

Adelaide Walker LLP

Fibres and equipment for felt makers

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Dissolve the soap flakes in ½ pint of warm water. We suggest putting a hand towel down first in case of spillages then lay the bubble wrap out, folded in half with the bubble side up. TIP—when pulling the fibres grab only the tip or you'll pull too much off at once.



Take the larger amount of green fibre and split in half down the length.



Keeping your hands about 5" apart grab hold of the very tip of the fibre and pull gently. The fibres will slide out and you can lay them down on the bubble wrap horizontally. Leave a gap of an inch or so all around between the fibres and the edge of the bubble wrap. Continue laying fibres until you have a square of green.



Lay out a second layer of fibres but this time lay them vertically. Again, each row overlaps the previous one. This is your background complete.



Take some of the lighter green fibre and lay over the top of the work bringing it down further at the left hand side



Sprinkle the soapy water over the fibre, then fold over the other half of the bubble wrap and press it down to squeeze the water into the fibres. Check, and add more water if necessary until your work is completely flat.



Now using the dark green, purple and plum fibres begin to put some of these over the bottom right hand quarter of the square. These form a darker background to the poppies. Using just finger and thumb will allow you to pull off small amounts.



To make stalks just take a few strands of fibre and twist them together in your hand before laying on your work.



Even small amounts of colours will make a difference to the overall picture so don't add too much fibre here. You can allow the colours to overlap in as many places as you like.



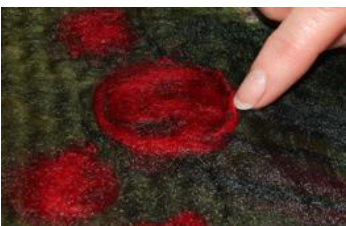
To make the poppies you need only a small amount of fibre.



Mess the fibres up by pulling them about in your fingers then roll up into a very light ball.



Use different amounts of red so that you will get different size poppies. Lay the red on top of your work and then pat down onto the wet background.



Once the poppies are wet you can adjust the shape by gently moving the fibres with your nail.



To get a sense of perspective you need to have larger poppies close to and then have poppies of decreasing size to represent distance. I personally like one large and 2 or 4 medium sized ones with a scattering of small and tiny ones.



Next use the dark red fibre to darken the centre of the poppies. Use a small amount balled loosely and then patted into place. Then, taking an even smaller amount of black, repeat the procedure. I do this only for the large and medium size poppies., small ones are left plain red.



Taking a tiny amount of the gold fibre, just a very few strands, add the highlight to the centre of the poppies.



Staying with tiny amounts use the bright pink and bright orange fibre to add little highlights to the edge of the largest flowers. If the strands are too long you can break or cut them.



Cover your work with the other half of the bubble wrap. Wrap the edge of the bubble wrap over the foam roller and roll up into a sausage shape.



Roll backwards and forwards fifty times. Unwrap and check to see if anything has slipped out of place and gently nudge it back. This is your last chance to change anything.

Cover, turn the bubble wrap 90 degrees (so that the bottom of the picture is now at the side) wrap and roll another fifty times.



Unwrap, gently lift the work off the bubble wrap and turn it over so it's face down. Do not cover with the bubble wrap. Wrap using the foam roller and roll fifty times. Unwrap, turn the felt 90 degrees and repeat, remembering not to cover with the bubble wrap.



If you have trouble with the bubble wrap slipping undone whilst rolling, you can always wrap the edge of the towel around the package which will help.

Keep rolling, turning the felt over and round so that the wool shrinks evenly until the felt measures 18cm square



You're done!. Wash the soap out, squeeze but do not wring the felt and then lay flat to dry. Whilst the felt is damp it can be reshaped by gently pulling and stretching. It can be ironed if desired.

Don't worry if you have a little fibre left. You haven't done anything wrong, you should have a little more than you need. Finally, don't forget to send us a photo, we'd love to see it finished.