

HOW TO SERIES - 3D FELTING - MAKING A RESIST

How to

series

MAKE A RESIST FOR 3D FELTING



In wet felting, if you're planning to make a 3D object with no seams (like a hat, bag or slippers), you'll have to work with a resist.

If you want to work on a project that's felted around a resist, you might be wondering how to get the right size, since wool shrinks up to 40% when felted. And you might be asking yourself what material you should make it with. Does this even matter? Well, it does. And I'll show you why.

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If you're not very experienced with wet felting, I suggest you start with a bag as your first project with a resist. The reason I suggest a bag instead of a pair of slippers or a hat is that, if you don't have a lot of experience, it'll probably be difficult for you to get the right size. And of course, for a pair of slippers or a hat, size is very important ☺ So, starting with a bag will give you the chance to practice.

1. Start by **making a sample** of felt with the wool you intend to use. Don't forget to measure it before and after felting. Also important is to make the sample as thick as you intend to make your piece. That means using the same number of layers.
2. Calculate **how much the sample** shrinks and use this for your formula.
3. And **now to the material**. You'll see a couple of different suggestions about that on the internet. **One of them is corrugated cardboard**. The way I see it, it has two big disadvantages:
1) You can only use it once. So, if you'd like to repeat the piece, you'll have to make a new resist; 2) It's very thick and not very malleable, so it'll be more difficult to felt around it.



The other material **frequently suggested is a thick plastic**. While it's more durable, it's very thin, so you'll have to have very sensitive fingers to be able to feel it. So, it can be hard to work with.



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The material I normally use is the **foam pad you use under wooden floors**. It's easy to find, it's cheap and durable. I use the same resist over and over again. It's also wide, so you can cut resists for big projects and I find it's malleable and has the right thickness. So, for me it's perfect to felt. But that's just me ☺ Try experimenting with different materials and see what works best for you.



And next I'll be showing you how to make a resist for a tablet sleeve as an example.

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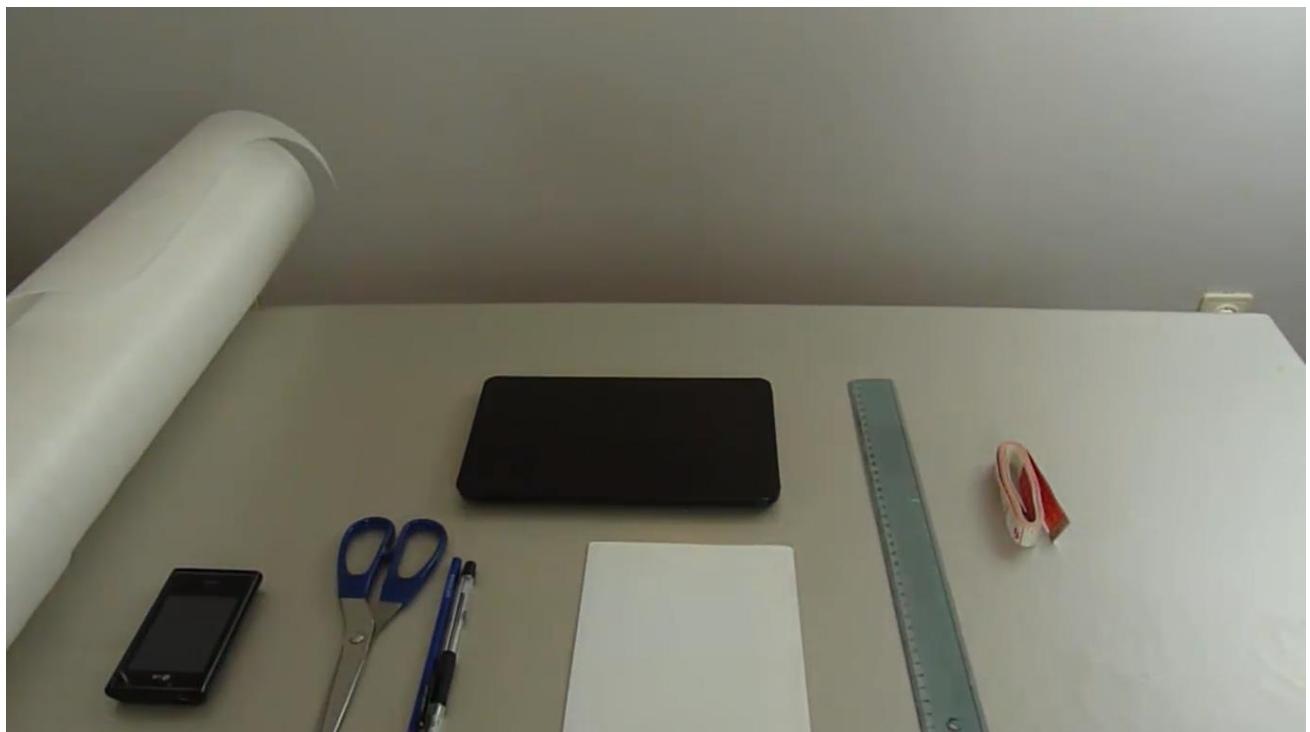
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Let me start by showing you how to make the resist in the right size for your tablet sleeve.

