



ROBIN NEEDLE FELTING KIT



HOW TO FELT BASICS

Caution: This activity is for adults and older children (use your own discretion) and then only with strict adult guidance and supervision due to the long and very sharp needles. Do not allow young children to attempt this project alone!

What is Needle Felting? Felt is made using barbed needles (actually notches but usually referred to as barbed) and repeatedly and carefully stabbing into the wool fleece, you will tangle the fibres together until the wool becomes firm, and, following the instructions, create your own needle felted sculpture.

Before you Start:

Before you start your sculpture it is important to know a few basics about needle felting but equally important is that this is YOUR creation. On the box is a photograph which is a great reference to body parts, shapes etc. I always work best from photographs and there is also an instruction booklet with photographs in your kit but remember, no two sculptures will ever be the same because you are creating with your hands, you are not a machine. You may decide to make changes. BRILLIANT! Make it your own. You could try needle felting the eyes if you are feeling confident. The internet is full of tutorials so just go for it. If you make a mistake then remove it by gently tugging with a standard dress pin and try again. If you don't like the position of a leg, paw, ear etc. remove it and try it somewhere else. Tip: When checking positions of legs, ears etc. just pin in place until you are happy with the positioning, gently needle in (don't hit the pin or your needle may break), remove pin and when you are completely satisfied go ahead and felt in securely.

Most importantly, be patient and enjoy making your own needle felted sculpture. Take your time and remember "the devil is in the detail" so tempting though it is, don't rush when you are getting near the end of your project. Sit back and decide on your finishing touches. Make it simple, quirky or as detailed as you like...

If you have any questions or need any advice when making your sculpture I have provided my e-mail contact so help is always at hand if you need it...

DISCLAIMER: Needle felting is highly addictive and can lead to compulsive creativity. I cannot be held responsible for unwashed dishes, rejected friends and family, hungry pets.....

Good luck and happy felting!

Sandy Lincolnshire Fenn Crafts

IMPORTANT: IF YOU ARE PRONE TO SKIPPING OVER WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE THIS SECTION

7 REALLY IMPORTANT HINTS AND TIPS TO REMEMBER BEFORE YOU START!

- 1 -**Firm** is key to successful 3D needle felting. Firm (not hard) but still springs back when squashed.
- 2 -**Roll body parts quite tightly** before beginning to felt – trust me, this will greatly reduce your felting time.
- 3 -Needle felting is a short stabbing motion into your wool which tangles and locks the fibres; your needle should only pierce the top of the foam and, not at all when turning a felting the main body.
- 4 -**Turn as you felt** any 3D body part. This will give your structure its shape and prevent 'dents' in your finished shape.
- 5 – Start with less than you think you will need; You can add wool to make your shape bigger but **you can't take it away.**
- 6- When fully felted your 3D body part **will be approximately 30% smaller** than the shape you started with.
- 7 - **Only move your needle straight up and down, not at an angle; this will most certainly break the needle!**
- 8 – **Keep your fingers out of the way. It hurts when you stab them!**

For more information, please visit: www.lincolnshirefenncraftsblog.com

Any questions please message me via the website: www.lincolnshirefenncrafts.com

3-D Needle Felting:

The technique for making 3-D felted objects is much the same as for flat needle felting. You need to take extra precautions to watch your fingers because, as you hold and turn your project, there is a greater chance of poking through the wool right into your finger! Use the foam pad wherever possible.

You can produce the different parts of your project separately, such as a head, legs, body, etc. Then, when they are well formed, attach them to the main base of your figure (see kit illustrations) For example, when you are ready to attach the head, lay it where you want it (it's your project so you don't have to follow the photograph to the letter as this is just a guide) and poke the needle through the head entirely into the wool of the body. By doing this many times and from different angles, eventually the two pieces are joined (no glue required).

Remember to always poke your needle in a straight line, up and down, no matter the angle, so as not to break your needle.

To hold and smooth out the joint wrap a thin layer of wool around the neck and needle felt it into place. This strengthens the joint, as well.

