



How to needle felt an
egg shape using core
wool

Additional tips

Before you begin, you may find these tips helpful.

Holding the needles

I personally find using the needles without a needle holder much easier. Using it just as it is, in between my thumb and fingers, gives me better 'feedback' so I can 'feel' what is going on with my felting. I have found I break less needles this way too as a needle holder 'absorbs' the feeling you get of the wool being felted.

I have also found that holding the needles as shown in the picture helps two needles stay together without splaying out in different directions and then breaking, and it also prevents a single needle from breaking as it is being supported down most of its length.

One needle or two?

For creating shapes from scratch I use two needles because it is quicker. When I am attaching shapes I tend to use one needle so I can felt deeply. For smoothing out my work for a nice finish, I go back to poking gently with two needles again.

Amounts of wool

When applying the wool to your project, the amount of wool you use will always vary to some degree so no two finished pieces will ever look the same (unless you accurately measure the wool). There will always be variations in how your finished piece looks compared to my pictures and even if you make three of the same project there will be differences. There is no right or wrong way, each piece of work is unique, original and wonderful so feel free to add more or less wool than I suggest to achieve the look you want. You may find it a worthwhile investment to purchase a small set of inexpensive scales, make sure they measure grams/oz's. General kitchen scales may not measure smaller quantities accurately.

Please read the instructions before you begin felting.



You will need:

A felting base to work upon

Felting needles in a 38 gauge or lower

Core wool

Scales to measure amounts of wool (very useful but not essential)

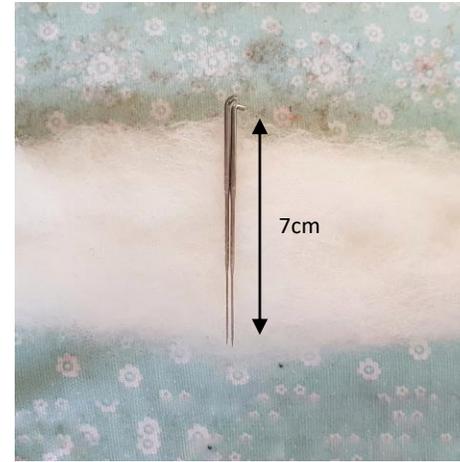
We will be making an egg approx. 7cm tall



1) Measure out 10g of core wool or similar short fibred and lofty wool. If you don't have scales you want a chunk of wool about half the size of an A4 sheet of paper.



2) Split the wool in to two equal halves. We will use one half to roll up to make a cylinder shape which will be the centre of the egg and the other half we will use to build up the egg shape.



3) Take one of the halves of wool and stretch/lay it out on your mat horizontally so it is wide across your felting mat and not very tall.

You want it to be the height of a felting needle (approx. 7 cm) so you may need to fold it to reduce the height or stretch it up a bit.



4) Start to roll the wool very tightly as shown in the photo. You can give it a few stabs as you are rolling it if you wish.

You need to roll it tightly into a cylinder shape. Rolling it tightly reduces felting time and gives you a good central base to build up the egg shape.



5) Continue rolling it until you come to the end of the wool. Begin to felt the cylinder shape all over so it doesn't unravel.



7) Take a chunk of the wool you have left, tear some off and shape it into a long length. Begin to wrap the widest end of your cylinder as this will be the bottom of your egg. Wrap the wool reasonably tightly around the bottom and felt it into place. Remember to work all around the shape so you don't flatten it out.



6) You now have a cylinder shape. You can gently roll the cylinder in your palms to encourage the fibres to bind together. Be careful though not to squash it as it will become long and thin! You want it to be approx. 7cm in length. You may notice your cylinder shape has a wider end and a narrower end. We will build up the wider end to create the bottom of the egg shape.



8) Felt the bottom to round it off as shown in the photo.



9) You can add another layer to the bottom to build it up further if needed. Adding a few thinner layers is better than struggling to smooth out a huge chunk. Adding layer by layer also helps to hide and smooth out any lumps and bumps.



11) Felt the egg so it is reasonably firm. If it is too squishy it will be hard to attach other shapes too. If you over felt it, it will get smaller. In this case just add more layers of wool.



10) Add layers of wool to the top half of your egg also to build that up and smooth out any bumps. You won't need to add as much to the top of the egg.

Continue adding thin layers of wool to your egg until you are happy with the shape and size.



12) Voila!! Your finished egg!

If you have weighed your wool, you should be able to re create many eggs of the same size.

You can use the same principles to make any shape from core wool, sausage shapes, balls, squares etc...

Rough size of 10g of wool laid flat
(within green lines)

Needle felted egg template guide

--- lay out amount of core wool ---