You'll need:

- The tablet or laptop you're making it for
- A measuring tape
- Paper, pencil and a calculator
- A ruler and scissors
- And the material for the resist



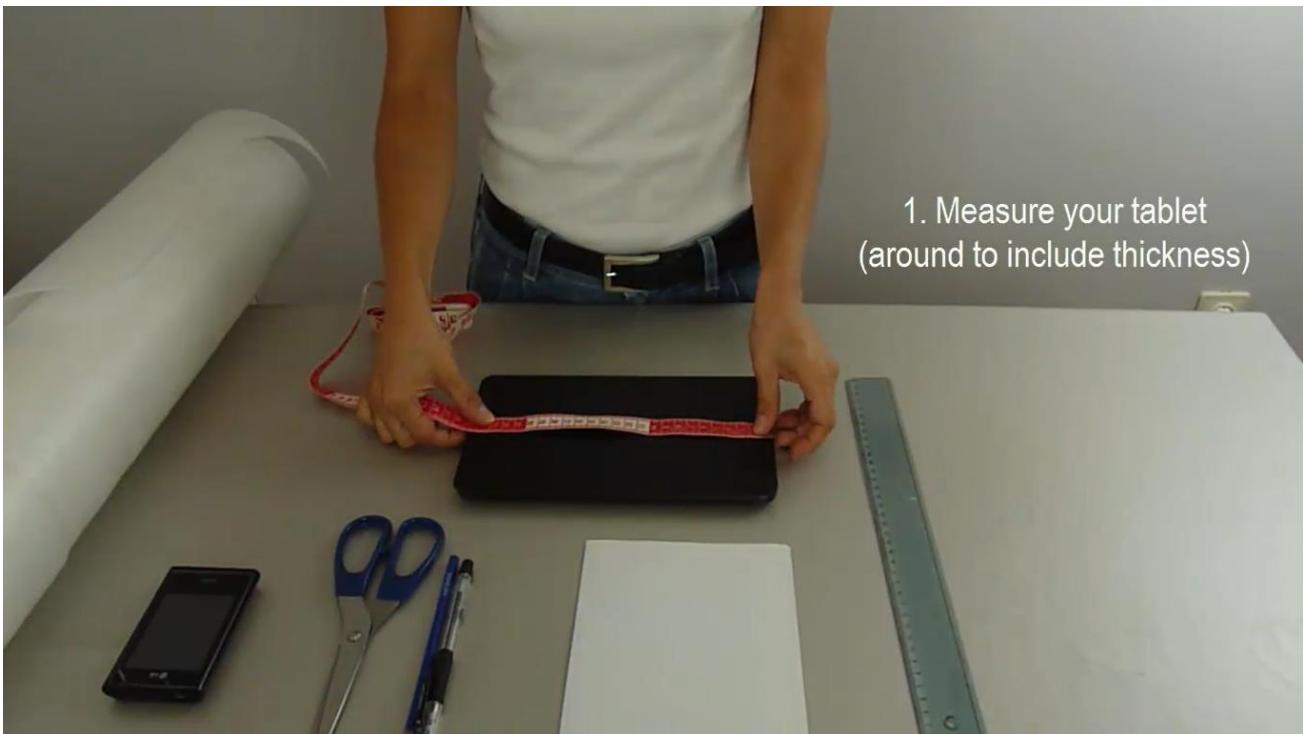
You can use cardboard, plastic from a bag or laminate floor underlayment. If you use cardboard, you'll have to make a new resist next time you want to make the same piece, because you'll have to throw it away after it's wet. The plastic from a bag has the big disadvantage of being too thin, so it difficult to feel it through the wool. But the laminate floor underlayment is thick and resistant enough to allow you to reuse it and to feel it nicely, while still being malleable enough to work with. So that's exactly what I use.

