

## Needle Felted Hedgehog



May has Mental Health Awareness Week and also at the beginning of May, Hedgehog Awareness Week. I'm never happier than when I'm needle felting something ..... anything. The rhythmic prodding and crunching sounds leading to a make, which started off as nothing more than some 'fluff' into an animal, toadstool, fairy or whatever. I adore hedgehogs so knew this was one of the projects I needed to do for the May blog, in particular the cute 'hedgehugs'. I've used some helpful cheats for these making it a lot easier on the hands as there is less needle felting. I've used wadding and pre-felted wool eggs as a core on some, but also show how to make a core from scratch with rough wool fibres.

### Materials:

- Felting mat and felting needles (always use a felting mat or sponge to prevent injuries and needle breakages)
- Wadding, pre-felted wool eggs, wool fibre toy stuffing, hedgehog coloured (short haired) rough wool felt fibres
- Alternative and optional for hedgehog overcoat - hedgehog fur which has to be cut to size/shape then hand sewn on
- Needle Felted Hedgehog Instructions PDF

### Instructions:

The hedgehogs have been given different settings making them into home décor pieces. The hedgehogs are for purely decorative purposes and should not be mistaken as a toy.

- Below on the left a painted wooden coaster, small open fronted house shape and fairy garden mini tree trunk has been assembled and glued together with small amounts of reindeer moss added.
- In the middle reindeer moss has been glued to a bark effect tree stump tea light stand.

- On the right a larger round wooden coaster, small tin pot container and fake plant/plant pot were painted to match each other, assembled and glued together with more of the same reindeer moss added.
- The hedgehogs can be glued in place or left loose to change position.



Below I added 'hedgehugs' to self-assembly flip top lid boxes for a hidden surprise element.

- The box on the left has been painted wood like using different colour browns with a small swipe of black at the end. It has wood clay on the lid fashioned to look like tree bark.
- The box on the right has been painted to resemble rust as if it has just been dug up from the ground. I stippled with rust effect texture paste first using dark brown, then small amounts of green and rusty texture paste. It does look better in real life.
- Each box had sisal bedding added along with a wooden painted letter H(edgehog) saying 'with hedgehugs'.

This would be a good gift for someone who needs a 'hedgehug' especially during Mental Health Awareness Week.





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