

teen take & make

[maker kit]
wilmette public library

Needle Felting

In our needle felting workshop, we'll make a cute felt cactus using wool roving and felting needles. Twisted Fiber Studio provides the full photo instructions included on the interior sheet.



Have questions or comments about our Teen Take & Makes?
Email me at khutley@wilmettelibrary.info



Ingredients (Included)

- 1-2 g of pink wool roving
- 2-3 g of brown wool roving
- 3-4 g of light green wool roving
- 3-4 g of dark green wool roving
- 6-7 g of tan wool roving
- 3 sizes of felting needles in a plastic container

You Supply:

- Thick sponge, foam pad, folded towel, or other protective surface
- Finger protection such as gloves, thimbles, tape, etc.

SAFETY TIP: Needle felting uses a sharp, barbed tool that can easily result in pricked fingers. It stings! Be careful, go slow, have band-aids on hand, and use finger coverings when possible.

How does Needle Felting Work?

Needle felting is a craft that involves repeatedly stabbing a needle into a piece of wool in order to stiffen and shape it into the desired form. The needles are barbed made to agitate the wool fibers, so they end up bonding the fibers together in a firm shape.

For this project, you should have three needle of different gauges and enough wool roving to make at least two cacti (or one cacti and a project from your own imagination).





Beginner Tips:

Don't cut wool roving with scissors.

You can separate the fibers by pulling and tearing gently to get the amount you need for a particular area.

Keep your needle straight.

To avoid breaking the needle, insert the needle directly up and down into the wool on the foam pad. Pull the needle out at the same angle. Do not bend the needle while in the wool.



Work evenly.

Keep moving the wool around as you work so that the fibers are agitated evenly as you poke around at every angle. Always be mindful of where your fingers are when moving the wool around!

Don't force it.

If after felting an area, you feel resistance inserting the needle, you may need to move to a new area or use a smaller gauge needle.

Felt in layers.

Start with a smaller piece of wool to begin with and gradually add more to increase the size of your shape. This helps make sure the inside of the wool is fully felted before you start a new layer. Also, you can always add more wool, but you cannot remove it working it into a shape.

Be patient.

Your project will often not resemble anything close to what you are trying to make until at least 3/4 of the way through. It all comes together near the end and every one, experienced or a complete beginner, feels exactly the same way.

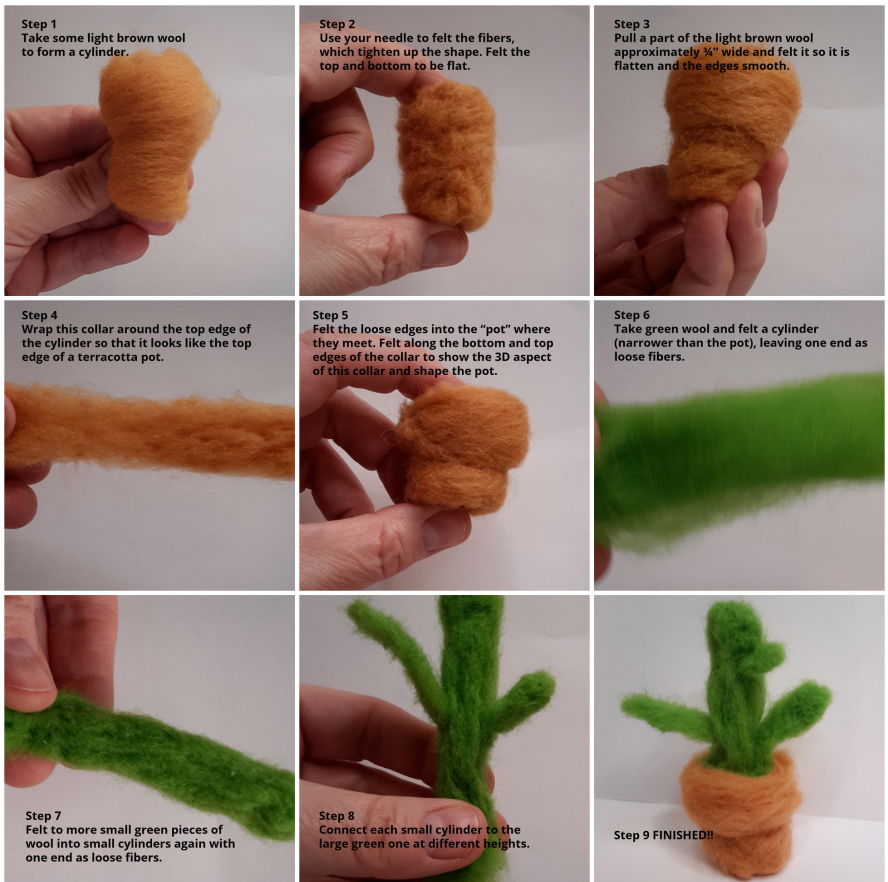
Practice makes perfect.

Your project still may look different than you expect when you're all done. That's okay! Building a new skill takes time. Practice making basic shapes (round balls, cylinders, ovals, squares, etc.) of various sizes before attempting a lot of complex projects.

There are lots of kits out there.

Kits are nice because you get everything you need plus instructions. However once you get the basics down, you can sometimes just look at pictures and recreate with your own supplies. For your second cactus, check out these options below from a kit - can you figure out how to make one?





This program was done live over Zoom, but Twisted Fiber Studio provided full photo instructions for those who could not attend. There are a number of beginner tutorials to watch on YouTube as well, to get a basic idea of the skills needed to complete this project.