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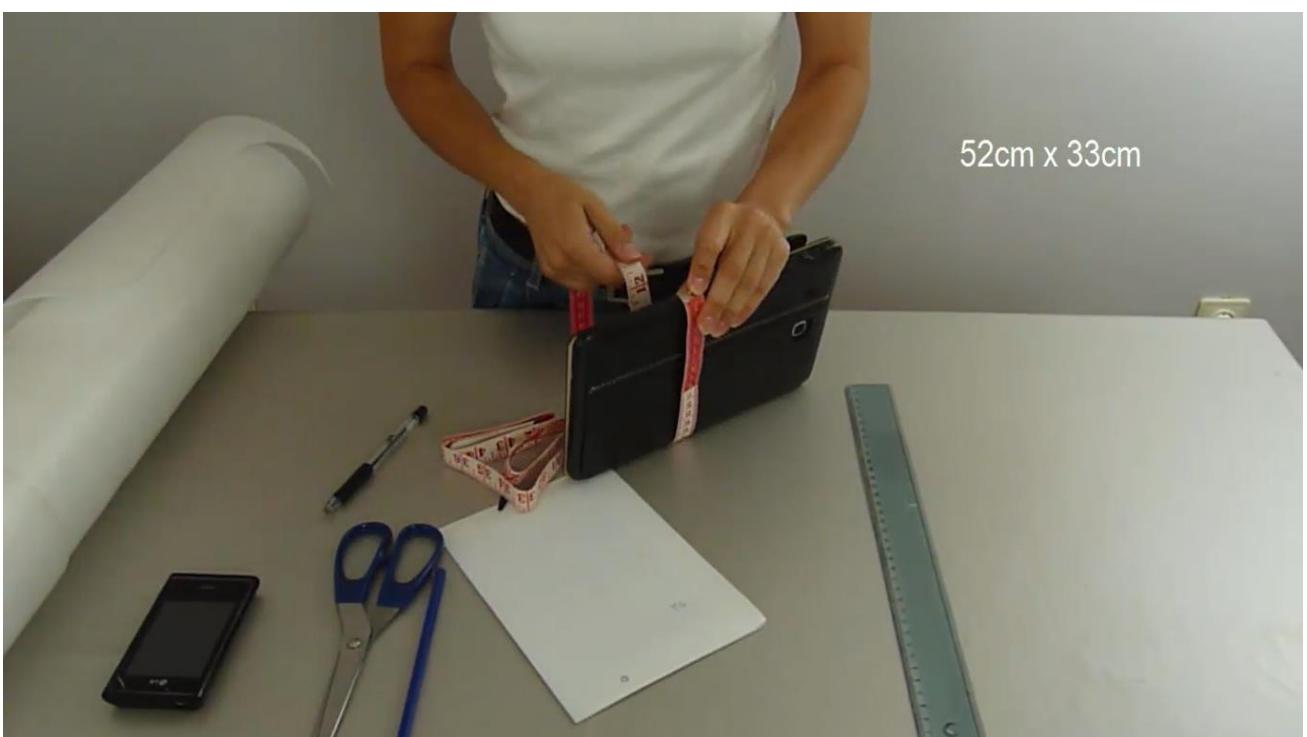
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The first thing you'll do is measure your tablet.



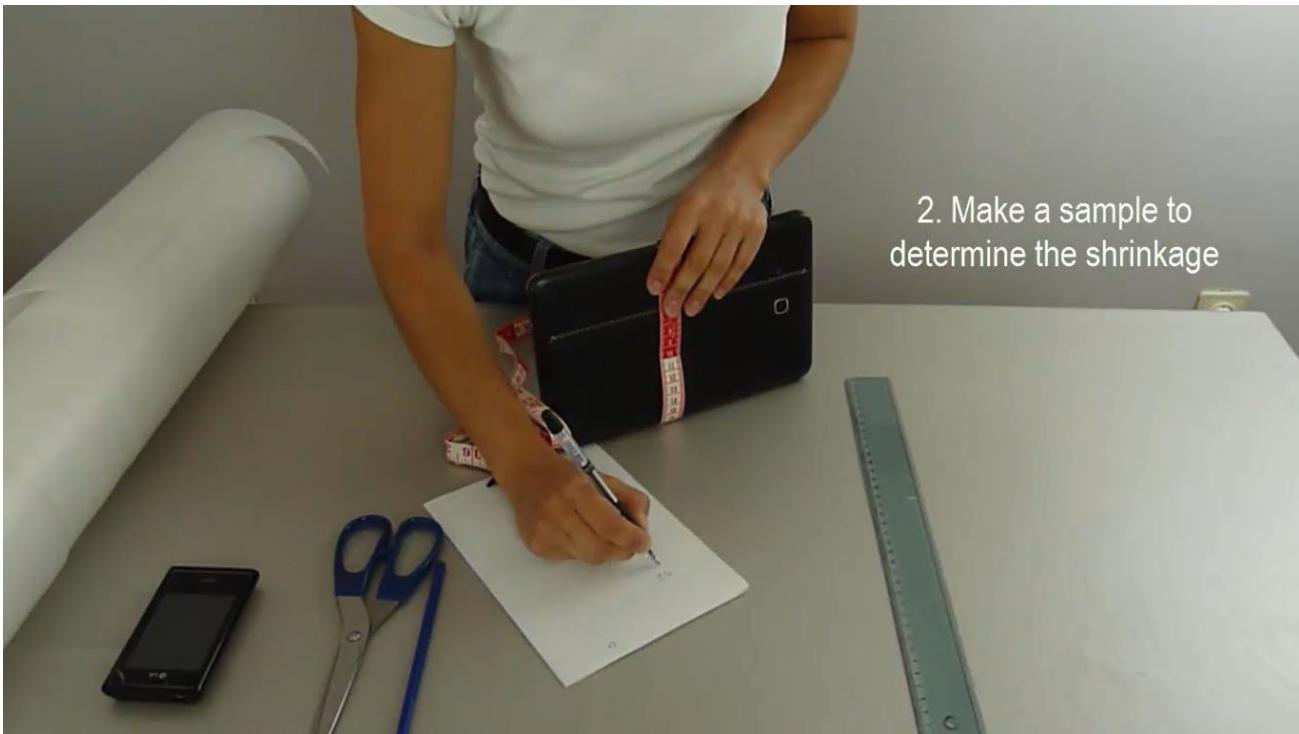
But you'll have to measure it around, to guarantee that you include the thickness. Mine measures 52cm x 33cm.