Details can be added by using different colour wools.

The finished project will be unique to you so feel free to use your imagination. Be patient as these lovely creations deserve the time they take to make and you will quickly get used to the needle felting process. Once you have finished this project there will be no stopping you!

Upon completion sit back, admire and tell your friends and family "I did that!"

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE PROJECTS ARE COLLECTABLES, NOT TOYS!

KEEP THEM AWAY FROM PETS AND SMALL CHILDREN!

Let's get started. You can have a practice using the instructions below or go straight to your project. **Just remember the above 7 points!**

Have a little practice first...

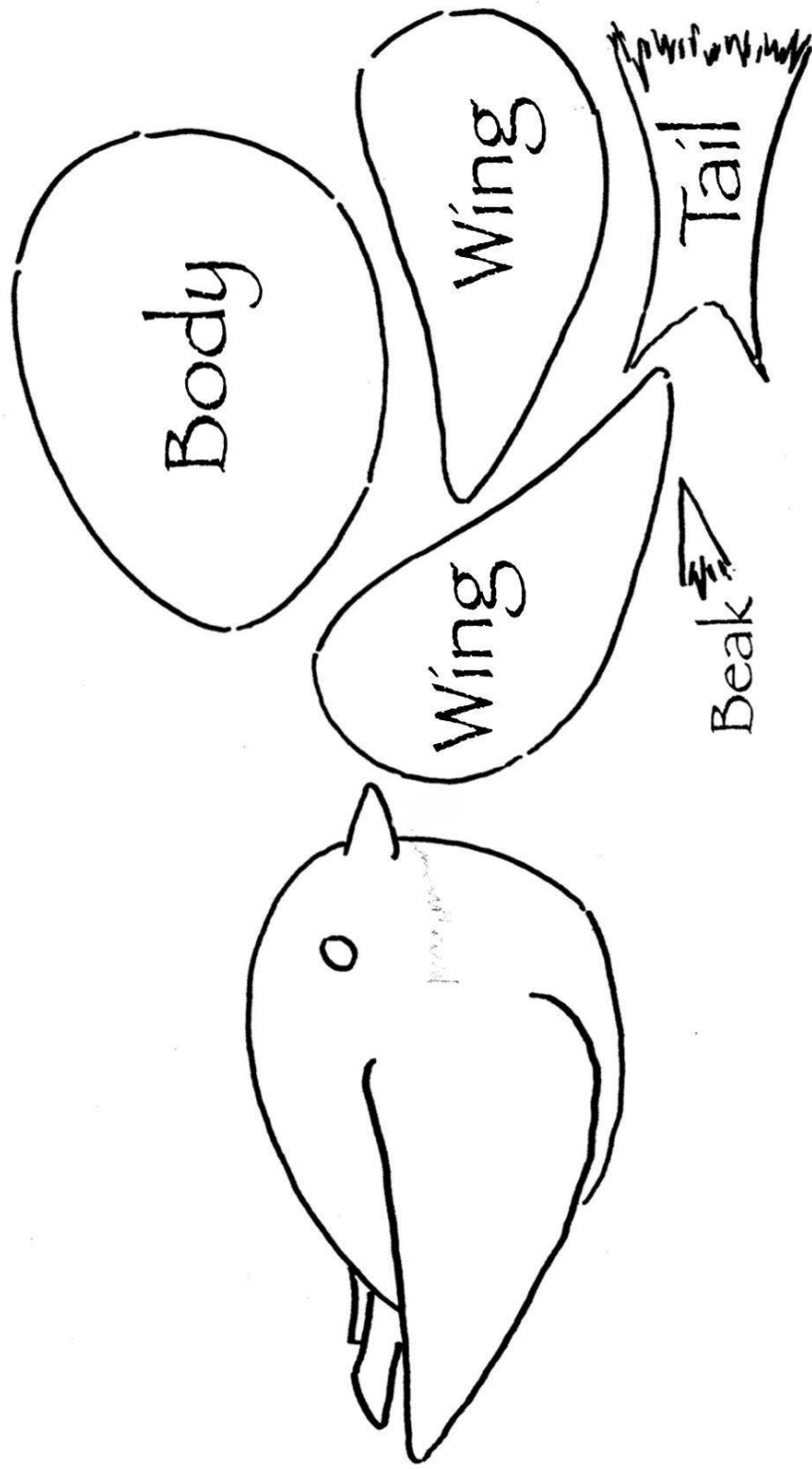
You don't have to do this before you start your project but there is enough wool in your kit for you to try a small, flat practice piece first to help you get used to using the felting needles. Just pull away approx. 1" of wool/roving from your main colour (hold the wool gently with both hands a small distance apart and pull gently; the wool should 'tear' off quite easily... Lay it flat on your foam block and stab gently with your needle. Don't push the needle too far into the foam. As you get used to this action you can gradually speed up. Make sure you pull your piece gently but firmly off the pad, turn over and repeat before it becomes stuck to the pad. Repeat and turn approx. 6/7 times. You will now see how your piece has started to felt and is difficult to pull apart. It's as simple as that... Even if you are keen to get started straight away please read the basics first; especially numbers 1-7!

