

# Free felted bead project

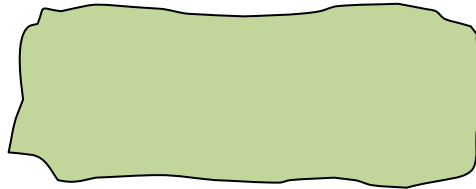
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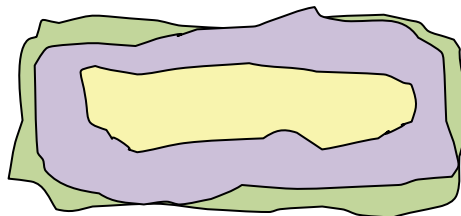
## You will need:

Merino felting wool in colours of your choice  
Needle felting needle - fine  
Sponge to do the felting on  
Cutting mat  
Sharp knife or scissors

1) Cut a length of wool about 10cm long (use the colour that you want on the outside of the beads first). This will make 10-12 beads. Spread the fibres out to make a flat piece of wool:



2) Cut another piece of wool in a different colour and place on top of the first, then repeat with more colours. If you place these evenly you will get bands of colour in your beads. Try placing them unevenly for a more random result! Your pieces should look something like this:



3) Roll the felt up into a sausage shape. Place on your sponge and start felting with the needle. Push the needle in and out of the fibres, pulling the needle out at the same angle it went in to prevent the needle from snapping. Turn the felt evenly and continue felting so that your sausage shape doesn't go flat. Felt the ends too, to lock all of the fibres together. Continue until your sausage shape is solid (this will take quite a while, so sit down, make yourself comfortable and enjoy the process!).

**Warning: Felting needles are sharp, watch what you are doing at all times!**

4) When you have finished, place the sausage shape on a cutting mat and cut into beads using a sharp knife (you can use scissors if you don't have a knife).