

How to make felted table decorations

Materials needed:

- Carded wool or wool tops, 4 colours 30 g each
- 2 pink and 4 brown strips of silk scraps (~0.5 cm width and 30 cm length)
- Bunch of various yarn scraps
- Bamboo placemat
- Linen or cotton towel
- Soap
- Water (H₂O)

1. Arranging wool fibre for 4 different felt items

Take the grey wool fibre and divide it into three equal parts. Pull out the wool and lay it as thin as possible to make a three-layer square (~30 x 30 cm). At the end of arranging the last layer, with a few pieces of the fibre left, integrate the decorative strips of brown silk. Cut the silk into 4 equal pieces of 30 cm each, put them at equal intervals so that they cross each other to form a chequered pattern. Occasionally scatter the rest of the wool on the silk strips.

Then form another three-layer square (~30 x 30 cm) from the pink wool fibre. Decorate it with 2 pink silk strips and also slightly cover them with wool.

Proceed with arranging a three-layer square (~30 x 30 cm) from the greenish wool fibre. Decorate it with yarn residues. Cut the yarn scraps into very small pieces with scissors and sprinkle them over the entire surface of the wool pad. Finish with transparently scattering the remaining wool.

Then form a rectangle of about 24 x 45 cm in size from the white wool fibre. Arrange it in two layers with yarn residues or dried plants in between. After arranging one layer, insert the yarn along the shorter sides of the rectangle leaving enough length outside so that the threads can be bonded together later. Fill the entire area of the rectangle with threads to improvise a linear drawing so that the white background remains dominant. Then cover the whole composition again with the white wool fibre.

2. Wet felting

All four items are felted using the same felting technique. Prepare about 1.5 litres of hot water (you can use a kettle, but the water temperature should not exceed 50 ° C). Lay out the bamboo mat on a towel. Rub a wet bar of soap against the mat. Place the wool fibre preparation on the mat the right side down and moisten well with hot water. With soapy hands, spread the water over the fibre so that the whole item is fully soaped and wet. Keep soaping your hands constantly. By gently moving the item, start felting until you feel it move like a solid fabric. Then moisture it again with hot water, roll it up and rub several times, changing the sides of the square or rectangle several times to make it shrink in both directions. If there is excess cool water, remove it with the towel. Keep heating and rubbing the items until the squares shrink to 20 x 20 cm and the rectangular becomes 16 x 30 cm in size. Rinse the felted product and let it dry.

3. Making table decorations

Divide the coloured felt squares into 4 equal parts and trim any uneven edges. Now you have four table pads 10 x 10 cm each. The felt pads made this way are perfect to cut and do not fray. If you want to add variety to your table decor collection, you can easily turn some of them into openwork snowflakes as needed. Take one of the squares, fold it in half and cut it like a paper snowflake, improvising and forming symmetrical diamond- and tooth-shaped patterns.

Use the white rectangle to form a cover for a glass lantern. It could be a tea light candle placed in a low beaker. Cut one of the long sides of the felt to do pointed (triangular) edging. This is how you get 4 connected houses. Make a fold line in the middle of each house and cut out windows in the shape of a cross, a star or a T-letter.