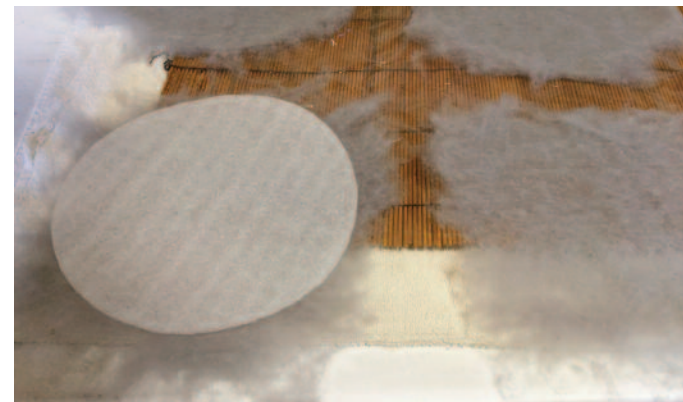
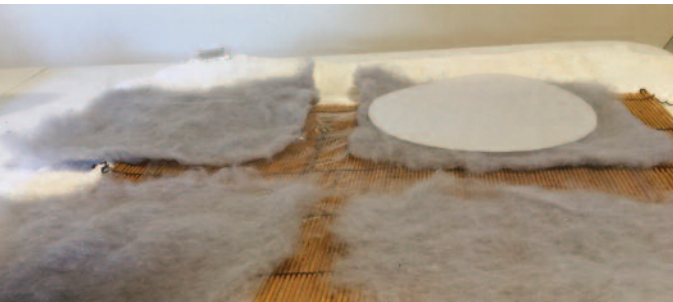
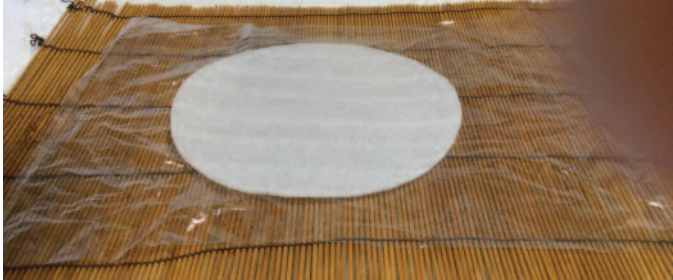
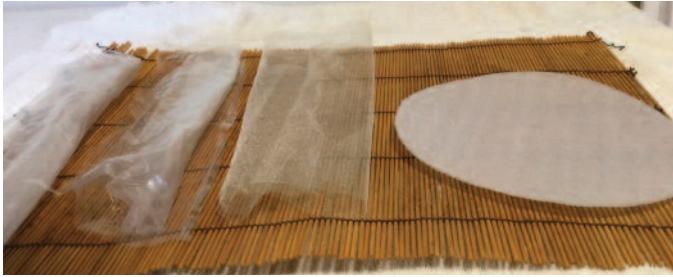


Making a simple felted vessel with Liz Canali
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You will need:

Container of warm/hot water
Sponge
Bar of soap
Towel or boot tray
Bamboo mat or small bubble wrap
2 pieces of plastic about the size of the mat
1 piece of tulle or nylon mesh
1 resist (this can be any flexible heavy plastic, floor underlayment or even cardboard)
Scissors

Set up:

Towel
Bamboo mat
1 piece of plastic
Resist

NOTE: for this class we are using MC-1 or Short Fiber Merino wool batts (approx. 2 oz.) and Merino roving/top, silk roving, curls for the top layer

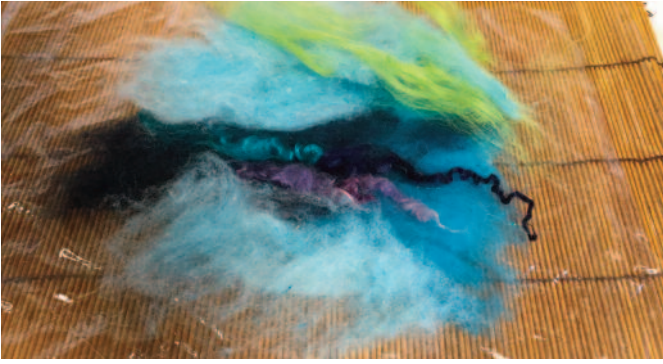
Let's get started:

Prepare the batt - pull into 2 squares slightly larger than the resist, divide into 2. You should have 4 pieces. In this demonstration they will be grey.