REMEMBER: DON'T BEND THE NEEDLE!

Roving: means the wool provided in your kit

Felting: means to stab your wool with the barbed felting needles provided to produce a fibre that will not pull apart.

Lincolnshire Fenn Crafts



"Rustic Robin"

Rustic Robin Instructions

The artwork on the box of your kit is good for reference and shows the overall 3D shape, but please use the printed sheet in this booklet as a guide for the approximate size and shape of each body part. Always start with less wool and build up the shape and size as you go; you can add but not take away.

This kit makes two robins when using the size template included.

Remember that anything worth doing takes time: felting is not a quick process and this project will take around 2/3 hours to complete (this is of course an approximation as everyone works at different speeds) and, also depends on how many tea and cake breaks are involved so, take your time, don't get distracted (the needles are very sharp!) and enjoy learning a new skill, or improving the ones you already have.

Remember: 3D objects need to be turned as you felt so as not to flatten the shape. Always use the foam pad supplied in your kit.

Most importantly: Firm but springy is the key to 3D felting. Each body part that you felt needs to be springy to keep its shape. When you press, the wool should quickly return to its original shape and, if in doubt felt some more!

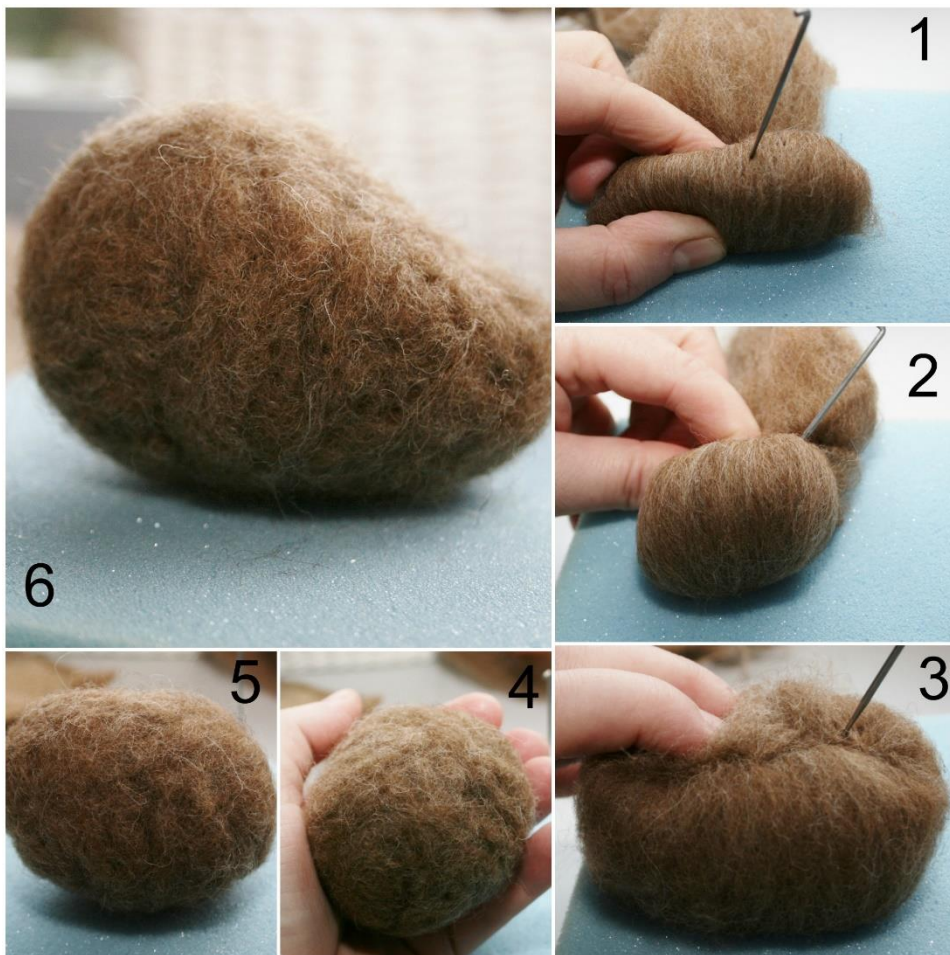
It is important to mention that I always use and, photograph my first attempts rather than perfecting and only using the best photographs which, I hope, gives you the confidence to know that you do not need to be artistic to complete these projects, just enthusiastic. Feel