

Needle Felted Nest Pin Instructions



Before you begin, please read these important safety tips. Needle felting is not for the faint of heart or the careless. Ok, I'm a little careless... Do as I say, not as I do!

- **Keep needles away from young children.** Obviously... Sharp objects and little people don't mix.
- **Always be watchful of your fingers.** The needles are very sharp and slightly brittle. A couple of weeks after I got my first multi-needle tool, I landed myself in the ER with a piece of needle embedded in my thumb. You can see the x-rays on my blog. I'm not trying to scare you, just don't watch CSI while enthusiastically poking away at something very small with a 12=needle tool. Really... I mean it.
- **Keep some rubbing alcohol handy.** Even if you are being careful, odds are you will still give yourself the occasional non-ER-type poke. You may even want to clean the needle before you start. Then, if you poke yourself, just say a bad word or two, clean your finger and bravely continue felting.
- Another felter I know cautions her students: **Don't share needles.** This is probably good advice, especially if you felt with strangers.
- **Always place your needle in the foam block when you stop felting.** Make it a habit! The last thing you want to do is misplace a needle only to locate it later with your right buttock. No, I have no personal experience with this but it doesn't take much imagination.
- **Be sure to bring the needle out of the felt AT THE SAME ANGLE it entered.** Otherwise, you risk breaking your needle. It happens. I don't break them often, but it still happens occasionally. If you do break a needle, find the broken piece and dispose of it. This is also something you don't want to find later with the aforementioned right buttock.

General Felting Tips:

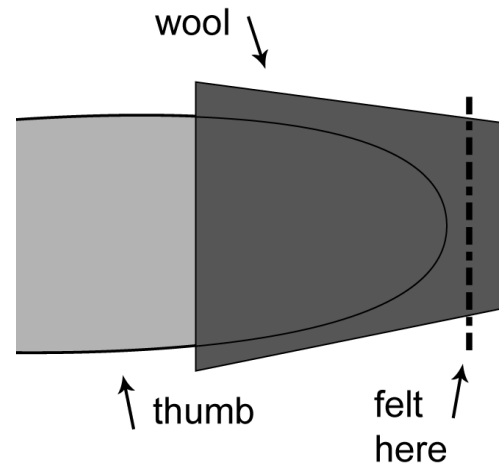
- **Poke *into* but not *through* the wool.** The goal is to compress the fibers, not push them out the other side.
- **While shaping, don't spend too much time poking one place.** Instead, try to poke evenly all over. Once you're happy with the general shape, concentrate on areas that should be indented. Otherwise, you may end up with a lopsided item.
- **When working on foam, be sure to pull the piece up every few pokes** or you may attach it so well that you take a chunk out of your foam and never ever, ever, EVER get it all out of your felting. Or so I'm told.
- If you decide you love felting, **try lots of different types of wool and sizes of needle.** You'll be amazed at the differences. I'm a fan of merino wool and the medium star (38 gauge) needle.

- **If your piece is overly fuzzy**, you can trim the extreme flyaways off with scissors or try needling *across* the surface. This doesn't really apply to the nest but I'm hoping you'll try other things!

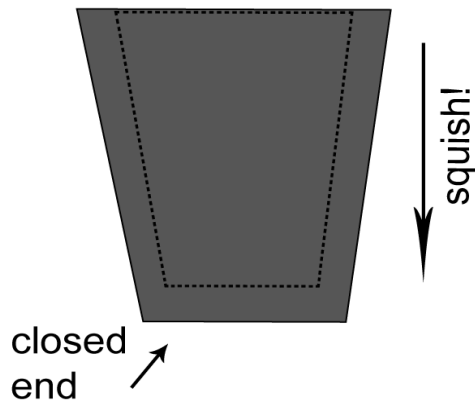
Let's begin!

Part One: The Nest

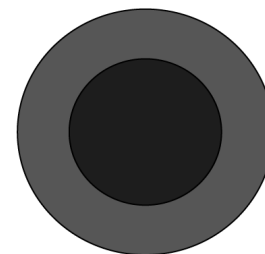
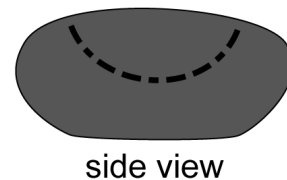
1. Wrap the brown wool around your thumb with about half of it extending past the end of your thumb.
2. VERY carefully, poke the wool a few times beyond the end of your thumb. You should have a cylinder of wool closed at one end. Remove the wool from your thumb and place it on the foam. (see illustration at right)



3. Mold the wool into a general nest shape by compressing the cylinder and poke into the foam a couple of times to secure it in place. There should be more wool around the sides than in the center. (see illustration at left)



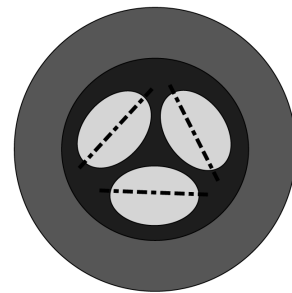
4. Continue to poke the nest, shaping as you go, until it is fairly firm and about the size of a quarter or $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch (approx. 2cm). (see illustration at right)



top view

Part Two: The Eggs

Using the beading needle and brown thread, stitch the eggs in place. You can do this however you wish or use the illustration at right as a guide.



Part Three: The Pin (You're almost finished!)

If you have the **tie-tack pin**, glue it to the back of the nest. It's best to stick the pin into a piece of cardboard (or something you can place out of the way while it dries) and attach the nest to it being careful not to glue it to the cardboard. I usually use E-6000 or some other adhesive that will stick to the metal. Follow all the safety directions on the glue package and don't come running to me if you glue your fingers together. Let the glue set as directed on the package.

If you have the **bar pin**, stitch it to the back of the nest being careful not to let your stitches show on the front.

Viola! Your very own needle felted nest pin with pearl eggs! How cool is that?