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2. Make a sample to determine the shrinkage

I have a lot of experience with the wool I'm going to work with, so I know how much it shrinks. If that's not the case for you, please make a sample to determine the shrinkage.



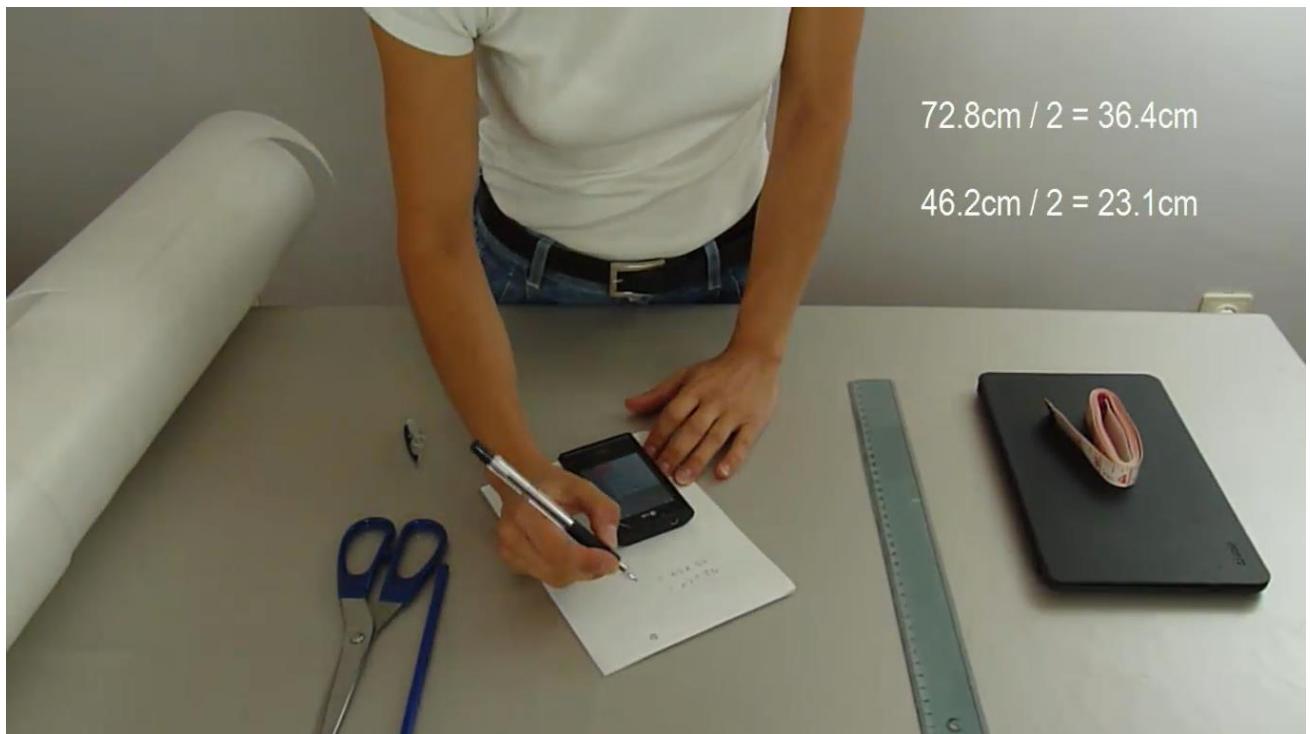
$52\text{cm} \times 1.4 = 72.8\text{cm}$

$33\text{cm} \times 1.4 = 46.2\text{cm}$

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So, I'll now multiply my measurements by 1.4, which gives me 72.8cm x 46.2cm.



$$72.8\text{cm} / 2 = 36.4\text{cm}$$

$$46.2\text{cm} / 2 = 23.1\text{cm}$$

Now we divide by 2 and round up the numbers. And we get 36cm x 23cm.

Here's the formula:

Length (around) x 1.4*

2

Width (around) x 1.4*

2

* Shrinkage rate: yours might be different!

So now I'll draw and cut my resist.

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This is what the resist will look like. We'll make it double to include the flap.



This is the part that'll fold over, like this.