Pull off the excess to round off the 4 pieces
These will be the inside of the vessel

For the third piece (the outside of vessel):

Using a different color make a slightly heavier round for the outside of the vessel. If you have a full piece of batt you can use that. If not pull small tufts of a smaller batt and arrange in a circular motion the same size as the grey pieces. Make sure it is evenly distributed.
Make 2 of these

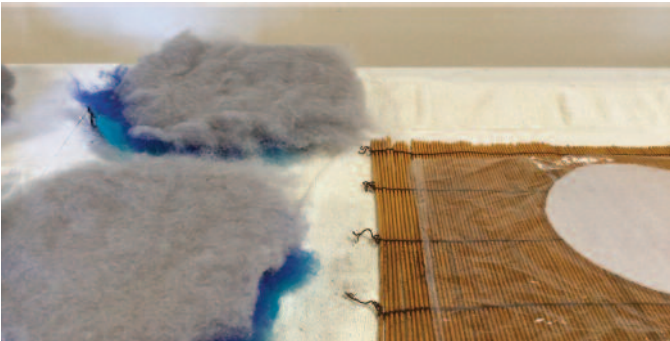


Preparing the very top outside layer:

This is the layer where you can add embellishments like silk roving, additional colors, yarn, angelina, etc. Let them hang over the edge so they wrap around the resist

Preparing the bottom layer:

Make one more layer using the colors but no embellishments that is slightly smaller than the resist



You should have 4 layers for the top and 4 layers for the bottom.

Make 2 piles -

1. top outside, blue, gray, gray
2. bottom outside, blue, gray gray

Time to start felting!

Lay the top piece of grey on top of the resist
Cover with tulle and wet with water using the sponge and soap



You should see the outline of the resist.
Remove the tulle and cover with plastic.
Rub lightly.
Flip over.





Fold the edges in so they hug the edge of the resist. Use the plastic to help or gently push with your fingers to do this.

Repeat the steps:

Add the grey layer from you bottom pile and repeat. Cover with tule, wet down, remove tule, cover with plastic, rub until you see the edge of the resist.

Flip over, add the next top layer, do the same. Flip over, add the next bottom layer



Continue to add layers:

Add the top blue layer, cover with tule, wet down, remove tule, cover with plastic, rub, flip and fold the edges, add the bottom blue layer, repeat the wetting down steps and flip.



Your piece should look like a loose floppy pancake when all the main layers have been added.

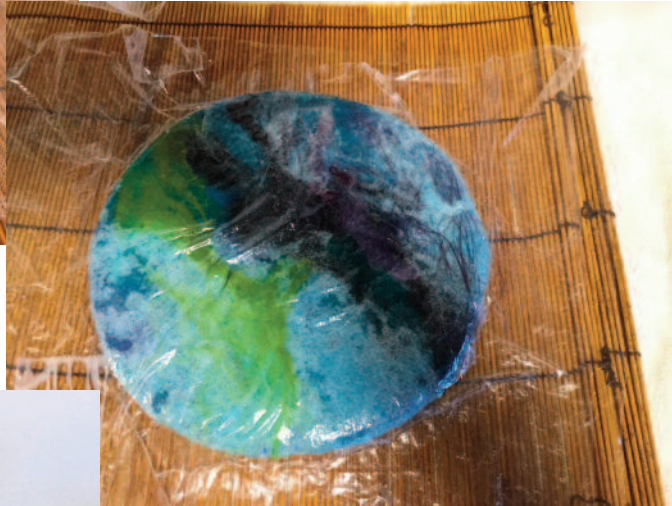
Add your top and bottom layers and repeat your wetting down and folding in the edges on both sides





You're not done rubbing yet!
If your piece starts to look dry, add more soap and water. REMEMBER - wool + water + soap + agitation = FELT

Do both sides!

