

Wet Felted Vessel on Open Resist

Materials: (included) • 1.5 oz of Wool or wool/silk blend • Luster fibers such as silk top, viscose top, or bamboo top • 10" diameter Resist.	Tools: (not included) • Towel • Heavy Duty Bubble mat or bamboo mat • Standard Bubble Wrap • ¾" diameter x 18" dowel	• Sheer Fabric • Ball Brause • Warm Water • Olive Oil soap • <i>Optional: Palm washboard or similar felting tool</i>
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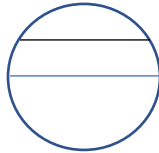
Wet Felting Set-up for ½ Table Project:

1. Lay a towel down on the table with the short edge facing you.
2. Lay your small size Heavy Duty (HD) Bubble Mat or Bamboo Mat down on the towel.
3. Lay down a piece of standard bubble wrap with the bubbles facing up. (Use a piece of bubble wrap that is at least 12x24" or large enough to fold in half and still cover the entire project on both sides.)
4. Fill a bucket with room temperature water and drop in your bar of soap to dissolve a bit while you are getting the project laid out.

Wool Layout:

1. Mark a line across the center diameter of the resist and then a second line that is approximately 2-3" above the center line.

a.



2. Place the circular resist in the center but towards one end of the bubble wrap. (This allows you to fold the BW over the project to make turning it over from one side to the other easier later in the process.)
3. Divide your wool in half. Set half of the fiber aside to use on the second side of the layout.
4. 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.
5. Flatten a length of wool so that it resembles a ribbon and is not twisted.
6. Grasp the wool section with your left/non-dominant hand approximately 4-6 inches from the end of the fiber.
7. 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.
8. Beginning at the upper line on the resist, lay down a row of wisps of wool. Be sure to overlap each wisp with the previous wisp by 1/3 to ½. The top edge of this row should be as even as possible with the line drawn on the resist.
9. For the next row of wool, lay down each wisp so that the top edge of it overlaps the previous row by 1/3 to ½.
10. Continue laying down rows of wool until this side is covered from the line down to the bottom edge of the resist.
11. At the edges of the resist, you should have a 1"- 1 ½ " overhang of wool.
12. Wet the wool using the ball brause with the soapy water.

13. Fold the bubble wrap over the wet wool and gently press (not rubbing) the water into the wool to saturate it.
14. Flip the project over to the other side and fold back the bubble wrap.
15. Gently fold the overhanging wool from side 1 around the resist taking care to pull it snug against the edge of the resist.
16. Repeat Step 8-15 for side 2.
17. You should have side 1 on top again with one layer of wool on each side.
18. Add a second layer of wool as in step 8, but this time, lay them perpendicular to the first layer of wool. (For example, the first layer is in a north/south orientation, the second layer should be in an east/west orientation).
19. Remember to overlap each wisp with the previous wisp in that row and overlap each row slightly with the adjacent rows.
20. Again, a small amount of wool hanging off the edge of the resist is needed.
21. Wet the wool again, fold the bubble wrap over to cover the project, and press in the water. Flip back to Side 2.
22. Gently fold the overhanging wool from side 1 around the resist taking care to pull it snug against the edge of the resist.
23. Add the second layer of wool to Side 2 in an East/west orientation (perpendicular to the first layer) as in step 18. Wet it, fold the bubble wrap over, press in the water and flip back to Side 1.
24. Add one more layer to each side of the project (repeat steps 8-14) but try not to have any wool hanging over the edge of the resist for this last layer.

Embellishment layer

1. The luster fiber layer can be applied in the same north/south or east/west orientation as the wool, long thin lines like veins, or it can be applied in a more random way. It is completely up to you!
2. Keep in mind that the luster fibers do not felt but instead, the wool will migrate into/around them or get trapped between layers of wool fibers. If you lay out a thick layer or line of luster fiber, you should then cover that area with a very thin wisp of wool so that it gets trapped between the wool above and below and will felt in more reliably. If you are adding only a thin layer of luster fibers, you will not need to add any additional wool over it.
3. Be sure some of the luster fiber overlaps the edges and wraps to the other side so you do not end up with a bare line down the side of your vessel.

