

Felted Shape Project
by Lara Neel
www.journalgazette.net/craftyliving

For this project, you will need:

- Some knit gauge swatches, in colors fitting whatever mood you want to convey, in a fiber that will felt. Natural fibers, and even some natural fibers blended with synthetics, will felt, but you may have to experiment to discover exactly what will work.

- A washing machine
- A dryer
- A pillowcase that zips
- A safety pin
- Paper to use as a stencil
- A permanent marker
- A pair of sharp scissors



Place the swatches in the zippered pillowcase, zip, and secure with a safety pin.

Wash on the hottest cycle you have with the coldest rinse cycle you have. If you have an old towel or old pair of jeans to add in, all the better, but the dye from the yarn might bleed, so be prepared for the idea that anything sharing the wash water could end up streaky. Throw the whole mess in the dryer on high while you sit down with your feet up. When it is almost all-of-the-way dry, pull it out and lay the swatches out, flat, to finish drying.

Draw the shape you want on a piece of paper and cut it out. When the swatches are completely dry, trace the paper stencil on them with your marker. Cut out. Voila.

A side-effect of this project is that you learn how a particular yarn, which you may already have in your stash, will behave when felted. The one I used for this project, Plymouth's Baby Alpaca Grande Tweed, felted beautifully, and was soft and lovely, to boot.

These cut-out shapes could be used on their own as decorations or coasters. You could also make two of the same size, and needle-felt the edges together to make a little pocket for a love note. Or, you could needle-felt the pieces together and include stuffing to make a little felted pillow. Let your creativity run wild. All you have to risk is a few gauge swatches.

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