



Adelaide Walker LLP

Fibres to inspire artists and makers

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Dissolve the soap flakes in 2 pints of hot (not boiling) water. We suggest putting a towel down first in case of spillages, then lay the bubble wrap out, bubble side up.



Take the dark brown wool and begin by splitting it in half down the length. Then split each half once more so you have 4 long pieces of wool.



Hold the wool in one hand with about 10cm sticking out and then grasp the very ends of the wool with your other hand and gently pull the wool fibres out. If you pull too much out at once it's because you grasped the wool too far down its length. Just pull from the very ends.



Leaving 10cm from the end of the bubble wrap lay the fibres down in a 20cm row. Each row laid down should overlap the previous one by a third (think of how roof tiles are laid). Keep repeating until you have a rectangle of 20cm by 40cm using just the one length of wool.



With the second length of wool lay out a second rectangle of wool on top of the first with the fibres laying at right angles to the first layer. If you laid the fibres out horizontally on the first layer then you should lay them out vertically on this second one.



Repeat with the third and fourth pieces of wool changing the direction of the wool each time until you have 4 layers. Use up all the wool.



Cover with the net and then sprinkle the soapy water onto the wool. Press down with your hands to squeeze the water into the wool and the air out until it goes completely flat. Add more water if necessary until all the wool including the edges is wet, without allowing puddles to form.



Once it's completely flat as a pancake (no bumps in the net) rub all over with your hands in a circular motion for two or three minutes making sure you rub the edges as well. If you prefer you can use a scrunched up carrier bag for this.



Carefully lift off the net. Then put the roller at the end of the bubble wrap and roll it up to form a fat 'sausage' shape. Now using the full length of your hands from finger tip to wrist, roll the package backwards and forwards 120 times.



If you have trouble keeping it in a roll shape you can secure the ends with elastic bands or wrap the edge of the towel over the sausage. Unroll the package and then roll it up again from the opposite end and roll backwards and forwards 120 times.



Unroll the wool and turn it so it's sitting horizontally. Fold the wool in half and then roll it up again and roll backwards and forwards 120 times. Unroll, unfold the wool, turn it over and refold in a slightly different place. Then roll it back up and roll 120 times. Your wool is now felt and should feel firm and resist if you try to stretch it. If yours stretches easily then continue rolling until it firms up.



Repeat for the other three colours. Rinse the soap out and leave to dry. Use the template to cut 4 triangles from each shade of felt, turning the template each time as shown.



You can hand stitch or machine stitch them to the tape. We've used a simple running stitch. The leftovers can be used to cut shapes to sew onto the bunting. A heart and a teardrop template are provided but it could be any shape you choose.