



Wet Felted Flower Brooch with bookmark option

Included Materials:	Additional Tools (not included):
• ½ Ounce Merino Wool (flower color A is the larger quantity and B is the smaller quantity) • ¼ Ounce Merino Wool (Green for leaflets) • Nepps • Brooch Pin • Silk Ribbon • Resists (2 – 6” squares with central circle cutouts) • Circle Template	• 12x24” bubble wrap • Bamboo mat • Mesh/sheer fabric • Wooden dowel (3/4” diameter) • Towel • Soap (olive oil soap is recommended but can use any kind available) • Water • Ball Brause or spray bottle • 38G Felting needle and felting mat/foam

Set Up Felting Table:

1. Lay down a towel on the table with the short edge facing you.
2. On top of the towel, lay down the bamboo mat and then the bubble wrap (with bubbles facing up).
3. Put the circle template under the end of the bubble wrap that is on the bamboo mat.
4. Position the bubble wrap so that you will lay out the flower on one end of it. Leave ½ of it out to the side so it can be folded over the project and will cover it completely. This will help you flip the project over and back later in the felting process.

Wool Layout

1. Start with green/leaf fiber. Pull off wisps of fiber and lay down 4-5 small leaf petals in a star pattern inside the border of the template. Overlap the ends of the petals in the center.
2. Lay down the first resist with the center opening over the center of the fiber below it.
3. Using your flower petal color (Color A), pull off thin wisps of fiber and lay them on the resist in a radial pattern. Keep the fiber within the size of the circle template.
4. Add a second layer of fiber. Pull thin wisps of fiber and lay it down in a circular pattern over the first layer.
5. OPTIONAL: add a thin layer of luster fiber such as silk or viscose for extra shine and texture.
6. Lay down the second resist with the center opening over the center of the fiber below it.
7. Repeat steps 3 & 4 but lay out a slightly smaller circle of fiber (Color B). Add optional luster fiber if desired.
8. For the center of the flower, add a cluster of nepps in a 1-1 ½ in circle. Cover the nepps with a very thin wisp of wool or luster fiber so that they felt in securely.
9. OPTIONAL: add a thin layer of luster fiber such as silk or viscose for extra shine and texture.
10. Carefully transfer your “fiber sandwich” (all 3 layers of fiber with resists) to your felting mat. Use a 38G felting needle to slightly felt through the center of the fiber. Keep your felting stabs inside the holes of the resist to ensure you are only felting the layers in the center. This is just a little insurance to help you achieve a tight connection between the layers of the flower. (If you do not have needle felting tools, don’t worry, your flower will still felt together – you’ll just need to pay close attention and rub a little more in the center in the steps below).
11. Flip the flower over onto your bubble wrap again so that the green leaflet layer is on the top.

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If making a brooch:

- a. Take a section of green/leaf fiber and slide it through the center of the pin. The section should be as wide as the “spine” of the pin and thick enough to fill the space between the front and back of the pin.
- b. Lay the pin with the fiber down onto the center of the flower. The “spine” of the pin should be covered with the fiber in the pin and the front of the pin should be lying on top of the wool.
- c. Gently fan out the wool to blend it into the leaf layer of the flower.

If making a bookmark:

- a. Fold the strip of silk ribbon accordion style until you have only a 2-3” tail left dangling. Place a piece of plastic wrap around it and rubber band it in place around the folded portion of the ribbon to hold it. This will prevent the ribbon’s tail from felting to the back of the flower.
- b. Lay the end of the ribbon on the center of the flower and cover about 1” with a thin layer of green wool.
- c. Throughout the steps below, occasionally move the bundle of ribbon to allow for even felting under it.

Wetting out and Felting!