free to make your own adjustments and use your own ideas. Your project will only come together at the end of the felting process, so be patient. You can always add little details or change the ones you are not happy with at the end of your project. **Felt can be pulled into shape - more can be added but not taken away.**

Follow the numbered instructions and corresponding, numbered photographs; remember to use your template as a rough size guide.

Let's get started...

Body - written instructions on next page

Separate the wool into two pieces – gently pull apart (do not tug) and put one half aside for your second Robin



body contd...

1 & 2: Start with a long length of wool (you will need around two thirds) and roll into a rough ball shape tucking in the ends as you go. **Tip: Start with less than you need and add to it as you go.** Stab the wool as you turn – this is the felting process which tangles and locks the fibres together - keeping the needle straight until the wool fibres start to lock together and it starts to hold its shape **Tip:** Keep turning as you felt so as not to make dents in one part of the body.

3: Continue to felt until you have achieved the desired shape and size – compare the size with the body on the size template.

4 & 5: When you have achieved a rough egg shape (the narrower end will become the rear of the Robin) gently roll it between your hands; this helps to smooth and shape the body and covers any deep needle marks.

6: Squeeze and felt the narrow end to flatten it a little (this is where your tail will be attached). Your finished body shape should be soft but springs back to shape when you squeeze it.

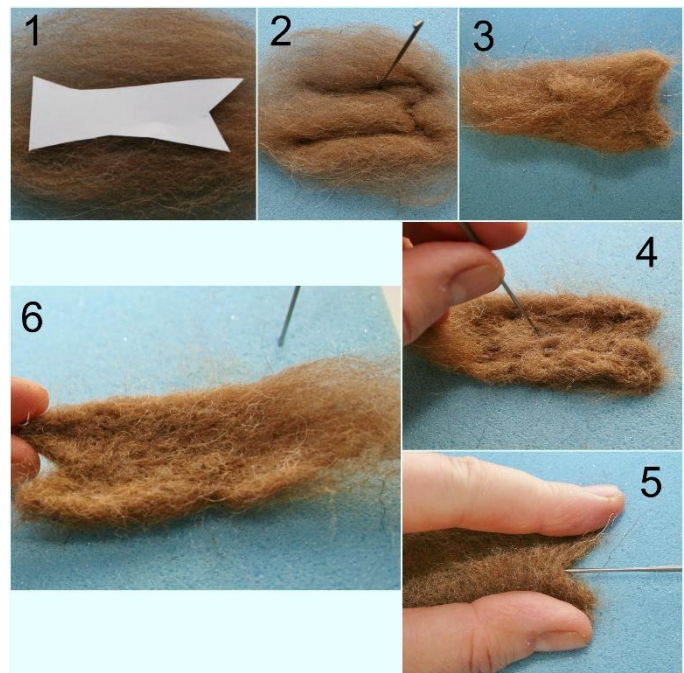
Body Colour (below)



