

# Needle Felting Supplies

Mat

Needles

Needle punch

Wire

Core Wool

Batts, Roving, Sliver or Tops Wool

Awl

Eyes, Nose, Whiskers

Glue

Small spray bottle

Finger guards (Band-aids) 😊

Wire Side Cutters

Small needle nose pliers

Small finishing scissors

Mat cleaning kit

Scraps jar

Empty medicine bottle with locking cap

# The Basics of Needle Felting

In a nutshell, needle felting is simply sculpting with wool, using special “barbed felting” needles in a repetitive stabbing motion. The barbs on the needle grab the wool fibers as you stab it, and bind them to the wool fibers below. Each time you stab the wool, the action firms the wool up and you sculpt it a layer at a time. Adding layers as you go. Stabbing (gently) and firming the wool, add a layer, stab and firm.

Although felting itself is an ancient craft, needle felting in this way is relatively modern. The first known instance of it being used is by an American fiber artist named Eleanor Stanwood and her husband David, who began experimenting in the 1980s with using just one felting needle from a machine, to shape loose wool. The trend gradually grew and caught on with the rise of craft blogging sites, Instagram, and Etsy.

## Rules of Needle Felting

- Keep your fingers out of the way of the needle- have bandaids close by or wear finger guards
- The needle must always be inserted and removed at the same angle to avoid breaking the tip off
- Do not put hard pressure on your needle- it is not necessary and will break it
- Stab very carefully, and at an angle when working close to wire to avoid breakage
- Always remove broken needle tips from your felted project and dispose of the tips and broken needles in a locking childproof container. You may have to cut your project open with scissors and patch felt it after.
- Your project should have the density of a tennis ball when finished felting. If it is still squishy- keep felting
- Don't be too hard on yourself... with each project you will get better and better
- Clean your mats after every use to avoid contaminating your projects with fiber