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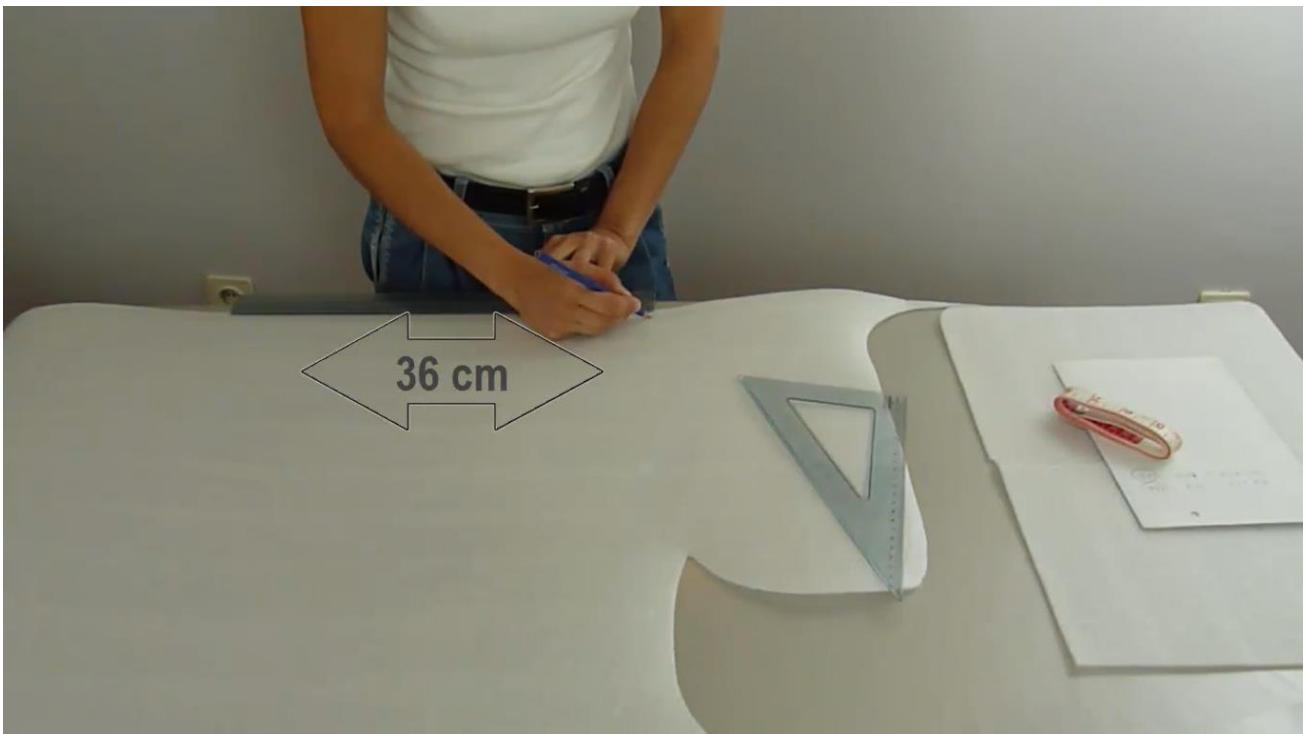
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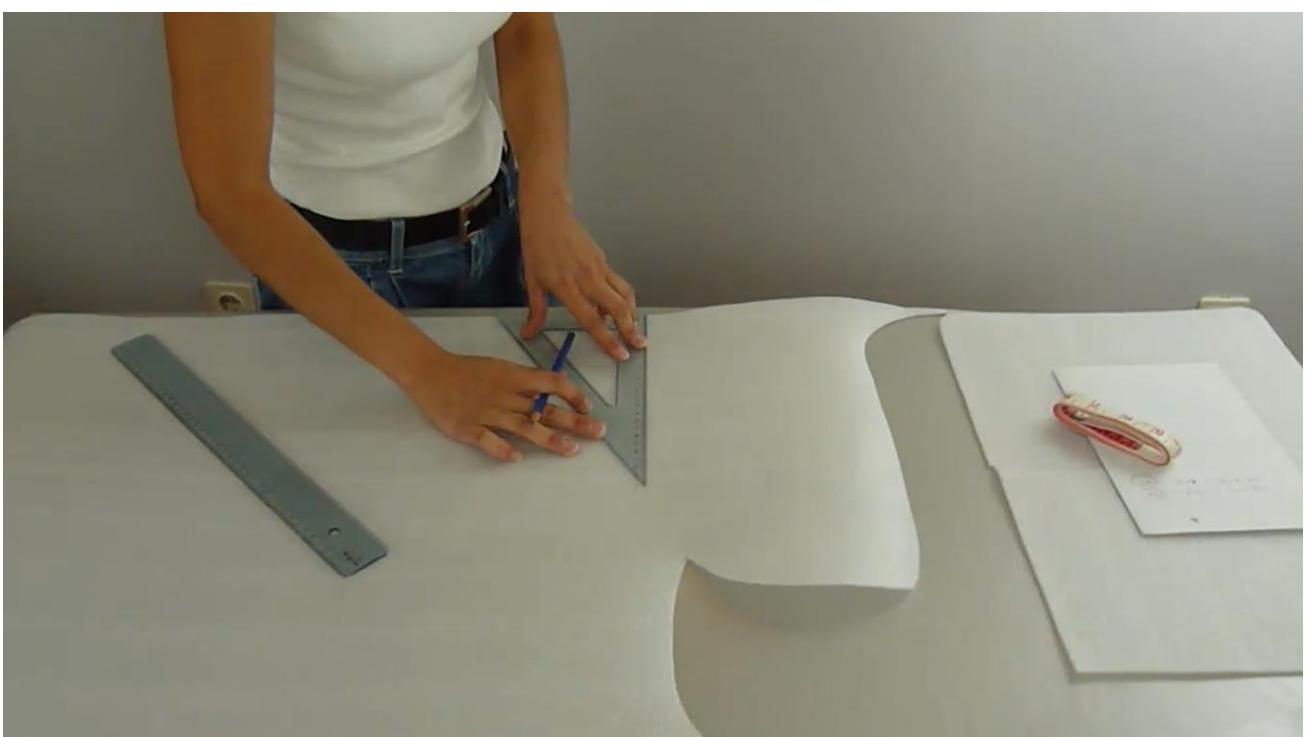
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GOING THE DODO WAY



