Wet Felted Kinchaku Bag

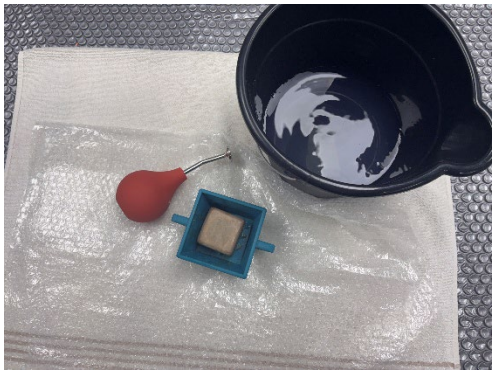
These bags are perfect for storing jewelry or small trinkets.
Make one for yourself or use it to "gift wrap" a present for a friend!

Materials (Included):

- Merino Prefelt, 15" circle
- Luxury Fiber (Viscose or Tencel)
- 24" cording or narrow ribbon
- Pony Bead

You will need to gather the following items/tools:

- Bath/Beach Towel
- 2 - 20 x 20" pieces of Bubble wrap or other textured non-absorbent material to sandwich your project between. (Textured shelf liner, bamboo sushi mat, non-slip rug pad etc)
- Medium sized bowl of lukewarm water
- Soap (Olive Oil Bar soap is preferred, but any type of bar or liquid soap will work)
- Water sprinkler/Ball Brause (A large sponge can be used instead)
- Large Eye embroidery needle



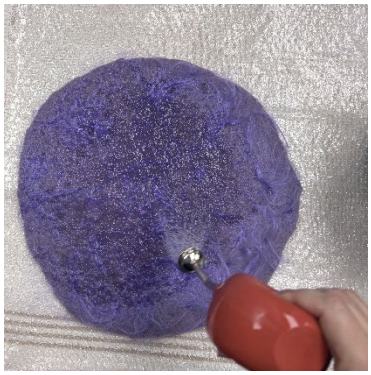
Wet Felting Table Set Up:

1. Fill a bowl with lukewarm water and add your bar of soap to it. If using liquid soap, add about ½-1 tbs of soap and stir.
2. Cover your work surface with the bath towel
3. Lay out one piece of the bubble wrap on the towel with the bubbles facing up.

Project Layout:

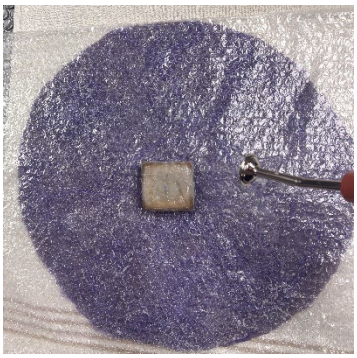
1. Lay the prefelt circle on the bubble wrap. Smooth out any wrinkles and stretch to form an even circle if needed.
2. "Rough up" the surface of the prefelt slightly by gently pinching and pulling the fibers up.

3. Pull the luxury fiber apart and "fluff" it to make "clouds" of fiber.
4. Spread the clouds out evenly over the surface of the prefelt.



5. (Remove bar of soap from your bowl of water)
6. Wet the project completely with your soapy water. If using a sponge, just fill it with water then squeeze over the project to wet the entire surface.

7. Lay the second piece of bubble wrap down onto the project and press the water in to spread the water out to saturate it fully.
8. Gently pull up the bubble wrap to check the project. Add more water if necessary, so that there are not any dry areas.



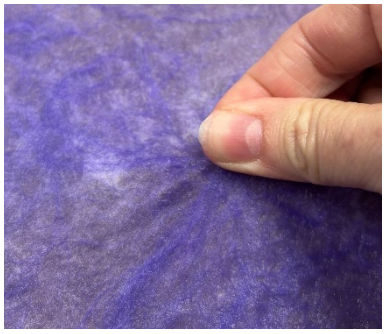
Felting

9. Place the bubble wrap back down onto the project (bubble side facing the wool).
10. Wet your hands and the top of the bubble wrap with a little soapy water.
11. Begin gently rubbing the project with flat hands using a circular motion. Do this for about 5 minutes.

