

## Let's make a Van Gogh Inspired Almond Blossom Egg

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

### 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. The green ended one is course and the blue ended one is finer - start with green always.
- 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:

- Start by emptying out all of the contents from the burlap bag, my card is in there, you can always contact me if you have any questions!
- Fill your bag with four (4) cups of uncooked rice, any uncooked grain, bean, lentil will work fine. Close the bag by pulling the strings and tie a firm knot. You have just created a needle felting surface.
- Choose the green ended needle, carefully pull off the cork and poke the needle into the corner of your felting pad for a safe spot.
- Lay out all the different wools by type . The large white ball of wool is the "core wool" that will be completely used up to make the inside of the egg. The dark blue and turquoise will cover the egg (these are carded corriedale), while the green, pink and the beautiful white and green merino/silk mix will be for the branches and flowers.
- Roll that white wool out completely, you can rip some of it off (about 2-3 feet) and begin rolling it into a very tight ball. Start to poke it together, gently poke the needle into the wool, careful of your fingers. You are just trying to hold it together at this point. You can then add more wool and repeat the process, except this time, you can start adding a bit more wool to one end. I do this by rolling the next layer like a tube around the ball. One end will attach firmly to the bottom of the ball and the opposite side will be a taller, looser tube that you can use to grow that egg shape. (video is very helpful).
- Start to poke all over the egg to begin firming the whole piece up. Careful to try and keep the shape.
- Now that you have a good shape of a little egg, we are going to add all of the remaining wool slowly, stopping to make sure you still have that egg shape, just larger. I like to roll another tube of wool just around the bottom of the egg to build up that end of the shape. Really start to needlefelt the round end to keep the shape. I like to look at the bottom as the south pole and the section where it starts to go into the cone shape as the equator. Needlefelt from the southpole, following the lines of longitude to the equator, these very very close lines will help keep that perfect semi-circle ball shape.
- Now finish the cone part of the egg - needlefelt it as tightly as possible keeping consistent lines, this will help avoid any lumps.
- Once you are happy with the shape and it's nice and firm, time to start with the dark blue. Unravel the whole ball, pull off small sections of the dark blue, like tufts of cotton candy, mix it up a bit in your

hands and start attaching it to the egg, completely covering the whole egg so you cannot see any of the core wool. You may have left over wool.

- Felt it down completely so it's not fluffy at all - the firmer the egg, the easier it will be to add the branches and flowers at the end.
- Using the light blue, pull off small sections again, but this time you will cover with a thin layer so that you can see the dark blue through the light blue a bit. Once again, completely needle felt it flat.
- Once you are happy with the coverage of the light blue, let's take the green, unravel it completely and hold it in both hands, split off a thin section lengthwise, this will be used to represent the branches of the Almond tree.
- Tack in one end of the wool to the bottom of the egg with your needle, just poke that end in completely, then twist the rest of the wool and tack in wherever you'd like, be sure to twist and turn it to look like a gnarled branch.
- Repeat this step to create as many branches as you'd like.
- Now pull a thin piece of the light green/white merino and silk mix, exactly how you did with the green. Loosely roll it in your finger, it should be a very loose ball, only about 5 or 6 rolls in your fingertips, now start to gently needlefelt that ball into anywhere along a branchline, this will be your first outer layer of an almond flower. Using the pink wool, pick out a tiny piece that you like - all of those different pink bits are fun to play with - add that tiny piece to the center of the flower you just made, now your first flower is complete.
- Repeat this process until you have as many flowers as you like.
- The last step is just trimming off any of the excess flower trends that are poking out.

Congratulations, you've just made a Van Gogh inspired Almond Blossom Egg!