



Wet Felted Acorns

Step by step instructions for creating beautiful fall acorns



Supplies:

38G Felting Needle and felting surface

Core Wool

Short Fiber Wool Batt in your choice of color

Acorn Caps (Be sure they are free of dirt and insects)

Room Temperature water in a bowl

Liquid Dish soap

Heavy Bubble Wrap or Bamboo felting mat

Distilled White Vinegar

Craft Glue or Hot Glue

****Optional****

Drill with 1/8" size bit

Twine or ribbon



Start with a 6-8 inch length of core wool and a 38G needle



If your core wool is more than 2 inches wide, split it lengthwise so that each length is about 1-2 inches wide.



Take one length of wool and roll it **tightly** into a ball. (you want your core shape to be slightly smaller than the finished “nut” that will be topped with the acorn cap. My acorn caps are large, 2-3” in diameter)



Needle felt it lightly just so it holds its shape.



Wrap the ball of wool **tightly** with a second length of wool. Roll this length of wool perpendicular to the direction of the first length of wool.



Roll the last length of wool, perpendicular to the previous and needle felt lightly to hold the shape.



I typically create multiple cores at once.



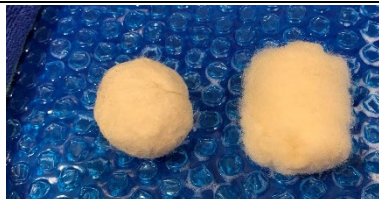
Wet each core in a solution of lukewarm water with a few drops of liquid dish soap. Be sure to wet completely.



Roll the wool ball in your fingers very gently. The shape should remain round. If you press too firmly it will flatten or distort.



Once it begins to felt it will firm up slightly. You can continue to felt in your hand rolling it like a ball of dough and gently rolling on your bubble wrap or other felting surface such as a bamboo mat.



The ball will gradually shrink and become rounder.



Now add your colored wool layers to completely cover the core. Add just enough wool to just cover the white color of the core. Felt the ends of the wool with the felting needle just enough to hold them in place.



Wet the ball of wool again and add a tiny drop of soap to your palm. Again, begin to roll the ball in your hand very gently.



If you are pressing too hard, you will notice the color layer bunching up. Reduce your pressure and rewet if it starts to wrinkle or feel dry. Continue rolling until the colored layer of wool feels firm and can no longer be pinched away from the core.



If you are felting just a few acorns, you can now place them in a large plastic bowl with a lid. Shake the bowl vigorously for several minutes in all directions to continue the felting process. I have added a couple plastic toys that will help speed up the felting process by further agitating the wool balls causing them to further felt and firm up.



If you are making a larger quantity, you can place them in a dryer with wool dryer balls. Set the dryer on low or no heat and run for about 10 minutes.



Once the wool balls feel firm to the touch, remove them from your bowl or dryer and rinse under cold water to remove all the soap. Then rinse with hot water followed by more cold water. This shocks the fibers and helps lock them into place better.



Lastly, soak the wool balls in a bowl of cool water with a splash of vinegar added for about 5-10 minutes. This step will help remove any remaining soap and return the fiber to its normal pH.



Squeeze as much water from the wool balls as you can and then roll them into an oblong shape.



Press between layers of a towel to take more water out. Then lay them out to dry. If it is a warm and sunny day, I will put them outside on a cookie sheet. Otherwise, they will likely need to dry indoors for at least 24 hours.



Preparing the acorn caps:

If you want to be able to hang the acorns, you can attach a loop of twine or ribbon to the cap. Start by drilling a hole near the top of the cap with a 1/8 size bit.



Tie a loop of twine.

Thread the twine through the cap from the inside using a bent wire as your "needle".

Be sure your knot is big enough that it won't pull through the hole.



Add a dollop of hot glue to the knot to secure it.

Then add a ribbon of glue around the inside edge of the cap. Press a wool ball into the cap and set aside to cool/dry.

Cap sizes vary, so try to match your wool ball size to a corresponding cap. I usually dry fit all the acorn balls to their caps first before starting to glue them.



That's it! You should now have a collection of beautiful acorns that you can use to decorate your fall table, mantel, or a fall wreath etc.

Wool and supplies sourcing

For felted acorns, I recommend our "MicroBattz" short fiber wool.

Fibers Of My Soul now carries 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 visit FibersOfMySoul.com or email us at FibersOfMySoul@gmail.com

The Acorns used in this tutorial are from my Bur Oak Tree – the caps are typically 2-3 inches in diameter. Depending on the season, I may have acorn caps available for purchase! However, any acorn can be used.

Thank you for supporting my small business! If you have any questions about this tutorial or my products, please feel free to reach out to me through my website, FibersOfMySoul.com or on social media at [@FibersOFMySoul](https://www.instagram.com/FibersOFMySoul).

Happy Felting!

Treka