I need to make sure I have a 90-degree angle. I'll start by marking 36cm ...



... and find the right angle.

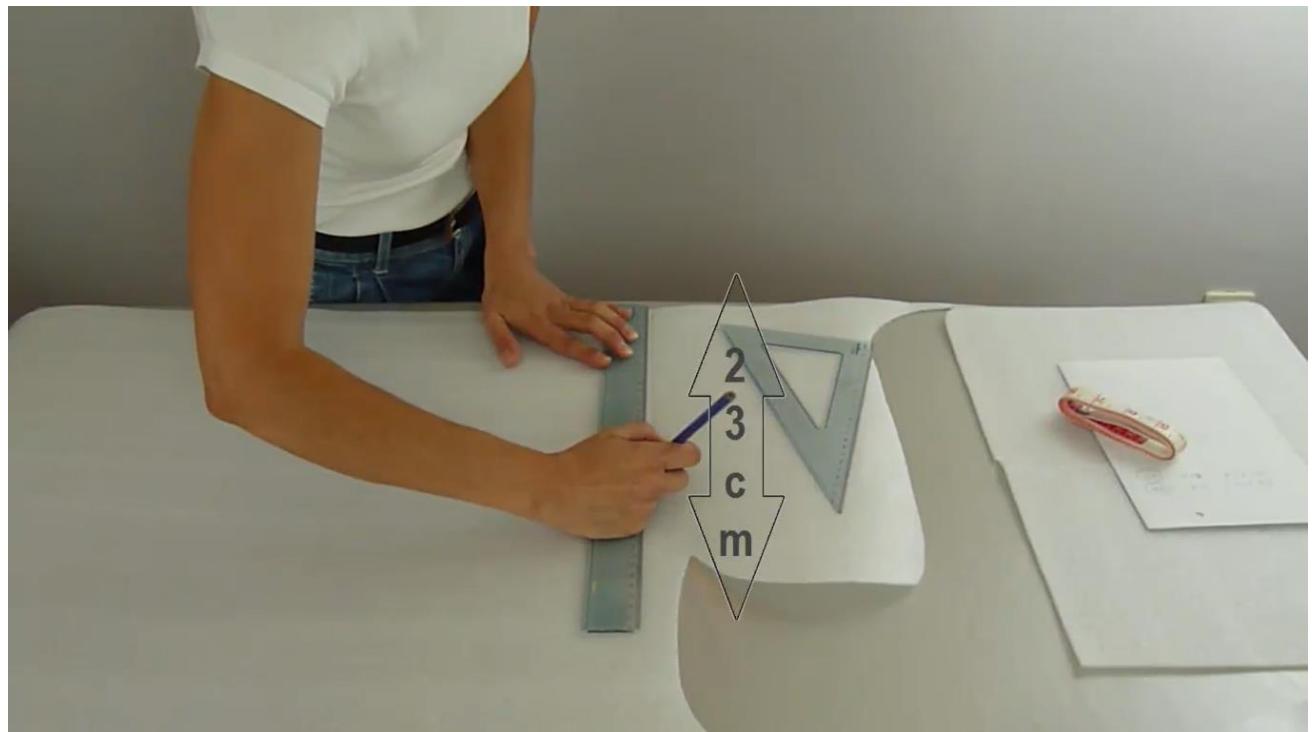
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Avoid marking with a pen. Otherwise you'll have to clean it up, so that you don't get your wool stained.



