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Little Felted Dogs: Easy Projects For Making Adorable Needle Felted Pups



Synopsis

Create the cutest versions of your favorite dogs in just a few simple steps with this easy to use needle felting book. Whether you adore dachshunds or dalmatians, you'll be surprised at how easy it is to make charming miniatures of them with a felting needle and some raw wool in this easy how to needle felt guide. Great for beginners, the two dozen projects in Little Felted Dogs provide surprisingly life-like results—choose from a litter of golden retriever puppies, a pug ready to fetch, a begging bulldog, a protective chihuahua, and more. Even better, you'll go from ball of fluff to perfect pooch in no time at all!

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Customer Reviews

This book is SO cute. I've done other needle felting projects in the past, including a three-dimensional meerkat, panda, and penguin. Let me begin by admitting that needle felting is one of my least favorite crafts. There are so many hours that go into needle felting, that most people who look at your finished craft won't even begin to realize. In fact, probably the biggest surprise of this book, for me, is how large the dogs are (larger than any needle felted critters I've made before). Larger equals more work. That being said, once you're done you'll really have something to be proud of. This book is cute even for the adorable photos of the author's creations, but I bet you're wondering more about the instructions, right? If so, they're pretty good. It's kind of hard to give instructions on how to needle felt, because it's almost like making something out of clay in that you can't give exact instructions as you can with a crocheting, knitting, or sewing project, or something

similar. How the critter turns out is very dependent on the skills of the crafter. However, I do think that it could have been made easier for beginners by doing a couple of things: (1) Photos. As I made a dog, I kept wishing I could see it from lots of different angles. I ended up doing a web image search to see more about how a Westie's hair looks, for example. It would have been good to see photos not only of Yamazaki's dog creations from many angles, but also the real-life dogs they are based on. This issue is easily resolved just by going on a search engine, but it would be nice if the book contained more photos. (2) Life-sized charts. Not life-sized of real dogs! :) But of the projects. There are charts in the book, but they're not sized at 100%. I think that if they were, this would be a huge help for beginners, as they could place their felted shapes directly on the book in order to make sure they're getting the dimensions exact. I'm the type of person who thinks that if you're going to be a good needle felter, all you need are photos of what you're trying to make. That being said, this book has really cute ideas that even an experienced needle felter might not think of (such as how the toy poodle's coat is achieved). And it's cute just to look through, and see the cute creations. Tip: If you just need a tiny bit of wool, you can use 100% wool yarn. I did this for the nose and ears' interiors. Begin by cutting a length of yarn and pulling the ply apart, then fluffing it until it separates. You can then use it as you do the felting wool. I've included some pics of the westie I made. I used what I had on hand (100% natural wool without other shades removed), so he kind of looks like he's in need of a bath.

I wanted to like this book more than I did. It's very cute, has great photos of each dog - there are maybe 25 different breeds included - and the breed selection seems pretty good, from West Highland White Terriers and Corgis - two of my favorites, to Golden Retrievers, Pugs, Chihuahas, Collies and Dachshunds. But after flipping through it, I realized that the actual instructions for each breed are pretty sparse and this book is definitely NOT for a child or beginner felter. Other than the photos, the specific details for each breed just really aren't there. I think a child would still love this book, just based on the photos alone, but if you're looking for a real step-by-step guide to creating these cute felted dogs, I think you will be in for a letdown. I can't imagine that you would achieve even close to the desired results just from reading this book. It's a shame because the dogs really are cute. The author is clearly talented. I was provided a complimentary copy of this book by Blogging for Books, but all opinions are my own.

A lot of the reviews on this book seem to be based on just looking at it, and not actually trying to see if you could follow the directions and get a dog that looks like the ones pictured. So if you are

looking to get into needle felting, be sure to read through and try to find the reviews from people that actually know this craft and do it. First, you will need a number of supplies to get started, which should be obvious, but if you haven't done needle felting before, keep in mind that you do have to buy the needles, roving wool, glass eyes and a surface to felt on. It's not always easy to get individual colors and the cost can add up quickly. Some people prefer to do a wire armature as well with their dogs particularly with standing models. There are kits available that provide these materials with all the colors needed to make a particular animal and I would **STRONGLY** suggest if you are new to needle felting to start with one of those. If you are a total beginner, I don't think this book is a good choice for learning the craft. The instructions are quite sparse with no pictures to show the process for each dog, just a "basic" and "advanced" techniques section at the beginning that goes over the basic dog construction. There are definitely better felting books out there, but you can also go to YouTube and find some of the great tutorials on there and start off with projects that are much simpler. Needle felting also takes a LOT of time, there's a reason that purchased models tend to cost a lot of money. Even a small one can take hours to construct, and the more pieces a particular animal has, the longer it takes to make. Adding fur for long haired dogs as well adds to the amount of time needed. Since many breeds of dog, and particularly some of the ones in this book, can have a lot of colors and attributes to build, they are not the best animal models to start with. And when you are beginning, you **WILL** stab yourself with the needle from time to time. The smaller the model, like these, the more likely that will happen. So for a beginner, look online for needle felting kits and start with those. If you are a more intermediate to advanced felter, this book may be of some help, particularly the dimensions that it gives for each dog in terms of constructing each section. As well as just having a nice reference guide of photos of felted dogs to refer to. But with the copious amounts of online resources for free, and certainly it's not hard to find photos of models people have made, it's certainly not a book I'd rate as a "must-have". Now, the hardest thing when you are new to this hobby is getting the proportions right. Some people have a good eye for doing this and can look at the diagrams given and get pretty close. I personally don't find this very easy, and frankly dogs are not a particularly easy animal to do with all the limbs, ears, facial features and markings. Getting the head proportion right is essential to the dog looking like it should. The book basically just has a single photo of each breed included, a single page of instructions specific to that dog, and a diagram showing the sizes of the body, head, legs, etc. to use for creating your model. If you have some experience doing needle felting, you may be able to get reasonably close using these, but for true beginners I think the kits which include an actual template with the shape and size of each piece you need to make drawn out is **FAR** easier to get it right with. Here there's

nothing to help you with how much wool you need to get the head for instance to the right size, you just have to try and experiment until you get it right. Other books on needle felting dogs have a lot more photos showing the pieces and process from start to finish for each breed, compared to this one, it's a nice guide in terms of having a photo to work off of, and the diagrams to show the proportions, but it definitely is better once you have some experience in this craft to work off of. Of course, once you are fairly experienced enough that you can work from this book, you probably wouldn't need to use one anyway!! debated between 3 and 4 stars for this, I'd tend to give it 3-1/2 stars since it is a useful help to a needle felter like myself that has some experience but it's not hard to take a photo of a dog and figure out the proportions yourself and that seems to be the majority of what you get from this book, and it's certainly easy enough to find photos of needle felted dogs on the internet, so I just don't know that there's enough value in this book to recommend it.

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