



# Adelaide Walker LLP

Fibres to inspire artists and makers

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Note—If you want all your beads to be the same size then weigh your wool out before you start. The kitchen worktop or draining board is a perfect place to work and won't matter if it gets wet.



Put a little washing up liquid in a bowl of warm water and then with your finger and thumb pull off a few wisps of wool and lay them out ready. I've used green but you can use one colour or a mixture of colours.



Tightly roll one of the wisps into ball and then keeping a tight hold of the wool very gently dip part of it into the water to dampen it (do not soak it). Continue to wrap and dip until the ball is a little larger than you'd like, it will shrink during felting..



Keep a tight hold of your ball and dip the whole ball into the water. Add **one drop** of washing up liquid to your hand and then begin very gently to roll the ball between your hands. As the ball begins to shrink and harden you'll be able to increase the pressure in your hands.



If the ball begins to dry out then dip it into your soapy water again. Roll between your hands for about 5 minutes. You'll know the ball is felted when you can squeeze it between your fingers and it bounces back to a ball shape.



You can also make other bead shapes. To make pointy ends on a long bead, roll it in one direction only in your hands. To make a cube, shape the sides by squeezing with your fingers when the bead is almost felted. To make a disc, make a round bead then when nearly felted press and rub it flat.



There are lots of uses for felt beads and I'm sure you'll think of a few but why not consider making: a mobile, garland, necklace, earrings, bracelet or key chain and / or combining them with metal, ceramic or glass beads. Have fun!