

Let's make a fun needle felted Pumpkin!

Quick note to begin: This step-by-step works in conjunction with the video. I highly recommend watching the video on my website to help.

- Start by emptying all the contents from the burlap bag, my card is in there, contact me if you have a question.
- 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. (Needle felting pads can be ordered on my website and they come with more needles and a holder)
- Choose one needle, the green topped one is the coarse needle, it will do the most amount of work, but there will come a point where it will be difficult to penetrate the wool with it, that is when you switch to the blue topped needle, this is a finer needle, but be a bit careful as it can bend or break more easily. Carefully pull off the cork and poke the needle into the corner of your felting pad for a safe parking spot.
- Unroll the big white roll of white carded wool, and make sure it is not twisted. Tie a knot about 2 inches in from the end of the wool and then begin to wrap the wool around that knot, holding it firmly. Hold the wool close to the ball, if you hold it far away, it will break apart. Keep wrapping the wool into the ball shape, every now and then, poke the wool on the ball to hold it in place. Once all of it is wrapped around that knot, you can begin to needle felt everything into place. Poke all over the ball to hold it together. Find a spot on the ball to begin needle felting, poking the needle close together so it really firms up, I like to look at the ball as the earth and needle felt from the north pole to the equator in lines then flip it over and repeat on the other side, this will give you a nice consistency.
- Once you are happy with the ball, you can begin covering it with the orange wool by pulling off small pieces like cotton candy, keep pulling them apart in your hands until they are mixed up, place them on the ball and begin to poke them into place, repeat until the whole ball is covered, then really go over the whole thing again until you have a nice smooth surface.
- Now let's use the accent wool, it's the orange/green mix, pull off about a 2-3" piece and then along the side pull off a thin length of that, begin twisting it and poke the end into a spot that you'd like to be the top or bottom of the pumpkin. Now take the rest of that length and twist while needle felting it into place on the opposite side of the pumpkin, repeat so that the line splits the pumpkin in two. Sometimes the length of wool is long enough to go around the whole pumpkin. You can fill in any little gaps you find to make a nice line.
- Repeat this process until you have the pumpkin split into as many sections as you like.
- For the stem, take off about 4 inches of the green wool, lay it flat on the mat and roll it tightly into a sausage shape. Needle felt a little bit along the length to prevent it from unraveling.
- Poke in one end to make the top, keep poking until it's the shape you like, then poke and roll the whole thing to make the stem firm, leaving the bottom fluffy so you can attach it to the pumpkin. Holding that fluffy end firmly against one end of the pumpkin

where you had the lines come together, begin poking it into place until it is firmly attached.

- Congratulations! You've just made a pumpkin!