

IT'S SEW EASY Series 1500
Upcycle Sewing: Felted Wool Upcycle



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Upcycle (up-si-kel) To improve existing goods (such as clothing) through the use of labor, materials, and creativity

Good for the planet, good for your budget!

If you have ever washed a sweater that shrunk to half its original size then you have felted. This time you will be doing it on purpose!

Selecting garments to felt:

Look for 100% wool that may also be labeled as Merino, Angora, Lambs Wool, Cashmere, Mohair, and Alpaca. Wool labeled "recycled" is made of short fibers and is therefore itchy. Avoid wool blended with other fibers (acrylics, cotton, etc.) as they will not shrink reliably.

The thickness of the felt depends on the thickness of the garment yarn and the openness of the knit's gauge. The more open the gauge and/or the thicker the yarn the thicker the felting will be compared to the thickness of the original garment.

If they are pilled, remove the pilling with a sweater comb or lint shaver, etc.

The felting process:

100% wool binds together and creates a mat (felts) with the application of soap, water, and agitation. *Wash the wool in hot water with laundry detergent on a long regular cycle. Dry in the dryer if the item being made will be washed and dried. Repeat if desired to eliminate possible additional shrinkage*

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

FABRICS: 100% wool garments

SUPPLIES: Thread, temporary markers for tracing, iron and ironing boards, pins, seam ripper, sewing machine, sharp sewing scissors.



Properties of felted wool:

- Once properly felted it should not change size again.
- Once felted it doesn't fray and can be cut into any shape
- Wool is self-extinguishing so is suitable for use with hot items and makes excellent hot pads, pan handles, etc.
- Wool is an amazing insulator and will keep you warm even when wet

Pot Holders and Hot Pads: *Cut out the shapes you want. Sandwich the wool between two pieces of tight-weave fabric. Quilt the layers together. Bind the edges with bias tape or knit trim. Why cover with fabric? So food doesn't become lodged in the wool making it difficult to get out.*

Knit trim: *Like felt, t-shirt knits do not fray, making them a suitable for creating trim. Cut away the hem on a t-shirt and set aside. Cut strips horizontally across the bottom of a t-shirt. The strips will curl in a bit towards one side. Wedge the potholder between the curled edges, pin and sew in place. Trim any excess.*

Baby Sleeping Sack: *A baby sleeping sack takes advantage of the ribbing already on a sweater. The sweater ribbing fits around the baby's chest under the arms, and the "sack" is literally a sack covering the rest of their body with extra kicking room. Measure the baby's chest, and length from chest to toes, adding extra room for movement. Cut the ribbing (do not stretch it out) to match the chest measurement and the sack part to the body measurements. Stitch up the sides with the seam allowance inside or out.*

Embellishments: *Cut shapes such as hearts and sew them to a garment or other item by machine or hand. Washable and raw edges do not fray! Sewn on by hand with a running stitch make the embellishment easily removable, perfect for temporary holiday themes.*

Eyeglasses Case: *Fold a piece of felted wool over the eyeglasses. Pin around the glasses. Remove the glasses and cut out the wool, leaving an extra 1" beyond the end of the glasses. If desired, cut a small scoop out of half of the opening to make it easier to reach in for the glasses.*

Slippers: *There are many free patterns available on the Internet. If you make a pair, line the bottom with some leather from an old jacket or garment for longer wear*

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