



Adelaide Walker LLP

Fibres to inspire artists and makers

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Dissolve the soap flakes in $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of warm water. We suggest putting a hand towel down first in case of spillages, then lay the bubble wrap out, bubble side up. There is sufficient fibre for two flowers so split your wool in half before you begin or, make one very large flower.



On the *bottom half* of the bubble wrap, lay the fibres out in a circle by pulling pieces of fibres off and laying them like a clock with the centre ends overlapping. Make sure you have no holes

You can overlap all 3 colours or lay them in decreasing circles and then put the white ramie fibres, thinly, on top in any direction. Dribble some soapy water onto the fibres then cover with the top half of the bubble wrap and press down to squeeze the water through the fibres making sure that they're all wet through. If they're not all wet, uncover the fibres and add more water.



Put the foam roller onto the edge of the bubble wrap and roll up into a sausage shape then roll backwards and forwards. Unroll, turn the bubble wrap round a little then re-roll and continue rolling. It's like pastry; to keep it round you need to keep moving it round. Continue doing this for about 5 minutes or until the wool begins to shrink and starts to feel more like a fabric than a pile of wet wool.



Shape it into a won ton shape and rub across the surface of the bubble wrap. This will create a flat area for your brooch back to go on.



Then roll in your hands to firm up the felt, opening it up occasionally to prevent it sticking to itself. Keep your wool wet and soapy throughout. The wool will shrink more and it will become firmer and hold its shape easily.



The main flower is done. Rinse out the soap then shape your flower and leave to dry.



To make the stamens pull off a small amount of fibre using a finger and thumb, it needs to be no more than 2-3inch long and shouldn't be too thick. Dribble a little water onto the bubble wrap then begin rolling the fibre backwards and forwards as though it's play dough.



When it begins to harden and will support itself when held vertical, it's done and can be rinsed. Make 2 or 3 of these then bend them double to create 2 stamens from each one.



When the brooch and the stamens are dry you can stitch in the folded stamens at the same time as you stitch on the brooch back.