

Exploring Dry Felting to Create a Brooch

Time: 1 hour hands on, plus dry time

Difficulty level: Moderate

Messy level: High



Inspired by this stunning red hat made by designer Yves Saint Laurent, this activity will guide you in how to explore the process of dry felting using wool to create your own wearable art.

To view a hi-res image of the work, visit the [MFAH website](#).

Investigate the Work of Art!

1. Clothing, hats, and shoes serve to protect us from the elements, but what do you think is the purpose of style?
2. Think about your most stylish garment or accessory; where was it made and what materials were used?
3. This hat designed by Yves Saint Laurent was made in Paris using fur felt. Felt is a natural fiber made from wool. Can you think of some benefits to using natural fibers over synthetic or manmade fibers?

Gather These Materials

- Needle-Felting Starter Kit (includes the following)
 - Felting needles
 - Wool
 - Felt sheet
 - Foam felting pad
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Sewing thread and needle or hot-glue gun
- Brooch back/pin

Optional Materials

- Wool yarn for adding on top
- Additional wool colors of your own choosing

To purchase some of the recommended art materials, visit [dickblick.com](#).

Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Think of what you want your brooch or pin to look like in terms of color and shape.
2. Using a pencil, draw the outline of your brooch shape onto the felt sheet.
3. Place your felt sheet on top of your foam felting pad.
4. Select the wool you want to use as the base color.
5. Holding the wool in one hand, use your other hand to pull and separate some of the wool.

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6. Place that wool onto your felt sheet within the pencil-drawn area
7. Using your felting needle, poke the loose wool into the felt sheet.
(The needles are barbed and will begin turning the wool into felt.)
8. Continue needle felting and adding wool until your base is consistently thick and felted.
9. Lay additional wool colors or wool yarn on top to add decorative elements.
10. Cut out your brooch shape.
11. On the back of your brooch, attach a fastener by stitching with needle and thread or by using a hot-glue gun.

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