



DIY WET FELTING



Start by placing one of your leaf shapes on top of the piece of bubble wrap. You have different kind of colours in your kit to choose from. Would you like a dark coloured leaf, start by choosing the lighter colours and end with a darker colour. If you prefer a light coloured leaf, similar to the example photo, start by selecting a dark colour and end with a lighter colour. At the end, you'll cut in the surface of the felt so the layers underneath will show.

Start by taking little pieces of wool and putting them on top of the leaf shape, covering the white shape altogether. Try to make the layering as even as possible. When you want to make your second coating you can choose to not place it on the entire shape, but for example, just the half of it. With your last layer you can make little details at the top of the leaf, on the tips, placing the wool quite thinly. The package also contains a piece of silk, this you can use in the last layer. The silk becomes curly during the felting with gives beautiful details in your work.



[15 min] Fill your plant spray bottle with warm water. A measuring cup can be used, if a spray bottle is not available. Spray the water on your work of felt. Thoroughly wetten the wool, but try to avoid using so much water that it begins to pool underneath. Lay the silicone mat on top of your work and press it on the wool, using your hands. Use the piece of olive soap (dip it in water first) to rub on the silicone mat, making small circles, and the soap will begin to foam. Because of the foam the silicone mat is slippery and you can easily rub your felting work, making circular motions. Through a combination of the pressure and the warmth of your hands the wool will start to felt.



[15 min] Remove the silicone mat from your work. You're now going to rub directly on the wool. If you have added too much water, just carefully blot the excess water with a towel. Use more of the olive soap to create foam directly onto your work so you can easily rub the wool. Make circular movements on your work. Repeat these movements on the other side of your work. Do this until you feel the work is firm enough.



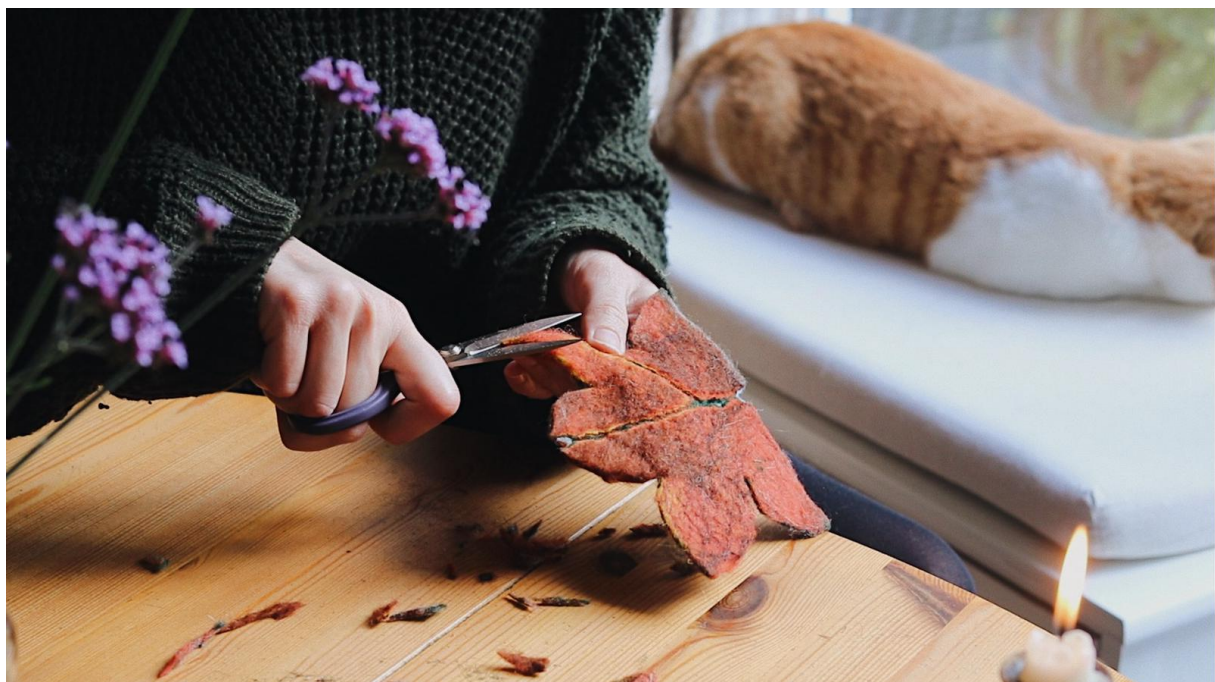
Fill a bucket with warm water. Dip your work in the water and wash the soap out of your work. Because of the warm water the wool will shrink some more.



Gently try to pluck the fibres from the top of the felt, using your finger. This is called a pinch test. If the fibres come loose, your work has not felted enough. Go back to step 3 and repeat it to make the work more firm by rubbing it with soap and warm water.



[10 min] Roll your work firmly and tightly into a towel. Roll it back and forward. During the rolling you knead the towel as if you are kneading bread dough. Make sure to put a lot of pressure on the rolling, so the process of felting will go quicker. After rolling the work at least 5 minutes you crumple up the work and start throwing it on the table surface. Repeat this about 30 times. By throwing it, the fibers becoming more crocheted. How do you know if it's felted enough? You can see this on the structure of the surface of your work, is it lumpy and firm? Then it's become a good piece of felt.



Cut the excess felt on the edges, so that the leaf shape become more clearly. Fold your work in half and cut a straight line in the upper layer (not the other layers), using scissors. By doing this you'll see the other colors appearing. This way you can make leaf veins in your felted work. When you look for example at a autumn leaf you'll see often that there are little cracks in the leaf, you can easily imitate this by using the scissors. You can decide yourself how much you reveal of the other colours underneath. Before you know it you have your own leaf made of felt!

Enjoy your new coasters!