

Let's make an Autumn Scene Flat Felt

This write up may be even more helpful if you watch the YouTube Video as well.

In the kit:

Organza bag for wool and tool storage

Foam needle felt pad

2 needles, corked

A flat piece of wool felt

Yellow carded corriedale wool (base layer) sky

Green carded corriedale wool (base layer) hills

Silvery Yellow Silk/Merino super soft brushed straight mix

Green wool/viscose mixture brushed straight mix

Silvery brown Silk/Merino super soft brushed straight mix

Orange brushed straight merino mix

White brushed straight corriedale

Black carded corriedale

Notes:

- Corriedale is a specific breed of sheep, most of us needle felters find it to be the best wool for needle felting.
- The needles are very sharp, they are covered with a little cork for safe storage, remove the corks to use the needles.
- These are barbed needles, as you poke them through the wool, they will pull the fibers together.
- Always push and pull the needle in the same angle so you don't bend or break the needle.

Ready to begin:

- Removing everything from the organza bag.
- Lay out all the different wools by type.
- Flatten out the wool sheet on the needle felt pad. Included in the kit is a foam pad, on my Etsy page, I have a wool flat felt pad and a multi-needle tool specifically for these flat felt paintings.
- Beginning with the Yellow carded corriedale wool, unroll it completely, pull off lots of little bits about 1" in length - tip - if you space your hands out about 3-4" on the wool it's easy to pull little sections off of the carded corriedale.
- Lay these little bits out all over the top half of the flat wool sheet, you are creating the base layer for the sky. It doesn't have to be exactly in the middle and the more decorative silk and merino mixes will cover it completely.
- Once you have the top covered with the yellow carded corriedale, start to poke it into place a bit. Once you have it tacked down, you can put the two needles together to needle-felt it all down, you should

have a firm connection with the solid wool felt sheet. I really feel that the multi-needle tool works so well for this.

- Be sure to pull it off of the green foam pad frequently so it doesn't stick.
- Repeat the exact same steps with the green carded corriedale wool for the base of the hills.
- Unroll the Green wool/viscose mixture brushed straight mix completely. Gently spread it across the base of your painting to see what the colors look like. I like to pull this in half or sometimes even less than half to make my hills. To do this, you need to space your hands about 6" apart because all of the fibers are long and going in the same direction, if they are too close, you will not be able to pull it apart. Whatever you do, don't cut in half with a scissor, you will get very defined edges, at this point in the project, you are not looking for that.
- Once you lay these pieces on your project, and you are happy with their layout, you can start to needle felt the horizon lines then tack it in everywhere before the real needle felting begins.
- Now that all of the hills are layed out, you want needle felt over the whole bottom half going up and down with lines, this is so that you don't have any bulging areas of wool. I like to begin in the middle and work my way to the edges. Again, a multi-needle tool would be great for this.
- Now repeat with the Silvery yellow Silk/Merino super soft brushed straight mix, make sure to cover the whole top and touch the horizon line so there is no gap in the wools.
- If you are going to frame this painting, you should turn the project over now and trim off all of the excess wool to the gray flat backing piece. I use a shadow box available from Michaels.
- Turn the project back over and needle-felt the new edges completely so they don't fray.
- Now it is time for the trees. Using the Silvery brown Silk/Merino super soft brushed straight mix, unroll it the whole way, holding it lengthwise, pull off a long thin section, locate where you'd like to put your first tree, tack in the base (where the trunk would meet the ground) really well, then gently pull the rest of the wool up, as well as any that is below the baseline of the tree, needle-felt a small section of that to look like the trunk, the rest will be split into branches.
- For the branches, pull that loose top part of the tree into thinner sections and needle-felt those into place, however wide or narrow you'd like your tree to be. Don't worry - it will all be covered by the orange wool representing autumn leaves.
- Repeat this until you have as many trees as you like.
- Taking the Orange brushed straight merino mix, unroll it all the way, then fold it loosely in half, with a good pair of scissors, trim off lots of tiny pieces. You will not need all of the wool for this.
- Roll those tiny pieces around gently in your fingers just a little bit so they do not show that perfect cut line too obviously. Now add them to your branches, have them cover as much or as little of your trees as you like. Needle-felt these bits in as much as you like, the multi-needle works well here too. You can layer these as much as you like.
- For the sheep, take a thin piece of the White brushed straight corriedale wool, tack in one end and then twist the wool around in circles while poking it into place. Here, I made three big sheep but you can make anything you like. Some of the other season scenes I've made have one ewe and two lambs. So be creative.

- For the faces, just take a tiny piece of the Black carded corriedale and fold it into a thin triangle, needle-felt it into the center of the circle.
- If you'd like to add a flower to the sheep, just needle-felt a tiny amount of the orange wool onto the white wool.
- Congratulations, you are ready to frame this sweet little Autumn Scene.