

HOW TO MAKE A SOFT FELT MOUSE

Materials: Main body colour fleece, contrast fleece for ears, thread, tiny amount of dark fleece for eyes, felting needle (36 or 38 gauge).

Needle felting is a dry method for felting together wool fibres to form a solid material. Repeated pricking with a barbed needle tangles the tiny fibres helping them to lock.

Caution: Felting needles are very sharp and have barbs along their length. They will pierce a fingernail if pushed hard, so it is important to always use a foam base and never to direct the needle at your hand or finger. Always work on a soft surface to protect the fine point of the needle.

To make a simple felt mouse

1 Find a soft surface such as a piece of foam (a thick bath sponge or garden kneeling mat will do) to use as a work surface. Take about half of your main body colour. Roll it, wrapping it around itself into a tight sausage shape. Using your fingers, shape one end into a point and

start gently pricking at the point to make it firmer.



Shape and rotate it as you prick, making it into a pointed mouse snout.

2. Take 2 small pieces of the contrast fleece and rub them between your finger tips until they start to flatten. Leaving one end of the fleece loose, prick away at the top end, firming it up from both sides to make a small ear shape.



Lay the ears on the mouse head, about 1cm from the tip of the snout and use the needle to

fix the loose fleece on the ear into the mouse body.



Then take a small strip of body colour fleece and wrap it across the back of the ears and start pricking again. Add more fleece to build up the 'shoulder' area of the mouse and cover up the remaining ear fleece.



3. Continue to add more fleece to the body, wrapping layers and needling it evenly around the body. The mouse will start to feel firmer as the wool becomes denser. Continue to turn and prick until it is a nice shape all round.

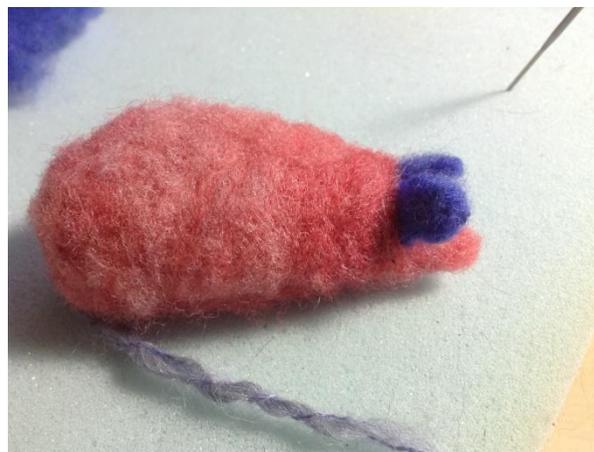


4. Turn the mouse onto its back and lay the wool for the tail underneath him. Then wrap more of the body colour fleece around to secure the tail and hide it under his tummy.

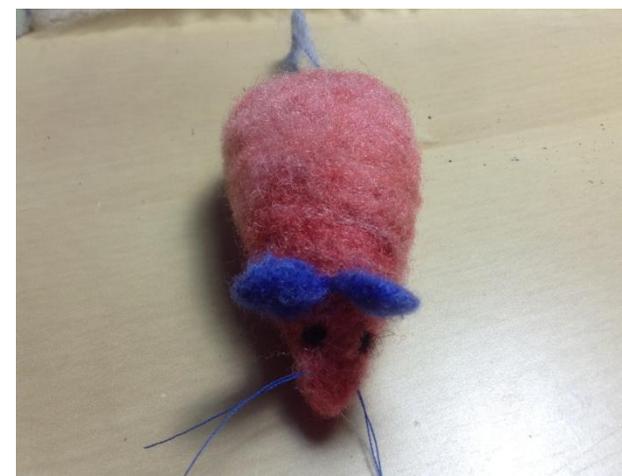


Make sure that the tail has enough loose yarn hanging out beyond the end of the body.

5. Continue to wrap fleece and needle the fibres evenly around the body of the mouse.



6. Take the piece of thread for whiskers and tie a double knot about 2 cm from the end. Pull this into the snout. Repeat so that there are 4 threads on each side of the snout. Trim them to the required length. Roll the tiny amount of dark fleece between moist fingertips to form eyes and prick these into the face.



Your mouse is finished! For more felting supplies visit www.katrineagle.com

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