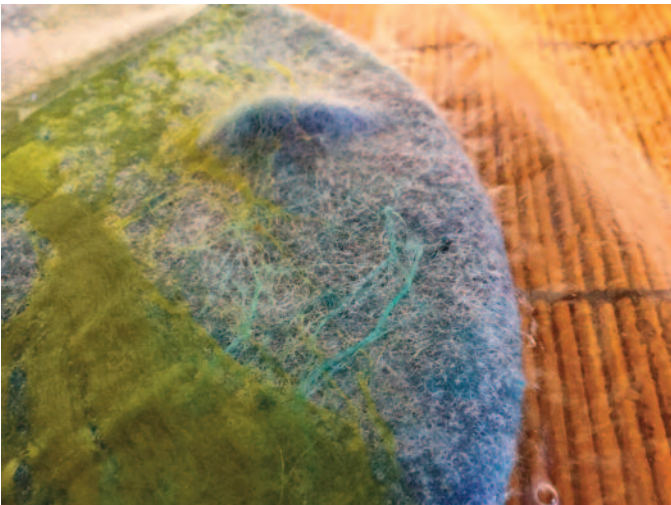


If you have some stubborn pieces that don't seem to want to stick you can use a palm sander to help them along. Use bubble wrap (not sand paper!) Don't rub with it just press lightly and pick it up to move it to another spot

You'll know when you are done rubbing when everything looks smooth and even and it passes the pinch test.

You should be able to pinch the wool and have it stand up and hold it's shape.

This is a very important step. If you start rolling too early your piece will not hold together.

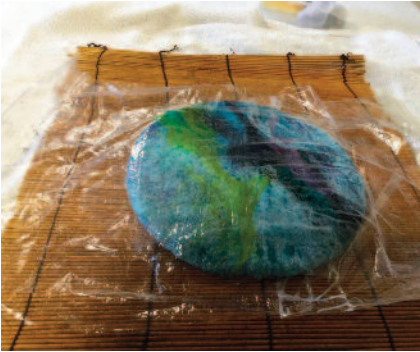


Rolling, rolling, rolling!

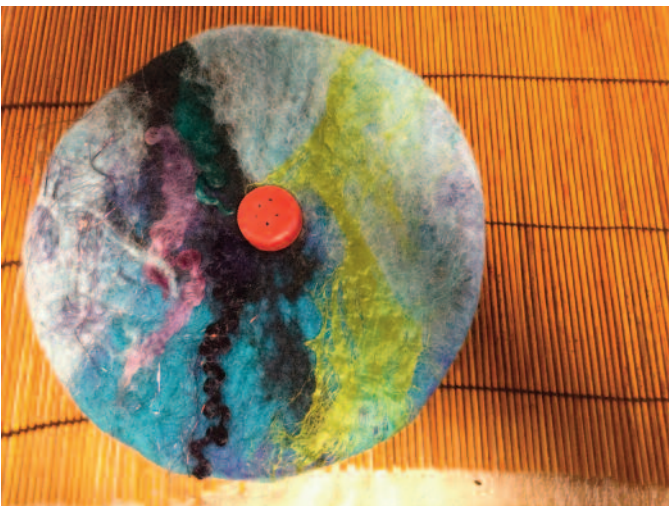
You can use a small towel to get the roll started. wrap it in the bamboo mat and then in you large towel and ROLL



About rolling: you will roll in all 4 directions 50 times each. leave the plastic on for the first side



Flip it over, remove the plastic and roll in all 4 directions on this side 50 times each. That should do it but if it still seems like it's not holding together and shrinking away from the resist, continue rolling - maybe 10-15 times more in each direction on each side.



