

METHODS OF MAKING MOTIFS ON THE FELT

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INLAY TECHNIQUES (DONE AS FELT IS BEING MADE)

I. LINES

- A. Fuzzy Yarn Lines
 - 1. Can be put down dry or wet.
- B. Thick, softly spun yarn lines.
 - 1. Also, roving strips.
 - 2. Can be wet or dry.

II. SHAPES – Wet Felting

- A. Colored, carded fleece.
 - 1. Can be wet or dry.
 - a. Dry fleece inlay can make a soft edge.
 - b. Wet fleece inlay can make a hard edge.
- B. Pre-felt (soft felt, half-felt).
 - 1. Cut out shapes-random design.
 - 2. Negative/positive technique.
 - 3. Jig-saw technique.
 - a. Sewn together.
 - b. Not sewn, but fleece layer placed over back of motif.
- C. Cut out of transparent cloth.
 - 1. Nylon or silk gauze shapes will look transparent if felted over the fiber.
- D. Cut out of opaque cloth.
 - 1. Open cloth such as cotton gauze can create an interestingly textured shape (see lamination below.)

III. SHAPES – Dry Felting

- A. Colored, carded fleece.
 - 1. Soft edges created with feather and light strokes.
 - 2. Hard edges created with turned fiber edge.
 - a. Can use stencil.
 - b. Can be freeform.
- B. Pre-felt –needle down cut shapes.

IV. RELIEF (SURFACE DIMENSION)

- A. Pockets.
 - 1. Plastic or cloth resist inserted between layers.
- B. False embossing.
 - 1. Rope in middle layers.
- C. Flaps and appendages.
 - 1. Added to surface from the beginning.
 - 2. Added at the half-felt stage. (sewn on)

V. TEXTURE

- A. Lamination (best done from top side).
 - 1. Using a thin veil of fleece to hold down cloth, rope, slick yarns, etc.
 - 2. Using an open textile such as tulle or stretch lace on the surface so that the wool fiber will "grab" the textile and felt it onto the surface.
- B. Non-wool fibers on surface. (Silk, Flax, Mohair, etc.)
- C. Fleece fringe on surface or outside edges.
 - 1. Long, un-picked fleece locks laid root end down onto surface.
 - a. Use a sharp tool to lift the tips to prevent them from felting in.
 - 2. Outside fringe, locks laid into middle layer around edge of piece.

VI. COLOR

- A. Layered color (at least two layers of each color.)
 - 1. Colors blend on surface.
 - 2. Resist inside layers to prevent interaction.
 - 3. Half-felt (bacon slices).
 - 4. Finished felt-cut down into layers.
- B. Using optical color blending principles if bright color blend is wanted.
 - 1. Colors to be blended should be similar in value, hue and/or intensity.
 - 2. Colors to be blended should be well carded before blending, then well carded during blending.
- C. Color progressions.
 - 1. Can go in several directions and patterns.
 - 2. Can progress in values, hues and/or intensities.

SURFACE EMBELLISHMENT TECHNIQUES (AFTER FELT IS COMPLETED)

I. LINES

- A. Stitchery.
 - 1. Machine quilting / stitchery.
 - 2. Hand quilting / stitchery.

II. SHAPES

- A. Patchwork (mosaic).
- B. Appliqué.

III. COLOR

- A. Dyeing/printing techniques.
 - 1. dip dye
 - 2. tie dye (shibori)
 - 3. silk-screen
 - 4. direct application of dyes/pigments
 - a. paint
 - b. print