12. Remove the top bubble wrap and check your project's progress – gently pinch the surface fibers to see if they are still moving or can be pulled up easily.
13. If they are still moving freely, replace bubble wrap and continue rubbing for another 5 minutes with firmer pressure.

14. Once the surface fibers begin to felt to the prefelt base, turn the project over and rub the other side for 5 minutes or so.
15. Check the project again by attempting to push and pinch up the surface fibers with your fingers. It should be feeling like one single layer of fabric rather than separate layers at this point.

TIP! Be sure your project is soapy enough. You should see at least some suds on the wet fiber when you pull back the bubble wrap. If it does not feel sudsy, wet and lather your hands with soap and gently PRESS in the soap onto the surface. You may need to soap your hands a few times to add soap to the entire surface. Don't rub! Just press the soap in.

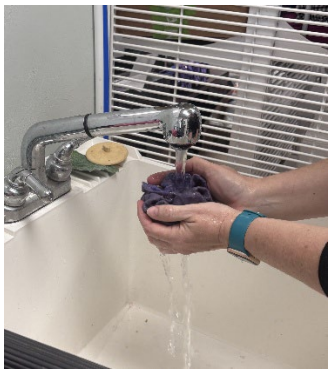


(Repeat steps 11-15 until the fibers begin to felt together and are no longer easily moved with your fingers. This process usually takes about 15-20 minutes)

16. With wet/soapy hands begin to rub the felt between your palms. Spend 10-15 seconds rubbing an area before moving to the next until you have rubbed the entire circle between your palms.

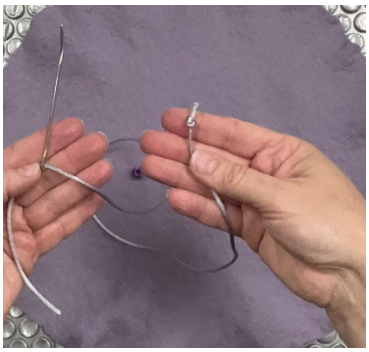
<u>Fulling</u>

17. Submerge the felt in the bowl of water and squeeze it under the water to remove some of the soap.
18. Take it out of the bowl and squeeze most of the water out.
19. Roll the felt up in a ball and agitate it in your hands, rub it on the bubble wrap, toss it down onto the bubble wrap – Basically work the felt until it starts to feel strong and slightly elastic but not spongy or flimsy. (I think well felted and fulled felt feels like wet leather)

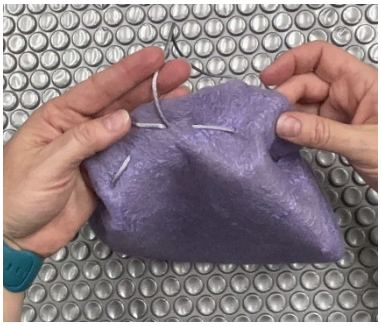
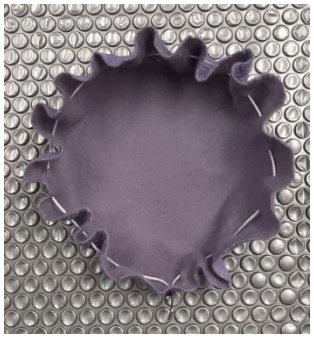


20. Stretch the felt into an even circle to re-shape it.
21. Rinse the felt out at the sink under cold water to remove the soap.
22. Do a final rinse in HOT water to give the felt a final "shock" and finish shrinking. (If your circle is on the small size (less than 10") at this point skip the hot water)
23. Re-shape/stretch again as needed to have an even circle. It will likely be 10-12 inches in diameter.

24. Roll the felt in a dry towel and squeeze out excess water then lay flat to dry.
25. Steam iron the felt once it's dry – this softens the felt a bit and brings out the luster of the luxury fibers.



26. Using a large eyed needle, thread the cord through the felt about an inch from the edge all the way around using a running stitch.

27. Your last stitch should go through the first hole so that both tails are coming through the same hole.

28. Thread both ends of the cord through the included bead. Tie a knot at each end of the cording/ribbon to prevent the bead from sliding off.

    TIP! You may want to "melt" the ends of the cord with a lighter to prevent fraying.

29. Cinch the bag closed by pulling the cording through the bead and tie a bow to secure.

Where do I purchase More Wool & Supplies?

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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