



Felted Folk

Skill Level: beginner

Size: approximately 3" tall

Materials: 10 yards 100% wool (Worsted weight for mid and chunky gauge/ 2/8 for standard gauge). Do NOT use acrylic or blends or the figures will not felt properly. Any animal fibers like mohair, angora, alpaca are fine.

Machine: My samples were knitted on a mid-gauge (6.5mm) machine. The size will vary with the gauge of the machine.

Gauge: Not important! Just knit loosely so the stitches have room to shrink and felt.

Stitch Size: I used stitch size 10 on my mid-gauge machine, when I would normally knit worsted weight at stitch size 5-7. All felting requires a loose stitch size.

Abbreviations

B/O bind off
 C/O cast on
 NDLS needles
 P/U pick(ing) up
 RC row count
 STS stitches





Note: (1) All the pieces are knitted as 4-ST I-cord: Set your carriage to knit in one direction and slip in the other. (2) begin and end all pieces with 12" tails to use for finishing.

Arms: (Make 1) With e-wrap, C/O 4 STS. Knit I-cord to RC 30. Cut the yarn and gather off by threading a yarn NDL with the cut end and running it through all four STS.

Legs: (Make 1) With e-wrap, C/O 4 STS and knit I-cord to RC 46 and then gather off as for arms.

Body: Fold the leg piece in half and hang the center 2 STS over 4 NDLS by hanging just ½ of each ST on each of the 4 NDLS. Knit I-cord to RC 4. Hang the arm piece by centering it over the torso and P/U just the center 2 STS of the arm piece. Then continue to RC 24 for the head. Fold the head piece in

half and then P/U the same 2 arm STS to anchor the head to the body and B/O.

Finishing: Use the yarn tail at the beginning of the torso to secure arms to the lower torso. Pass the tail used for B/O through the arms and out at neck area. Pull head firmly and wrap yarn around twice to form a neck. Yarn tails at the ends of the arms are wrapped around twice to form wrists. Work all ends inside cords and clip. They will be secure once the people are felted.

Felting: Soak the people in hot (boiling!) water for 10 minutes to open up the fibers. Place in the washing machine with rough, non-pilling items like jeans or sneakers and wash with ordinary detergent with the hottest water you can manage. You may have to wash them twice to reach the desired amount of felting. Felting requires hot water and plenty of abrasion, hence the rough clothing or sneakers. I usually put them in the dryer for maximum felting.

Embellishing: Add eyes, hair, hats or other details as desired. They make great Christmas ornaments, pins or knit project embellishments. I once decorated a tea cozy for a close friend with (naked!) felted ladies – let your imagination run wild. I especially like the fact that these are small projects that take just minutes to finish and are small enough to carry with me to work on when I have a few minutes.