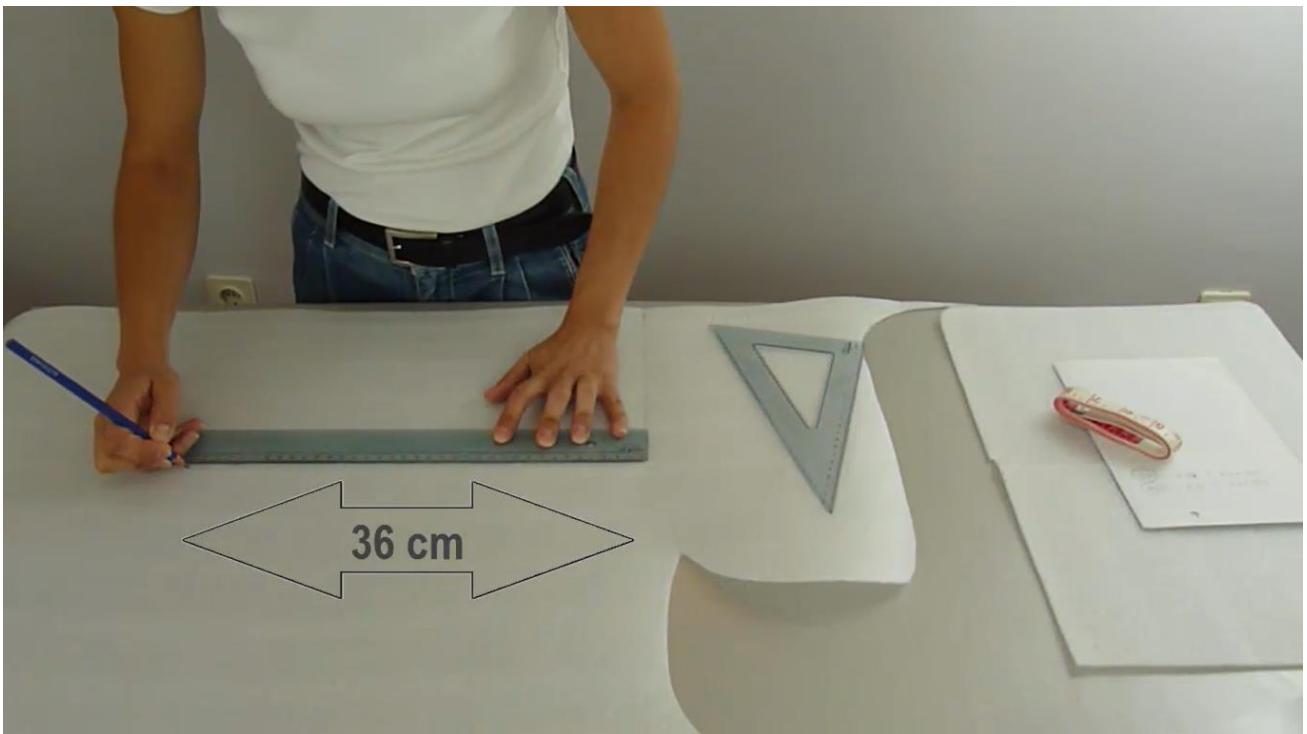
I'll mark 23cm ...

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... and then 36cm again to finish the rectangle. This is where the flap begins.



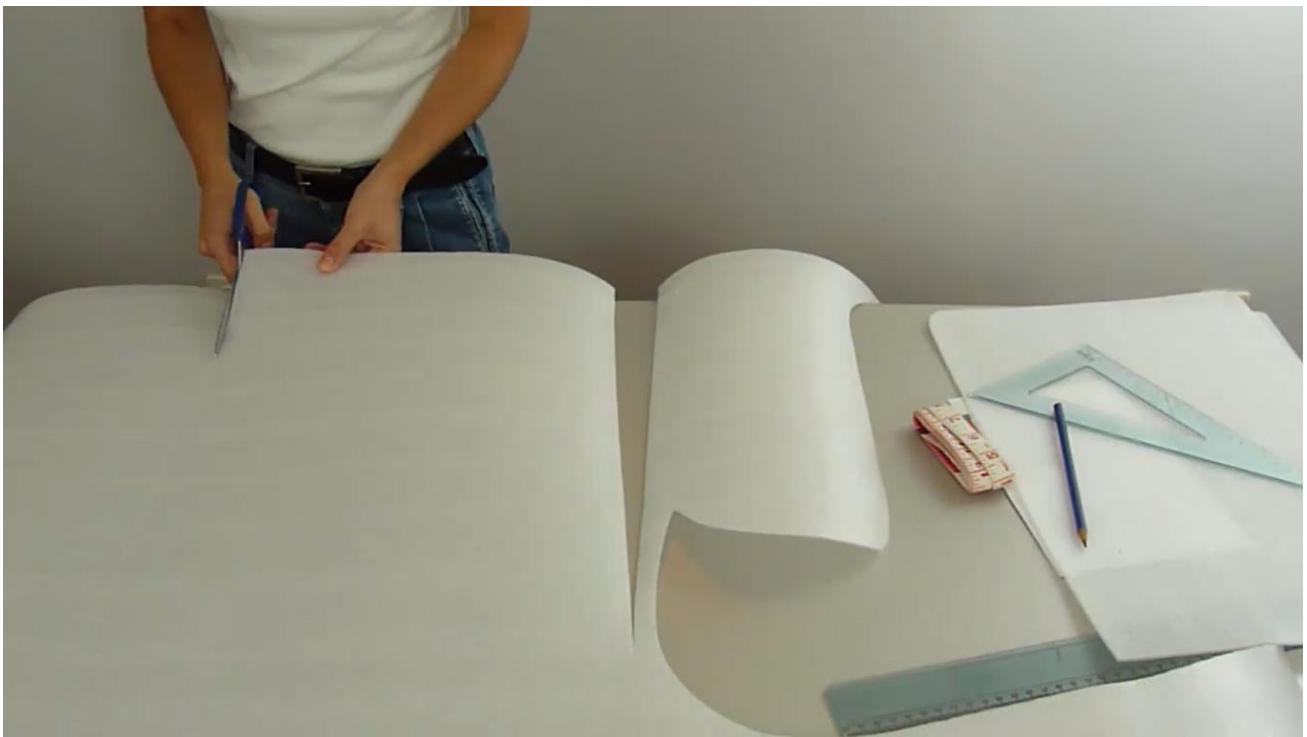
Now mark another rectangle of 36cm x 23cm for the flap.

