HOW TO SERIES - WET FELTING - RECYCLING WOOL LEFTOVERS

If you've been felting for some time, you're bound to have wool leftovers from older projects.

Whether some of your items didn't turn out the way you'd planned or you just have little pieces from shapes you've cut out of a felt sheet, there are always bits of wool you don't know how to reuse.

Now, I don't know about you, but I'm a recycler by nature. So, I'm always thinking about ways to reuse precious materials, and wool does fall into that category.

So, I'd like to show you what happens to the wool rests that I collect and encourage you to do the same.

Here are the leftovers I've been collecting for some time. For a couple of years, actually. When you felt pieces you're not happy about or you decide to experiment, don't throw them away. Wool is just too precious for that. I collect everything and then I divide the pieces into the main colors and cut them small for recycling. Let me show you how it works.

Before we start felting our pieces, I'd like to show you how to prepare the felt leftovers for recycling. If you're planning to felt any item which is three-dimensional and solid – and by that, I mean, if it's not going to be hollow like a hat or a bag – you can use this method.

This is a really great way to use any leftovers you have from older projects: pieces that didn't work out as you planned…

…or rests from felt sheets, that you've already cut out and are now too small to do anything. I guess you could use this for something else, but instead of accumulating the leftovers for years and years, you can recycle them now and again. You normally end up making new felt sheets when you need them anyway.

So, I'm going to grab these rests and cut them into small pieces like this. I'll divide them by colors, so that I'll have a bag of yellow, pink, purple, blue, green, and so on.

So, what we'll do is we'll cut them really small and then we'll use them to fill pieces according to the color.

And why should we use the right color for each project? Because if you recycle rests in a color that's different from the piece you're felting, the fibers of the two colors will mix, as in this ball. What we have here is a ball where I used little pieces of grey inside and then covered them with white wool.

What happens is the fibers migrate towards the surface. So, you get a piece in a mixed color because the color that's inside tends to come out on the surface. That's why you should use the same color for the filling as you're using for the external area. Of course, it doesn't have to be exactly the same red – you can mix different tonalities – but remember to go for the same base color.

So, now we'll cut them into really small pieces. If you have wool rests that haven't yet been felted, but the wool is not ok for felting anymore (say, if you've gotten your wool wet by accident), you can also add it to your bag for recycling.

Now, it's quite simple, just cut them like this. They don't have to be too small, but if they're too big they won't mix well with new wool you're adding. Just keep them in this size. And this is something you can do while you're watching TV or even when you're relaxing after work. At least I find it relaxing 😊 And, it's also something you can do with the kids. I bet they'll have fun. They love cutting stuff!

So, there you go. This is what we want to get. I won't bore you by making you watch me cutting wool. I'll just finish this and come back in a while.

And this is what I have after cutting. I have two bags: one with purple and one with red, and I'm going to use them to fill my fruits.

This tutorial is part of my video course “Play Food – Fruit”. You can find further information about this course, as well as all the other I offer here.

Talk soon!

Vanda