having the silk foundation makes it acceptable to include “holes” in the wool layer on purpose as part of the design.

Things to know/consider: Wool will shrink along the length of the fiber. So, if all the fiber is laid out in the same direction, the wool will shrink more in the direction of the fiber layout than it will in the perpendicular direction (e.g.: traditional layout and/or cobweb layout will shrink mostly in length than it will in width). With the other layout styles, the fibers are laid out in multiple directions and will typically shrink more evenly in all directions.

Below are a few alternative options with illustrated examples for laying out your wool layer and are by no means exhaustive...let your creativity run free and see what you can create!

1. Traditional Layout – Similar to the chevron, you will lay out individual wisps of fiber, but they will all be laid out going in the same direction and parallel to each other. Remember to overlap side to side and from row to row to ensure an even layer of wool.
2. Chevron – explained in detail above under “Scarf Layout.”
3. Random/Wispy – Pull off thin, even wisps and lay down onto the silk in random orientations until the scarf is covered completely.

4. Cloud – Pull off several thicker wisps of wool and stack. Take a “pile” of wool and pull it apart repeatedly in all directions to create a “cloud.” Use the clouds you just created to spread a thin even layer of fiber over the surface of the silk.
5. Cobweb – Take 2-3 ounces of wool roving and stretch it lengthwise to the length of the silk scarf. Then, carefully begin to separate and pull the fiber from the sides to make the roving wider and thinner. Keep pulling the roving wider and wider to separate and even create “holes” or gaps in the fiber. The overall design will resemble a cobweb or series of long branches down the length of the scarf.
6. Specific/custom Designs: As I mentioned before, the layout options are infinite. You can create detailed, intricate designs with your wool layouts. Laying out flowers, geometric shapes, color gradients, etc. are also possible. I recommend trying some different methods on smaller silk scraps to get a feel for the process before tackling an intricate scarf design.

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

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