

WOOL SEW ALONG

WOOL

Felted wool is created by taking wool fabric and exposing it to heat, pressure and water. Basically, treating your wool piece as badly as you can.

Wool felt is small individual threads of wool that have been meshed together by heat, pressure and water.

Craft felt. Is man-made fibers that are meshed together by pressure, heat, water.

The felt you are using in the bare root patterns in this project are wool felt. Wool felt is a stiffer fabric and has a crisp edge which will not fray when cut and stitched. It can be ironed and fused. If your wool felt came in a kit, it was probably folded and will need to be ironed before you cut the applique pieces out. The wool felt will iron with a dry iron on a cotton setting.

If you have wrinkled craft felt you should be cautious in ironing. You will not know what man-made fibers are in the piece.

PREPARING PATTERN PIECES

The pattern pieces can be copied by tracing them onto freezer paper or a fusible product.

FREEZER PAPER

Freezer paper can be acquired in the grocery store in a roll, or in a quilt store in packages of sheets in varying sizes and thicknesses.



TRANSFERRING YOUR PATTERNS TO THE FREEZER PAPER

Freezer paper is opaque enough to be able to trace most patterns without a light source behind it. If you can't see the pattern then one of the following will work.

- Darken the pattern with a sharpie or pen
- Tape pattern to window
- Use a light box
- Freezer paper in sheets will go thru an ink jet printer and copy the pattern directly. Again, the pattern needs to be placed in the printer so the paper side is printed NOT the shiny side.

FUSIBLE PRODUCTS

You can also use a fusible to place your pieces on the background. The very lightest 2-sided fusible should be used. The piece will not needle easily if one of the stronger fusible is used. Before tracing your pieces onto the fusible determine whether or not the pattern pieces have been reversed. Fuse onto the felt using the instructions for the specific fusible product you are using.

CUTTING OUT THE PATTERN PIECES

When cutting pattern pieces from the freezer paper or the fusible, cut the pattern pieces out on the line. Do not leave any room around the piece. You will get a cleaner cut on the felt.

GETTING THE FREEZER PAPER OR FUSIBLE ONTO THE WOOL

- Iron the freezer paper onto the wool.
- The freezer paper will take a dry iron on cotton setting. Try 10 seconds. If this doesn't work a few more until the freezer paper is adhered enough to cut out the piece.
- Wool felt will take the freezer paper more easily than felted wool. Felted wool may take a little longer. The freezer paper will not adhere as strongly to wool products as it will to cotton fabrics.
- When cutting out the wool piece it is best to cut the pieces out roughly with room around the line then cut each piece individually. Hold the wool flat while cutting. Bending the wool will cause the bond to weaken.
- Fusible should be ironed onto the wool according to the instructions for the product used.