

## Wool craft instructions

### How to make felt

What you will need:

- Wool tops (semi-processed wool ready for spinning) – colour to suit your design
- Soap – most soaps work well but some felters will only use pure olive oil soap
- Bowls of warm water (with some washing up liquid added)
- A ping pong ball or large pebble if you want to create a shape

What you will do:

1. Choose which colour you want to use and decide if you want to create a shaped piece or a flat piece of felt.
2. Take four lengths of the wool, around 10 cm each.
3. Pull the fibres apart from the hank (large coiled piece) of wool to make 10 cm squares of loose fibres.



4. Place each piece on top of the other but at right angles to each other (perpendicular).



5. At this stage if you are going to create a flat piece of felt, you can start to soap the wool pieces with a piece of wet soap on a flat surface and gradually begin to gently rub the wool so that the friction and soapy water starts to lock the wool fibres together.



6. If you want to create a 3D shape or a flower type design, you can wrap the four pieces of overlapping wool around a pebble or ping pong ball and begin to roll the object in your wet soapy hands.
7. Wet your hands to keep the rolling or smoothing of the wool easier. The more lather you create, the quicker the felting process will take place.



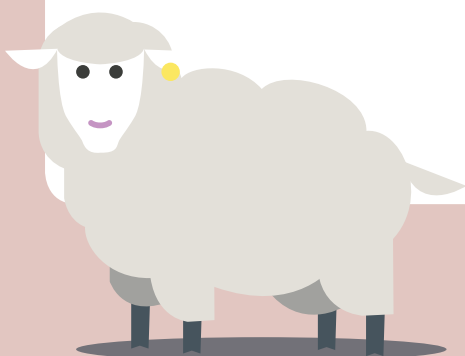
8. Start rolling or smoothing gently to begin with but as the wool fibres start to bind together you can roll it faster and more vigorously.
9. Keep going until the wool is smooth and has a firmer feel to it – you now have felt. The wool fibres have bonded together due to the friction and breaking down of the original bonds on each wool fibre by the soap and water.
10. Finally rinse in water and leave to dry.
11. If you are wanting to create a flower from your shape, cut a clear, cross-shape across the top of the pebble or ball and trim these four 'petals' to the right shape. Then sew a button in the middle of your petals to make your flower. It could even become a poppy for Remembrance Day services in November if you sew a black button into the centre of a red felt flower.

You can purchase a variety of colours, sizes and amounts of wool tops from many suppliers on the internet.

<https://www.winghamwoolwork.co.uk/shop.html>

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=wool+tops&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=wool+tops&ref=nb_sb_noss)

or search for 'wool tops for wet felting' on Amazon.



## How to weave

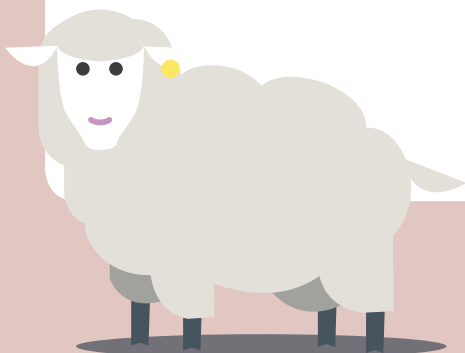
What you will need:

- Variety of wool colours – for the weft
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil / dowelling / bamboo stick
- Small shallow plastic food tray
- Strong coloured string – for the warp
- Sticky tape



What you will do:

1. Make the loom by taking the plastic tray and two short sticks / pencils or dowelling that are the same lengths as the width of the plastic tray.
2. Measure at least eight pieces of string that are triple the length of your plastic container.
3. Fold each piece in half.
4. Attach the folded string (warp thread) to one piece of the wood using a loop and then thread the rest of the string through the loop.  
See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyzUmetVJFA>  
Repeat this until you have at least eight pairs of string on the wood.
5. Now tape the wood with the string attached to one end of the plastic tub, and with the string falling over the open side of the container.
6. Space the warps evenly across the wood.
7. Tie the loose end of the warp around the other stick and tape this second stick to the opposite end of the plastic container. This is your loom.
8. Begin weaving by choosing a piece of wool (weft thread or yarn) and, starting one side, go under and over alternate warp threads until you have gone all the way across the loom. Repeat this action, changing colours, type of wool or thicknesses of wool until you have filled the loom area.
9. Remember to keep pushing the weft down on the warp to keep the weaving tight.

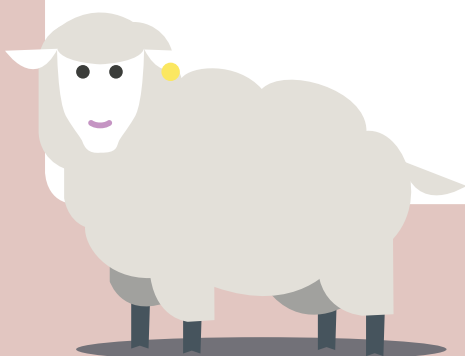


10. You can add extra decorations such as feathers, stripes etc. as you become more confident or if you want to add more creativity to your design.
11. Unstick the wood from the plastic food container.
12. Finish your weaving by tying the loose threads altogether in a knot and use the top stick (the one with the original loops on it) as a hanging rod to display your weaving.
13. You can purchase a variety of colours, sizes and amounts of wool from many suppliers on the internet or a local craft / haberdashery shop.

**SAFETY:** If using meat trays, they should be washed thoroughly with a dilute bleach solution (follow guidance on the bottle).

**NOTE:** If you are fortunate you may have already got cardboard based looms at school in which case this video will show you a simple way to achieve a woven product:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWLly-Um7\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWLly-Um7_0)



## How to make pompoms

What you will need:

- Variety of wool colours
- Cardboard – empty cereal packets are ideal
- Scissors

What you will do:

1. Draw two circles of the same size onto a piece of card.
2. Cut out your circles, and then cut a 1-2 cm circular hole in the middle of each (large enough to thread the yarn through). They will now look like doughnuts.
3. Holding the two circles together, start threading the wool through the hole and wind it around the doughnut shape that you created. Cut long lengths of wool (from your finger to elbow), then fold them double to save time.
4. If you run out of wool, simply cut another piece, tie it to the end of the previous piece and continue.
5. Work your way around to completely cover the card circles.
6. Repeat this until the hole in the middle becomes very small.
7. Next, when the circles are completely covered, cut the wool around the outside of the circles (circumference). To do this, ease the point of your scissors between the two cardboard discs, snip round, a bit at a time, holding the circles together with your other hand.
8. When you have cut all the way round, use a separate piece of wool to wrap around the centre of your pompom (between the two cardboard circles) and tie in a tight knot.
9. Tear and slide off the two card discs and fluff up your pompom.

If you are wanting to try a variety of different methods to create pompoms watch this:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDahuw179K8>

**NOTE:** Please be careful using the sharp scissors as they may slip when cutting through the thick wool.

You could even make a pompom sheep by using white wool and then sticking on googly eyes and attaching some pipe cleaner legs.

