

# An Introduction to . . . Needle Felting



## But I thought Felting involved water???

Needle Felting is a dry wool felting process that uses very sharp barbed needles and wool fibers. If you looked at wool under a microscope you would see little barbs on each fiber called scales. The Felting Needles rub the fibers together, the scales open up and cling to each other and you get felt. An amazing process and so simple to do!

## ▲ What's that strange looking thing???

When I first started Needle Felting, we used one needle at a time and we were VERY careful not to break the incredibly sharp needle! You never knew if you could find another one or not because the first needles came out of old wool factories and were no longer being manufactured. We've come a long ways since then and now we have fantastic Needle Felting Tools from Clover Needlecrafts. Clover has designed a tool that holds several needles or just one and has a plastic safety shield around the needles that slides up and down during use. This makes the technique much safer and extends the life of your needles. Of course, needles are being manufactured again, so you can easily buy replacements, too.



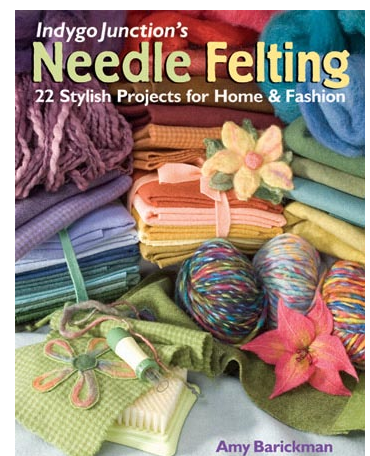
## ► What do I do with that???

You'll need something to put your wool on top of while your felting. This keeps your needles from ruining your dining room table! Here's another improvement: My first experience included a large floor scrubbing sponge and it was difficult to find one that was just the right texture. Clover's Felting Mats are such a HUGE improvement that I've thrown away all my sponges now. They come small and large, but the large is so versatile that I would just start with that one right away.



## Okay, I'm hooked! Anything else I need???

You'll want my favorite "get going" book Indygo Junction's Needle Felting and the flowers in this pattern are a really fun first project! And, of course, you'll need FIBER! Here's a taste of colors for you to drool over and we have many more. Be careful what you get. There is wool out there that feels like it would be best for pot scrubbing! Our buyers found Wistyrria Editions fibers and we are so glad! Nice little packages of luscious New Zealand Wool Roving, so you can have lots of colors to play with.



Have fun and let me know what you make!

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