



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.



To begin, split each of the two colours into three pieces down the length as shown.



Take a length of white and a length of coloured fibre and hold them together in one hand.



With your other hand gently grasp the tips and pull out a length of fibres. Don't have your hands too close together or you won't be able to pull the fibres apart easily.



On the **bottom half** of the bubble wrap, lay the fibres out in a row with each row overlapping the last by about $\frac{1}{3}$. Leave an inch of space from the edge of the bubble wrap to the fibres to allow them to spread when wet. Lay out as large an area as you can with this first set of fibres. (approx. 28cm x 26cm)



For the second layer continue to lay out the coloured and white fibre in the same way but this time lay the fibres out at a 90 degree angle to the first layer. The third layer should then be laid on top, changing the direction again.



Take the shiny Ramie fibre and split it into small pieces all across the top of the wool.



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. Make 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 100 times. If you have trouble keeping it in shape you can secure the ends with elastic bands or wrap the edge of the towel over the sausage.



Unroll the sausage and then roll it up again from the opposite end and roll backwards and forwards 100 times. Unroll the sausage and turn your felt over, then turn it so it's sitting horizontally. If the end goes off the bubble wrap just fold it over. Roll it up again and roll backwards and forwards 100 times. Unroll, unfold the wool and refold in a slightly different place. Then roll it back up and roll 100 times. Your wool is now felt and should feel firm and have some resistance if you try to stretch it. If yours stretches easily then continue rolling until it firms up.



Squeeze as much water as you can out of the felt. Now you're ready to cut three circles which will form the three layers of the flower. Ideally there should be 2cm size difference in each layer. I used 10cm, 8cm and 6cm circles. Check before you cut as there should be room for you to cut circles for 2 brooches (6 circles in total) based on my sizings. You can of course do more smaller or one larger brooch.



Fasten the three circles together by stitching in a small central circle about the size of a one pence piece. Make sure you go right through all three layers and pull the thread through firmly.



Pull the top 2 layers up into the centre so that you can see the larger back circle. Put 4 small cuts into the circle at 3, 6, 9 and 12 o'clock. Now put a further cut between each of these four so that you have 8 petals. Do the same for each layer making sure that the cuts are staggered and don't line up across the layers.



Now cut a **tiny** amount from the top corners of each petal just to round them off and give a more natural feel.



Hold the stitched layers together in one hand with your thumb in the centre and wet the felt with soapy water. Rub up and down the edges of the petals with your other hand (so you're flapping the edge of the petals). Keep turning the flower round so that you work right around it. You will begin to feel the felt firm up and the petals will start to get life.



Once the flower is firm, holding its shape and you're happy with it then it's time to rinse the soap out. Now you can sew the beads onto the centre and sew the fastening onto the back. Your flower is finished.