Remove the resist:

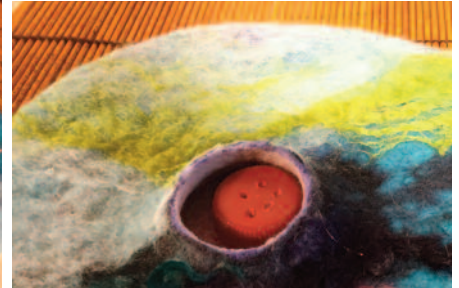
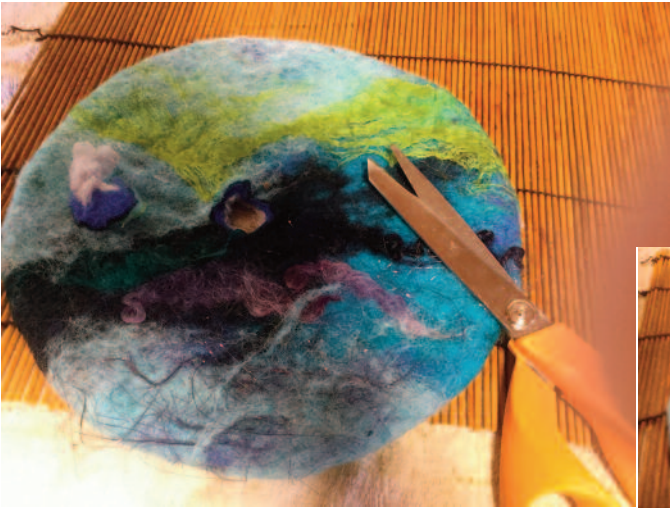
One the top side where you want the opening make the center. Using a bottle cat and pressing into the wet wool will help mark the spot.

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We're getting there!

Cut the hole:

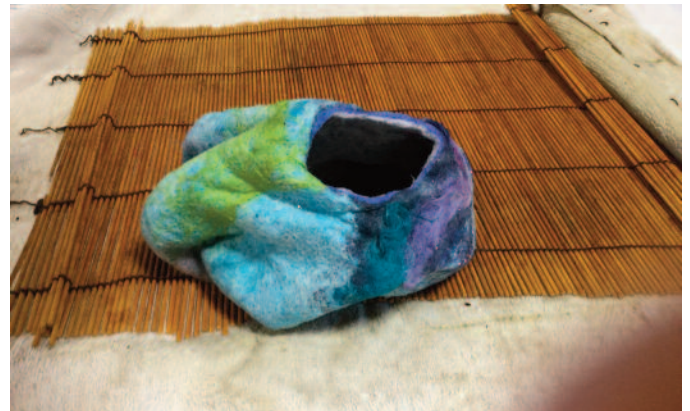
Make it small - it will expand

Wet with soap to smooth the hole by rubbing around it with your fingers



Remove the resist

Just poke your fingers in there and grab an edge or piece. Sometimes you need a pair of pliers or the point of the scissors.



It's pretty soft and floppy so you have to harden the wool and get it to fully felt in order for it to hold its shape.



Time for the water bath

Alternate between hot and cold water to shock the wool. Now you can start to rub more aggressively - this is the agitation step! You can rub it on the bamboo mat, throw it in the sink, rub it between your hands, whatever you want to do to make it shrink and hold its shape.

Final forming

You have some options here:

If you want it to look like this you first work it with a spoon, any round tool or your hands to get some of the "wrinkles" out and then blow up a balloon inside or stuff it with scrape material to create the shape.

You can also stretch it over a cylinder or other shape to create a vertical vessel or do a free form shape.

You can do some stitching or add beads to the surface. Felt is so versatile if you don't like the shape you made you can rewet it and change it!

Have fun - Be creative - Enjoy the process

