

CORE WOOL This is carded wool that is usually undyed in its natural colour therefore should be cheaper. Unless I am making something tiny then I will use the cheaper undyed wool as core to form my shape then use the more expensive and perhaps finer carded wools to finish. I tend to use *undyed natural carded Corriedale slivers* as my core as being able to tie a knot and then wrap round speeds everything up, it has got very little bits of vegetation mixed in it and gives a nice smooth finish ready to take the top layer. Some wool sold as 'core' comes in a big fluffy cloud rather than a sliver. *TIP – 100g is enough to make three Christmas bauble sizes to give you an idea how much to order*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 3d FELTING :- Carded Corriedale Slivers can be used as core and top coat is economical, felts fast and gives good even results. This is a good allrounder and our range can be found [here](#). Carded Maori/Bergschaf Melange [here](#) and also Carded Maori is slightly finer than the two above but gives a lovely smooth finish to your 3d project (listed below)

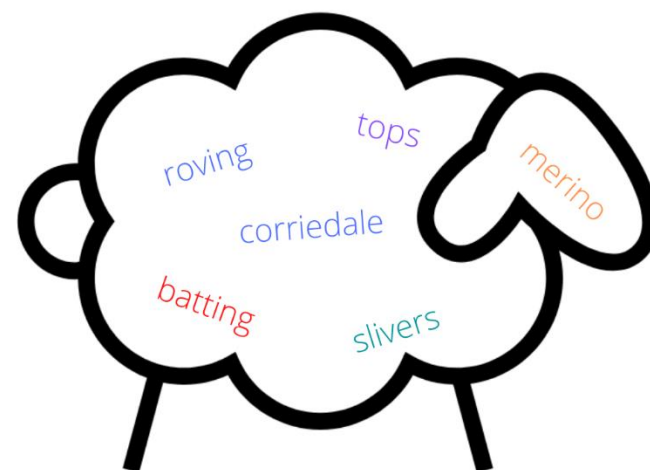
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2d PICTURE FELTING :- Carded New Zealand Maori Batts this is a finer wool at 27 microns with short fibre lengths so makes it perfect for Painting with Wool and producing picture portraits. You can see our full range [here](#). For adding very fine detail use carded extra fine merino [here](#)

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Guide to Felting Wools & Terminology



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-BREEDS OF SHEEP-

Different breeds of sheep produce different thickness (micron) of wool.

As a general rule:-

MERINO sheep give fine wool – good for adding fine detail but for needle felting it really does need to be ‘carded’ merino or it will take forever to felt 😊 **BEWARE** there are lots of wonderful colours of Merino available to buy but the chances are it won’t be carded and so will be unsuitable for starting in needle felting (carded merino is very fine and only used for a fine smooth top coat or tiny detail)

NEW ZEALAND sheep fine-medium – good for needle felting, gives a smooth finish. Also fine enough to be perfect for creating needle felted 2d (flat) pictures or ‘Painting With Wool’ as it is often called.

CORRIEDALE Sheep medium – highly recommended for 3d Needle Felting shapes – we use this in all our 3d workshops and gives a natural finish. More advanced felters may use this for the core shape and then use a finer wool for the top layer

BERGSCHAF Sheep medium-course – fast felting with a ‘hairer’ finish

The coarseness of the wool is measured in microns so the higher the micron the courser the wool. The first thing is to decide on the breed of sheep and then make sure the wool has been processed into the best form for your requirements (ie usually CARDED for needle felting)

-TERMINOLOGY-

TOPS and ROVING These are the same thing! The term ‘tops’ is usually used in the UK and ‘roving’ in other countries. **BEWARE** – All the fibres have been combed in one direction which can make it much more difficult to needle felt into a 3D shape. **GOOD FOR** –applying a top coat of fur/hair to felted animals.

CARDED This is wool that has been combed and roughed up in all different directions making it **much easier to needle felt with**. Carded Wool comes in the form of ‘batts’ and also in ‘slivers’:-

SLIVERS Slivers are carded wool that has been formed into a long thin tubular rope-like piece and comes in a roll. They are particularly good for knotting and then wrapping round the knot to start your core body off (take a look at the video demo / the product description of the reindeer bauble kit) Also because they are long and thin pieces they are good for wrapping around armature wire (a wire skeleton).

BATTS/BATTING Carded wool exactly the same as in slivers but it comes off the carder in a thick sheet or pad. To start a core body you pull off strips and roll tightly then needle felt to hold together.