Felting

1. Cover your project with sheer fabric such as a section of a sheer curtain or a polyester fabric scarf etc.
2. Wet and soap your hands. Begin to rub very gently – do not apply any pressure, just barely let the weight of your hands rest on the surface. Direct your rubbing strokes toward the center of the wool so that it stays tight against the edge of the resist.
 - a. If you allow the wool to be pushed off towards the outer edge of the resist, you may end up with a ridge or seam that is difficult and sometimes impossible to correct.
3. 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.
4. 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 project, slightly increase your pressure as if massaging 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 5-10 minutes rubbing the entire surface
6. Flip to the other side and repeat Steps 2-5.
7. Pinch Test: Lift the sheer from the vessel 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.
8. 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. Remove the sheer fabric and Fold the standard bubble wrap back over the project.
 - a. Double-check the project for adequate soapy water.
2. From the bottom edge of the project, roll up the "Bubble Wrap sandwich" (consisting of the HD bubble (or bamboo mat), standard bubble wrap, project, and standard bubble wrap.) Your bundle should look like a jelly roll.
3. Then roll the bundle in the towel to secure it and to catch any water that gets pushed out.
4. Using medium downward pressure with your hands, roll the project back and forth on the table 50 times. After 25 rolls, stop and turn the bundle 1/2 turn so that the side not resting on the table is now resting on the table. This ensures even felting all the way around the bundle.
5. After rolling a total of 50x, 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.
6. Turn the project ¼ turn in a clockwise direction and then replace the bubble wrap over the top of it again and repeat step 4. (you should now be rolling up your bundle with the "right hand" side of the vessel at the bottom edge of your mat)
7. Now turn the project 180° so that you are rolling up the original "left-hand" side of the vessel. Repeat steps 4 & 5.
8. If the project is beginning to curl on the edges, gently stretch it and flatten it back out each time.
9. Flip the project over to Side 2 and repeat Steps 4-8.
10. You should now have rolled each side 50 times in three directions - South to North, East to West (right hand), and West to East (left hand).
11. Why didn't we roll it twice in the North/south orientation? At this point, we want the project to shrink in width a little but not in height. This ensures we do not end up with a short, squatty vessel.
12. Rub the thickness of the felt between your fingers. At this point, you should not feel the layers of fiber moving separately but it should feel like a single layer of fabric.
13. If the fibers are still moving freely, add soap/water as needed and continue to roll in rounds of 20-25 in alternating directions.
14. Once the fibers are feeling more like a single layer of felt when rubbed between your fingers and you are not able to pull away individual fibers when pinching the surface, remove the resist.

Fulling:

- The stage of wet felting where the newly formed felt is tightened and most of the shrinkage occurs.
1. Open the vessel and rub along the crease in the felt that was hugging the edge of the resist to smooth out any ridge that formed. Add soap and water as needed. Rub from both the inside and outside surfaces of the felt (one hand inside/the other on the outside).
 2. Continue rubbing all surfaces with soaping hands.
 3. Lay the felt down flat on the felting surface with the seam edges in the center of the felt. Roll the felt on itself from the bottom edge and roll back and forth with your fingers several times.
 4. Return the vessel to the position it would be in when the resist was in place and roll it up on itself from the side. Roll on the felting surface with your hands several times.
 5. Continue rolling, wadding, and rubbing the vessel from all different directions. You will notice it shrinking quickly now.
 6. The wool will shrink the most in the direction that you are rubbing or rolling. So, if there is an area that needs to be shrunk more or evened out, focus your rubbing/rolling in that area/direction.
 7. To strengthen the felt and firm up the sides, pick up the vessel and drop and/or throw it back down onto the tabletop. Do this several times, turning it over each time.

Finishing up

1. Once you have achieved the desired shrinkage and shape, rinse the felt under cold water to remove all the soap. Then, rinse it with hot water, squeezing and wadding it up as you rinse it. **BE CAREFUL NOT TO SCALD YOUR SKIN UNDER THE HOT WATER!**
2. Squeeze out the excess water and then soak it in a bowl/bucket of water with a splash of vinegar in it for about 10 minutes. This will remove any soap residue and return the wool to its natural pH ensuring a soft wool and vibrant colors/luster.
3. Squeeze out the excess water and shape the vessel with your hands.
 - a. For a traditional round vessel, stuff the inside with plastic bags or inflate a balloon inside the vessel to hold the shape while it dries.
 - b. If you would like to introduce creases or folds in the surface, you can use clothes pins or even temporary stitching to shape it.
 - c. Once dry, remove any shaping tools and gently steam with your iron to bring out the shine of the luster fibers and smooth the fuzzy surface.

Thank you for purchasing this tutorial!

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out!

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