

Nature's Garden Table Lamp



The beginning of June is Garden Wildlife Week. During the month we also welcome the Summer solstice, National Upcycling Day and World Environment Day. This project incorporates elements from all of these, my inspiration being a regular journey through a Global Geopark area of natural beauty and wildlife. I've upcycled a small lampshade with a needle felted felt fabric cover and wood clay covered bottle. The lamp holder bottle adaptor used makes it an easy conversion.

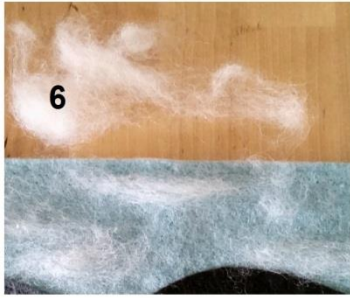
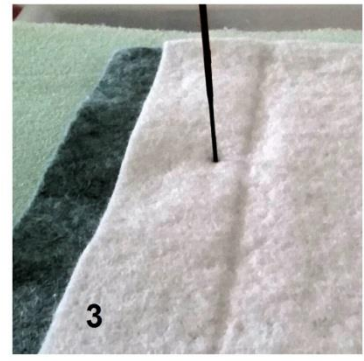
Materials:

- Cylindrical lampshade - 20cm high, 50cm circumference – but any could be used
- Wool content felt fabric (cut on the roll), additional scraps
- Felting mat/sponge, felting needles, felt fibres, wool locks (curly felting fibres), scissors, animal outline/template, hot glue gun
- Recycled bottle, air dry wood clay, twine, lamp holder bottle adaptor

Instructions:

1. Measure lampshade and cut 'backing' felt fabric to wrap around plus extra, particularly the width as it shrinks considerably after needle felting. I added an extra 5cm which still left a 1cm deficit when finished.

2. Decide on your main landscape colourways for size and position as you layer them over each other before cutting and shaping. Cut/shape strips to fill along the 'backing' piece. Some will end up covered so can be shorter in width as shown to tuck underneath. I started with blue for the 'sky' planning the remaining layers over this. The trimmed pieces after shaping were used as another layer.
3. Needle felt the layers one by one (easier than multiples), starting with the blue all over particularly the edges. Needle felt from the front then the back to create a good join, the needle felting acts as 'glue'. You can tell it is attached as other colour fibres will show through. If preferred sew on the layers in an applique fashion or with fabric glue.
4. Lay the main layers over the backing. Needle felt from top layer down until lightly attached.
5. Add smaller layers between to build up, tucking behind the main ones. Needle felt until all are firmly attached.
6. Add felt fibres to the sky to create clouds.
7. Add felt fibres and wool locks to the landscape for added texture.
8. Add wildlife. I added hares, fussy cutting round a pinned printed template on scrap felt, plus a duplicate shadow underneath.
9. Add small 'tree' triangles from scraps and needle felt or stick on with a small blob of hot glue. Needle felt wool locks to create greenery, bushes and far off woodlands. Needle felt the hares or stick on with small blobs of hot glue. Add detail until you are happy with how it looks, an option is to embroider details.
10. Square off to neaten and fit your lampshade. I had a gap but had already planned to add a strip knowing the layers would not match up because of shrinkage. Cut a strip for underneath, hot glue one edge to this, place over the lamp shade and glue the other edge bit by bit to the strip. It is not glued to the lampshade directly.
11. Cut an outside strip, hot glue as before and trim off excess.
12. This gives an idea of what the air dry wood clay looks like before refining. It feels and looks like cork, very easy to carve into and sticks to most surfaces without glue. Tear pieces of clay from the block, press onto the bottle until smoothly covered. Carve a preliminary design with a blunt tool, leave to dry before refining. Finish with twine hot glued around the neck. It was easy to create a wood bark and knot effect but decided looked better with added brown paint to highlight the texture.



Match with some felt flowers and framed smaller panels for a lovely display. Wool is the traditional gift for a seventh wedding anniversary, a small panel on a card would not only be a lovely card but could be used for home décor display afterwards, a card and gift in one.



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