

1. Divide one lot of alpaca fibre into 3 equal amounts for accurate layering.
2. Lay out bubble wrap bubble side down on to your flat surface. Put a towel down first to catch any water.
3. Use a felt pen to draw up the size of your felt (allow one third bigger all around for shrinkage of about 30%). We started with 70cm long by 34cm wide to end up with something similar to the size we used at the workshop (approx 54cm long by 29cm wide) - this still allowed for further shrinkage later for the book cover.
4. Spread the first layer of fibre thinly inside your marked area, overlapping slightly, like laying roof tiles, and evenly to cover the space with all fibres running in the same direction.
5. Place the second layer on top of the first with the fibres running at right angles to the first layer.
6. Repeat for a third time with the fibres laying the same direction as the first layer.

7. Spray water with a little liquid soap added over the top layer of fibre and wet down - use more water if needed (wet is better than dry), press the fibre down gently once it is wet with a piece of bubble wrap bubble side down. Work around the edges, pressing down until all of the fibre is matted down. to keep the shape and size of your original markings, fold the bottom bubblewrap up to push the fibre back in place.
8. To begin felting, leave second lot of bubble wrap on top of the fibre and gently massage the fibre with fingertips palm to gently agitate - can also use a rolling pin. Keep rolling the edge of the fibre slightly inwards to give it a smooth finished shape. As the fibre begins to firm up, you can begin to work with a more vigorous circular motion.
9. After about 10 minutes, the felt will hold together well enough to turn over. Gently grasp the fibre and the and flip it to the other side. Add more soapy water and continue working the fibre as before.
10. Remove the top lot of bubble wrap and reposition the 'pre' felt on top of the bottom bubblewrap (roller base) to approx. 10cm from the roller base edge that is closest to you.
11. Fold the free 10cm gently over a piece of dowel and roll up the felt in the roller base. Tie ends and middle with either elastic or stocking to hold in place.
12. Roll this sausage shape forwards and backwards unrolling after approx. 5min to check the felting process.
13. Reroll in the other direction after each unrolling ... for about at least 3-4 times.
14. This process can be as quick as 10 minutes or as long as an hour depending on pressure and your desired thickness of felt. There is no need to be gentle at this stage - take out all your frustrations!

15. Unroll the roller base and template and remove the felt.
16. Run warm water into your sink/basin and rinse off the felt. Pressing the water out of it by rolling in a dry towel
17. Unroll and place the felt on a flat surface out of the sun for final drying. Needs to be dry before using for dry felting.

Have fun!