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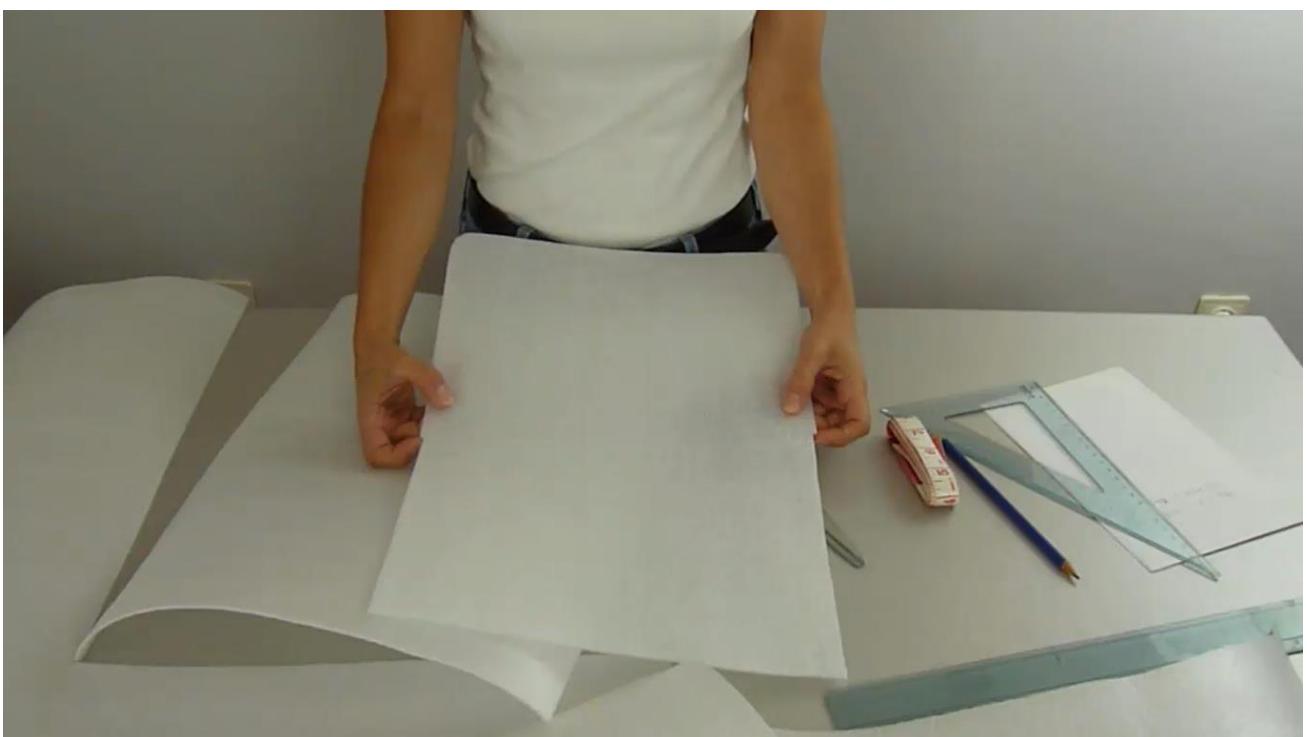
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Now cut it.



Because the flap should be a little less wide than the bag, we'll cut about 2mm off the top part of the resist, ...

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... like this. This also helps you know exactly where the bag part ends during the felting process.



Now we'll have to round up the bottom, like this.

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And our resist is ready.

Talk soon!

Vanda

P.S.: If you want to learn more about how to felt bags, check out the available tutorials [here](#).

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