

Fibre Craft Needle Felt Key

About Felting Needles

A felting needle has small barbs in the end that, when stabbed through wool, catch on the scales of the fibre and push them together. The more and more you stab, the more fibres matt together slowly turning the wool into solid felt. Felting needles come in different gauges. The gauge number refers to the diameter of the needle. The higher the number, the finer the needle so a 40 Gauge needle is finer than a 36 Gauge needle.

Felting needles are quite delicate and can break easily if used incorrectly. Make sure you are stabbing in and out at the same angle, not twisting or bending the needle. If the needle won't go into the wool easily, don't force it. Either change to a finer needle or if the piece is very firm, you probably want to stop felting it to avoid over felting. Felting Needles do go blunt over time and much quicker if you're working on wire or pipe cleaners. Over time if pieces are taking longer to felt you probably need to change your needle.

Triangle Needles

Most commonly used felting needle. Triangle needles have 3 sides.

32 Triangle - 3 barbs on each edge

Use with coarse and medium wool as well as in the early stages of needle felting when creating your base shapes and foundations. Also works well when attaching wool pieces together.

36 Triangle - 2 barbs on each edge

Use with coarse and medium wool as well as in the early stages of needle felting when creating your base shapes and foundations. Also works well when attaching wool pieces together. This size needle allows you more sculpting time than with the 32, which helps creates a denser sculpture in less time. This is often used as an all purpose needle. Great needle for beginners.

38 Triangle - 2 barbs on each edge

Use for 3 dimensional projects, for penetrating thicker layers of wool, and for an even surface on medium sized projects.

40 Triangle - 2 barbs on each edge

Use with fine fibres. It allows you to sculpt delicate details onto a dense surface. Use for adding fine lines to your wet or dry felting projects. Leaves less of an indentation on your wool piece due to the thin diameter of the needle. Most commonly used finishing needle.

42 Triangle - 1 barb on each edge at the tip

Use with fine fibres. It allows you to sculpt delicate details onto a dense surface. Use for adding fine lines to your wet or dry felting projects. Leaves less of an indentation on your wool piece due to the thin diameter of the needle. Most commonly used finishing needle.

43 Triangle - 2 barbs on each edge, close to the tip


The finest needle on the market. A very delicate needle and easily bent if misused. This needle is mainly used to attach wisps of wool and tiny embellishments to your project.

Star Needles

Star needles have 4 sides which are great for details and join the fibres together more quickly.

36 Star - 2 barbs on each edge

Use with medium and coarse wool. A good starter needle for the rapid formation of a dense core. It is also used for outlining and attaching felt.

 **38 Star** - 2 barbs on each edge


Use with medium and coarse wool. It's fast to felt with and also great for continued shaping of your woolly sculpture.

 **40 Star** - 2 barbs on each edge


Use for finer and lighter felting. Works great for smooth finishing and for fixing holes or dents in your project.

Spiral Needles

Spiral needles have a twisted blade with barbs on 3 edges. This needle does not leave large dents or puncture marks which makes it perfect for finishing as it penetrates dense firm surfaces.

 **38 Spiral** - 2 barbs on each edge

Use for fine wool, mainly for finishing on firm surfaces, and adding detail and embellishment.

 **40 Spiral** - 2 barbs on each edge

Use for delicate and detailing work. Similar to the 38 Spiral but finer.

Speedpoint Needles

The Speedpoint needles special shape pulls the fibres together more rapidly increasing speed and strength. This needle requires less energy to felt the fibres together, therefore you don't have to poke as hard as you would with a Triangle needle.

 **32 Speedpoint** - 3 sides, 2 barbs on each edge

Best used on medium and coarse wool to quickly increase felt density in the early stages of a project, especially when creating the core of a 3D sculpture.

 **36 Speedpoint** - 3 sides, 2 barbs on each edge

Use with medium and coarse wool. Thus needle is frequently used for starting projects and attaching pieces at an efficient pace.

 **38 Speedpoint** - 3 sides, 2 barbs on each edge close to the tip

Use with fine and medium wool. This needle allows for detail to be added to your sculpture without creating depressions or divets.

Reverse Needles

The Reverse needle pull fibres out instead of pushing them in. This needle is often used for blending layers of colour to make hair and fur.

 **40 Reverse**



FibreCraft

Felting Supplies and Instruction
www.fibrecraft.ca