

Mette Østman

Felted boot slippers - a thorough guide

e-felt





**Felted boot slippers
- a thorough guide**

1. edition

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and processes of felting.**

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Introduction

Wool is a natural fibre with many good qualities. It is soft, yet strong. It is comfortable to wear close to your body, and it keeps you warm, even when it is wet. On top of that, wool has this wonderful felting capacity.

Felt making is one of the world's oldest textile crafts. Transforming a certain amount of wool into a pair of felted boots is a matter of handling and shaping the wool, making it felt into the shape required. It is creative and almost magic.

Knowledge of materials and proficiency are important aspects of mastering a craft, but the delight in making the product that you wish is what inspires you and keeps you going.

In e-Felt ideas will be the outset, craftsmanship getting its due place as we move along.

Everybody can participate, but beginners are advised to do small items at first.

e-Felt is published by Charlotte Buch and Mette Østman. Both of us have years of felting experience, and our working methods and designs add up to offer versatile approaches to felting. We work together to communicate instruction, advice and inspiration for felting projects, for courses as well as for private use.

Equipment and remedies

Felt making does not require any specialized tools or equipment, apart from the wool fibres. Most utensils can be found in your home, in the kitchen or in your toolbox, or are easily available in your hardware store.

The equipment may vary in different countries.

The **worksurface** is a table that is water resistant. It could be in your kitchen. You can cover it with bubble wrap or you can use a rubber mat from the floor of a car. A comfortable working position is vital.

The **waterresist template** defines the shape of the boots, at the same time keeping the two layers of wool from felting together. The template material needs to be soft, firm and pliable. Heavy bubble wrap, a worn sleeping pad or PE foam for floors are suitable pattern materials.

You need a **spray bottle** to sprinkle the fibres. You can make it by drilling holes into the lid of a plastic bottle. The rubber shower bottle for tending bonsai is an option, and available on the internet.



The **netting** is useful while felting the wool. It allows you to handle the material without pushing the fibres apart. You can also add or remove water and soap through the net. With 2 pieces of net you can flip the work between the net sheets. The size of the netting should be a little larger than the resist. The netting is a plastic mosquito net intended for window frames. You can also use net curtains which are softer.

The **felting mat** can be bubble wrap, a bamboo blind or a piece of an old sheet.



A **wooden rod** makes the rolling and the fulling of the wool more efficient, and slapping with a **wooden spoon** can help in the fulling- and shaping process

A **last** can be used for the final shaping of your slipper boots. You can find Styrofoam lasts on the internet, and on flea markets you may stumble upon old wooden or plastic lasts. If you make slipper boots for children, you can use last year's rubber boots. The outside size is likely to fit the present size of the child's feet. The perfect shaping procedure is to measure the size of the actual feet, since the width, the instep and the arch of every foot are different.