1. Blend the orange and a little red together with your hands (or more red depending on your colour preference).
2. Gently and quite loosely attach to the underside of the body bringing the colour approx. half way up
3. Continue to felt until your colour is roughly and loosely attached **Tip: The patches of brown showing through add contrast and give it a more natural look**

Making the tail (right)

1. Cut out the tail template and lay on top of a thin layer of wool on your foam block. Use your needle to draw a rough shape around it.
2. Remove template and go over the lines you have drawn again.
3. Fold in the sides and felt gently, following the line of the shape you have created; keep the end loose so it can be felted easily to the body.
4. Keep turning and felting until firm
5. Hold the sides of the tail and create more of a 'fork' shape by pushing the needle gently and repeatedly through the centre, being careful not to poke your fingers. **Always keep your needle straight or the tip will break!**



Attaching the tail (right)

Felt the loose end of the tail to the narrow end of the body. **Tip: As long as the tail is secured don't worry about any loose wool as you can felt over it but keep it quite loose for a more natural look**



Building up the head (below)

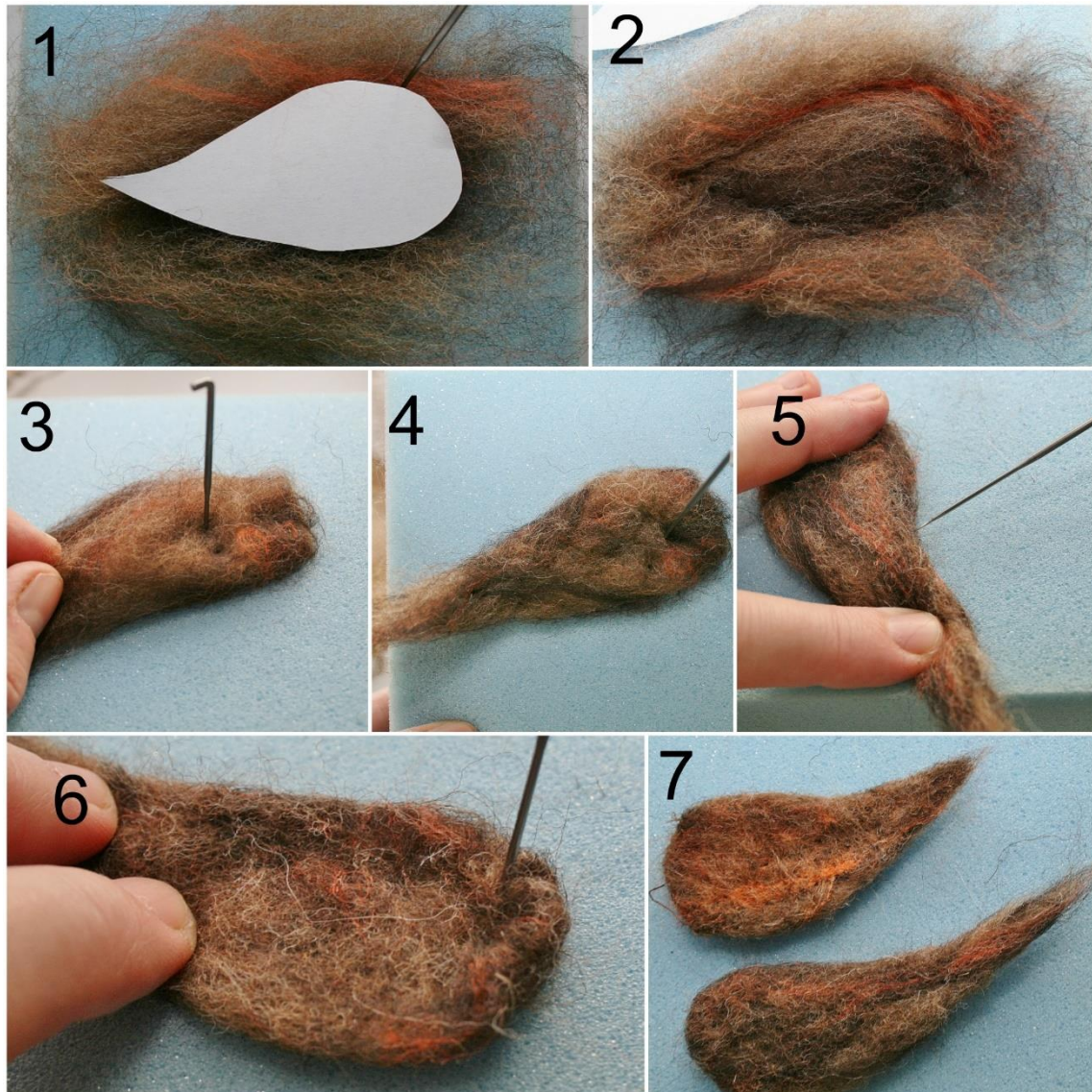
1. Take your remaining wool and gently pull away a length of approx. 10cm (it doesn't have to be exact) but make sure you have wool left over for the wings, head and beak. Fold in half and gently twist the end so you have a rough petal shape
2. Attach the narrow end gently to the top half of the body (the wider end) and felt into place
3. Now hold where you have just felted and continue to gently felt the rest of the loose wool; this will give a little more dimension to your Robin
4. **Tip:** Felt at a sideways angle (keeping the needle straight) to reduce needle marks and help keep the shape
5. Finished body



