

All about Felt.



Please read our T & C's – www.rosamaycrafts.com

DISCLAIMER: Please note this is my very own guideline, there are so many guides and tips, use which one you feel works for you.

What is Felt and How is felt made?

Felt is a man-made fabric. Felt is made from various fibres – wool, acrylics and other synthetic fibres (polyester, rayon, viscose) – that are condensed and pressed together using heat, moisture and pressure.

Felt comes in various thicknesses, which is measured in millimetres – from 1.00 mm to 3.00 mm and densities - is the weight of the felt. The density is measured and noted in grams per square – eg. 100gsm and will have different uses. The thickness of the felt is 99 % noted in the product description when buying online, but it is not common to see the density.

If you are adding layers to your projects, it is better to use a thinner – 1.00 mm – felt. It will be easier to stitch, but will also not look bulky.

PLEASE NOTE: That there are thicker and denser felts that are used more for commercial purposes.

Types of Felt

There are a variety of felt types, but in this blog, I will only discuss 3 of the more commonly used in crafting projects and my patterns.

Blended Wool Felt – synthetic fibre blended with wool

Craft Felt – only synthetic fibres

Wool Felt – 100 % wool – either from sheep or other woolly creatures.

Wool Blend Felt



Wool Blend Felt is made from a blend of nylon, polyester or cotton and wool. It is between a 20% to 40 % wool and 60% to 80% synthetic fibre. The percentages do change and so will the felts characteristics.

It is durable, has the look and feel of wool, it can stretch and will also get bobbles. This type of felt is not as soft as wool felt, but not as stiff as craft felt.

Uses – Perfect for all home crafts and décor, mobiles, toys, costume hats and masks.

Washing – Always best to wash by hand. See instructions below.

Craft Felt



Craft felt is made up of only synthetic materials -bamboo, plastic bottles, acrylic, rayon, it is highly flammable and does not have a long life.

It has a shine to it, can stretch, it is fuzzy when cutting and leaves bobbles. But is the best one to use for kids crafts and it is also cost effective.

Craft felt is made for a variety of synthetic fibres, the best and more commonly used is felt made from the polyester fibre.

This type of felt is also quite stiff, which is great for learning tools.

Uses – kiddies crafts, Montessori learning tools – flash cards, shapes, numbers, bunting, gift tags.

Washing – Always best to wash by hand. See instructions below.

Wool Felt



As it is made from 100% wool, it is therefore the best quality that you can buy. It is soft, durable and 100% biodegradable.

Wool felt does bobble and cuts smoothly without leaving fuzzy edges. It is soft and great for creating toys and other creations.

Use – soft toys, felt bags, hats, garlands, baby mobiles, cat toys, etc.

Washing – needs to be washed by hand in cold water, it is best to prewash, otherwise there will be a slight shrinkage. See instructions below.

NEEDLES FOR SEWING FELT

You can either sew by hand or machine your felt creations or use glue.

The needles you use will depend on the project and type of felt and your personal taste.

Personally, most of my instructional projects, I have used a sewing machine. It is more long lasting; the stitches don't get caught or snagged. Your standard/universal machine sewing needle is perfect for stitching felt.

You can stitch by hand using a standard sewing needle and thread. If using a standard sewing needle, use a small size – size 10 – so that there are no holes left in your felt.

When creating mobiles, home decorations and gifts it is always best to use embroidery needles with wide eyes and embroidery floss. Embroidery floss comes in either 6 or 8 strands, it is always best to divide the strands in two. For

delicate stitching you can use 2 to 3 strands and for bolder stitching 4 to 5 strands. Again, this is your personal choice.

See – <https://rosamaycrafts.com/category/sewing-tutorials/>

IF NOT SEWING – WHICH GLUE TO USE

When you are creating kid's crafts, it is best to use non-toxic glue. It may take longer to dry, but is safer and easier to use.

Hot glue is the best glue to use – adults only or kids with adult supervision. When using hot glue, be careful and apply slowly. If you glue too quickly or use too much, the glue will 'ooze' and damage your project – if you try to pry your glued pieces together you will tear the felt.

CUTTING FELT

When it comes to cutting felt you can use fabric scissor or rotary cutters. I would recommend you buy a pair of embroidery scissors to cut the smaller pieces or cut round corners.

MARKING OR TRACING A PATTERN ONTO FELT

1. You can draw directly on the felt – freehand – with your pencil.
2. You can trace your pattern on with carbon paper.
3. Stencil technique – trace your pattern onto tracing paper/baking paper. You then either cut or prick through the pattern lines. Using a fabric marker, trace the pattern through the cut openings in the baking paper.

BASIC WASHING INSTRUCTIONS

Handwashing is the best, machine wash can stretch or misshape your project.

Use a mild detergent with warm water in a basin or plastic container. Do not use hot water.

Shake it in the water and move side to side. If there is a dark stain, use a very gentle hand scrub.

Rinse with cold water.

Place on a flat surface on a towel. Do not place in the sun, otherwise it will discolour.



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