1. Cover the flower with your mesh/sheer fabric.
2. Wet the flower with lukewarm soapy water using the ball brause or spray bottle.
3. Use your hand to gently press the soapy water into the flower and press the air out. (The water should saturate each layer of the layout since there are holes in the resists, but if needed, gently lift the edges of the resist(s) and apply more water)
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Fold the bubble wrap over the flower and then flip it over to the other side. Repeat Steps 4-7.
9. Remove the sheer fabric and gently fold back one layer of the flower and the resist - be sure to only fold it back to the edge of the center hole, the center layers of wool should still be in contact with each other.
10. Replace the sheer over the exposed center layer and rub gently for 1-2 minutes.
11. Make your way around this layer of the flower by gently folding back the top layer as described above on all four sides.
12. Flip the flower over again and repeat steps 9-11.
13. Check the wool in the center of the flower. Are the top, middle, and bottom beginning to felt together? If necessary, rewet/soap the center and rub more firmly in the center for a couple of minutes from each side.
14. Check the pin or ribbon on the back side of the flower. Is the wool felting around the “spine” of the pin well? If it is less felted than surrounding fibers, focus your attention here for a few minutes rubbing with wet soapy fingers. If you have a ribbon attached, the wool should be starting to migrate into it.

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15. Pinch Test: Lift the sheer from the project and check the felting stage on each layer. 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 lightly rub the surface to aid in the felting process.
16. 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 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 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. Replace the bubble wrap over the top of it again, turn the bubble wrap/project a ¼ turn in a clockwise direction, and then repeat step 4. (you should now be rolling up your bundle with the "right hand" side of the project at the bottom edge of your mat)
7. Continue to repeat steps 4-6 until you have rolled the project from all four directions.
8. Flip the bubble wrap/project over and repeat Steps 4-6 again from all four sides directions.
NOTE: Between rounds of rolling, check the project and add soapy water as needed. If the fiber looks fuzzy or the surface fibers are lighter in color than the rest of the project, it is too dry!
9. Open the bundle and uncover the flower. Check the center – the layers should be holding together well. If not, rewet with soapy water and rub some more from the front and the back. Check the layers of petals – you should not be able to separate the fibers with pinching. Rubbing a layer between your fingers should feel like a single layer of felt – not separate layers of fiber.

Fulling:

- The stage of wet felting where the newly formed felt is tightened and most of the shrinkage occurs.
1. Gently remove the resist from your flower. If you plan to reuse it, gently push the top layer through the hole and repeat for the second resist. (for the bookmark option: You can also remove the plastic from around your silk ribbon.)
 2. Gather the flower in your hand and fold the petals upward (as if the flower has not yet bloomed). Rub the flower back and forth in your soapy/wet hands.
 3. Lay the closed flower on the bamboo mat. With a slight pinching grasp on the side of the flower, roll it forward with your fingertips. Do this several times.
 4. Open the flower petals and then scrunch the flower in your hands gently.
 5. You can even "throw" the flower down onto the mat several times.
 6. Continue working the felt in the above steps until your flower has shrunk to the desired size and the petals are holding their shape/position on their own (ie: not floppy).

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7. Don't forget to check the center to be sure the layers are tightly felted together. (if they aren't don't panic, I will list some fixes at the end for this)

Finishing Up:

1. If you want a flower with multiple petals on each layer, you can make a series of cuts to create them. Once you have made the cuts to create the petals, rub the cut edges a bit to "heal" the cut edges. Pull and stretch the petals to shape them as desired.
2. Rinse the flower in cold water to remove the soap. Then Rinse in hot water to help with a little more shrinkage.
3. Roll the flower in a dry towel to press out excess water then shape the petals one more time and leave it to dry overnight.
4. Once dry, gently steam iron the flower (and ribbon if making a bookmark) to smooth the surface and bring out the luster of the fibers.

Troubleshooting:

1. **The layers of petals did not felt together tightly!**
 - a. After the flower is dry, you could use a 40G felting needle to secure the layers a bit more.
 - b. If this doesn't work or if the layers are very loose, adding some stitches may be needed – you could do some tiny stitches that are practically invisible or go all out and add French knots or even some beads! (How's that for turning lemons into lemonade!?)
2. **The Pin (or Ribbon) is not securely attached!**
 - a. For loose wool, needle felt it to secure it with a 40G needle. Try not to stab all the way through the flower, use shallow stabs so that the green wool does not get pushed through to the front of the flower.
 - b. For a loose ribbon, you will need to add some stitching with a needle and thread to secure it. Felting through silk fabric doesn't always work well.
3. **The wool holding the pin in place is thin or weak feeling!**
 - a. Add a bit of green wool across the "spine" of the pin and needle felt it into place as in 2a above.

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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Circle Template (Flower Size Guide):