Making the wings (see next page photographs)

1. With your hands blend a thin layer of brown, dark brown and a little orange and lay on top of your foam block. Cut out one wing template and lay on top of this layer of wool. As with the tail, use your needle to draw a rough shape around it.
2. Remove the wing template and go over the lines you have drawn again.
3. Fold in the sides and felt gently, following the line of the shape you have created
4. Keep turning and felting until it is firm and holds its shape **Tip: It should be firm but not bulky**
5. Hold the sides of the wing and create a curve by pushing the needle gently and repeatedly along the top centre, being careful not to poke your fingers. **Always keep your needle straight or the tip will break!**

6. If you want to you can tidy the wing around the edges by pulling the edges over and felting some more. Keep turning and repeating until you are happy with the overall shape. Repeat the procedure for your second wing
7. Decide how you want your finished wing to look; you can fold the end over for a tidy finish or leave it loose



Completed body parts



Attaching The Wing

1. Hold the wing and felt onto the side of the body by poking the needle through different parts of the wing.
2. Repeat for the other side.
Tip: Wings can be up or down depending on personal preference; in my case, just where they ended up...



Making The Beak

1. Blend together a thin length of dark and light brown.
2. Hold in the centre.
3. Pinch together whilst rolling it in-between your fingers.
4. Fold in half and roll the end in the palm of your hand to create the point of the beak
5. Keep one end loose to attach to the face and felt gently on
Tip: felt gently so as not to distort the face



Almost there. Just a few finishing touches to add...



Eyes

Left: Take the needle and black thread from your sewing kit (included in the box) and sew (see left photo) through from one side of the face to the other a few times to secure.

Right: Once thread is secure, pop the bead on the end of the needle (see right photo) and sew through a few more times to hold the bead in place.

Now sew through to the other side and pop your second bead on the end of the needle to secure the other eye.



Finish your Rustic Robin by adding some highlights above the eyes and, if you wish, also to the body



Now it's time for a cuppa whilst you admire your lovely creation or, decide whether to keep it for yourself instead of giving it as gift, as planned... Good job there is enough to make two!

