

An Array of Needle Felted Hedgehogs



Different sizes using different core bodies.



Colours of felting fibres from left to right – cream, dark cream, light brown and dark grey.



Different cores that can be used. Top left pre-felted small egg. Bottom left pre-felted larger egg. Top right rough wool fibre toy filling. Bottom right wadding.



Egg shaped body made from a piece of thick wadding made in the same way as given below for the rough wool fibre.



Tear away an 8-10cm length of core rough wool fibre, roll up quite tightly, securing with your felting needle as you go.



Continue rolling and needle felting, catching in the loose end fibres and rounding off.



You end up with a lozenge or bean shape core that is perfect for the hedgehog body. Needle felt a little more to smooth off.



Pull away small wisps of off white wool felt fibre to cover the body and needle felt in.



Continue until fully covered so no gaps from the core show through.



Continue needle felting until the fibres smooth over and stay put with a gentle tug.



Lay the body onto thick wadding and cut into an oval for the prickle overcoat.



Lay wisps of dark grey colour onto the felting mat and needle felt together. Add the wadding over this and needle felt through all the layers to join together.



Fold over the fibre loose edges onto the inside of the wadding and needle felt around so all the wisps are neatened.



Lay the overcoat over the body leaving the head/face area clear. Needle felt together around the edges and top.



Tear off a small thin length of wool felt fibre for the nose as shown. This has been folded in half.



Needle felt into the folded end and into a point. It helps to roll this on the mat as you needle felt to get a rounded shape.



It should end up looking like this. Tease out the loose ends in a circle so it can wrap around at the head.



Place the nose onto the head ready to needle felt together.



Tease the loose ends over the sides and underneath the head. Needle felt until all the loose ends have been worked in.



Once the nose is joined you can shape it so that it sticks up. Needle felt on the top in a crease. You can also shape underneath around the chin area to make it stick up more.



I added highlights of dark cream felt fibre over the body. Use really small wisps as this is all it takes.



Felt these into the body until all loose ends are worked in.



Add light brown felt fibre to the overcoat edge for contrast using small wisps as before.



It should look something like this.



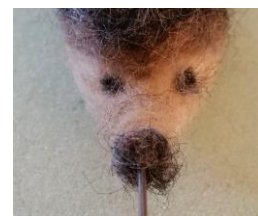
I then added more dark grey onto the overcoat and into the light brown to soften the look.



Make a noodle to create the nose and eyes. Tear off a thin length of dark grey and wind it around needle felting into itself to catch together.



Cut two equal pieces for the eyes and a larger piece for the nose. More can be added once felted in if needed.



Place the eyes in position and needle felt, repeat for the nose. If the nose is too small add more. Round it off by needle felting around the join.



For the ears create a sandwich of felt fibre on top and underneath with wadding filling.



Needle felt through all the layers. Turn it over and felt on both sides till firm enough to cut out small shapes.



Cut two small identical ear shapes.



Needle felt in on the dark brown layer, front and back bottom, until they stay put with a gentle tug.



The boxed hedgehog version (with added heart) is made the same way but lays on its back as shown. The overcoat is joined around the centre of the body, the face on the bottom on the body and oval pads added for the legs.

The heart is made from a small ball of felted fibre shaped into a point at the bottom and a crease needle felted into the the top centre.



Cut feet pad ovals from a felt sandwich as made for the ears. Place in position and needle felt in around the edges until attached and stay put when tugged gently.



Soften off the look by adding small wisps of felting fibre over the pads to cover where they have been needle felted in.