

113-1

Rebecca Cornell and Christy Howden use felting techniques to create a colorful wool felt puzzle ball.



Please see page 2 for project instructions.

Partners

<http://www.brother.com>



Children of all ages will love this soft ball. Young children will sink their fingers into the spaces while older children will enjoy taking the pieces apart and putting the puzzle back together.

This project is easy to sew, requiring about 60 minutes on the sewing machine and 30 minutes hand-sewing while watching TV or on the go. Happy sewing!

Estimated Time: 2 hours + time for the felt to dry
Skill Level: Confident Beginner

Equipment needed

- 1-18 x 18 piece [wool or wool-blend felt](#) for ellipses on outside of ball (12 total)
- 2-18 x 18 pieces [wool or wool-blend felt](#) in a different color for quarter circles inside ball (24 total)
- Piece of chalk
- Circle cutter or scissors
- Rotary cutter or scissors
- 7" circle pattern (last page)
- Elliptical pattern (last page)
- Sewing machine and thread
- Stuffing – 8 ounces
- Needle
- Scissors
- Bowl and towel

To Cut Pattern for Puzzle/Grab Ball

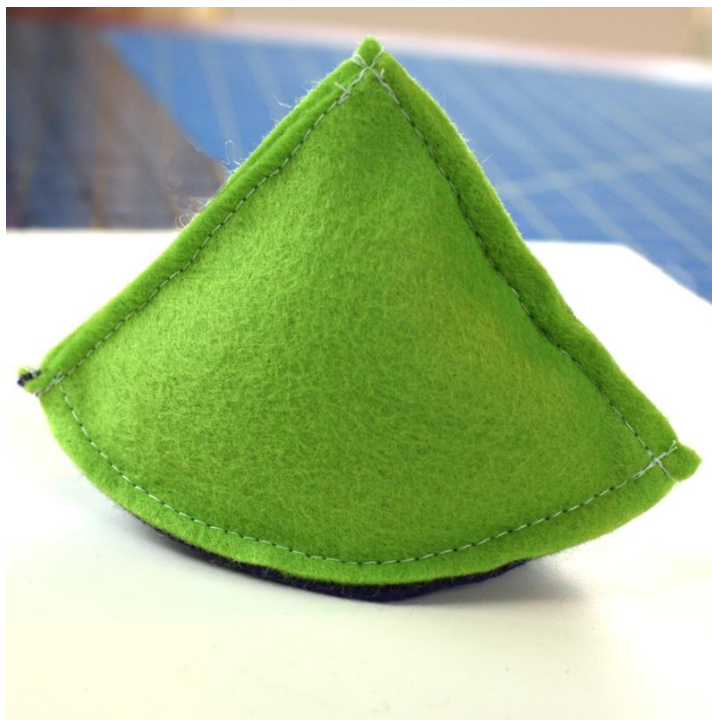
Create Ellipses: Take single 18 x 18 piece of felt, trace elliptical pattern with chalk and cut out 12 ellipses.

Create Quarter Circles:

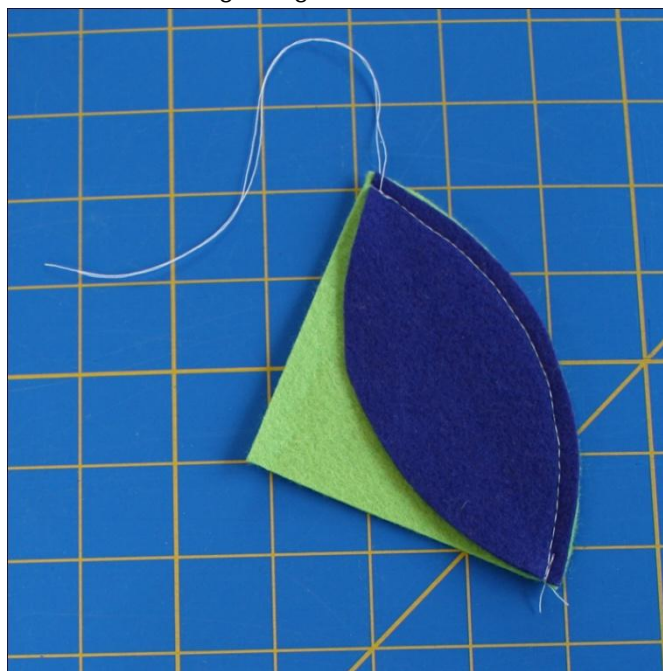
1. Take 2 18 x 18 pieces of felt in the second color; trace and cut out 6 total circles with circle cutter or scissors.
2. Stack the circles two or three at a time and with a rotary cutter or scissors cut them in half, cutting through all layers of felt.
3. Stack the half circles and cut them in half to form the quarter circles.
4. You will have 24 quarter circles.

Instructions

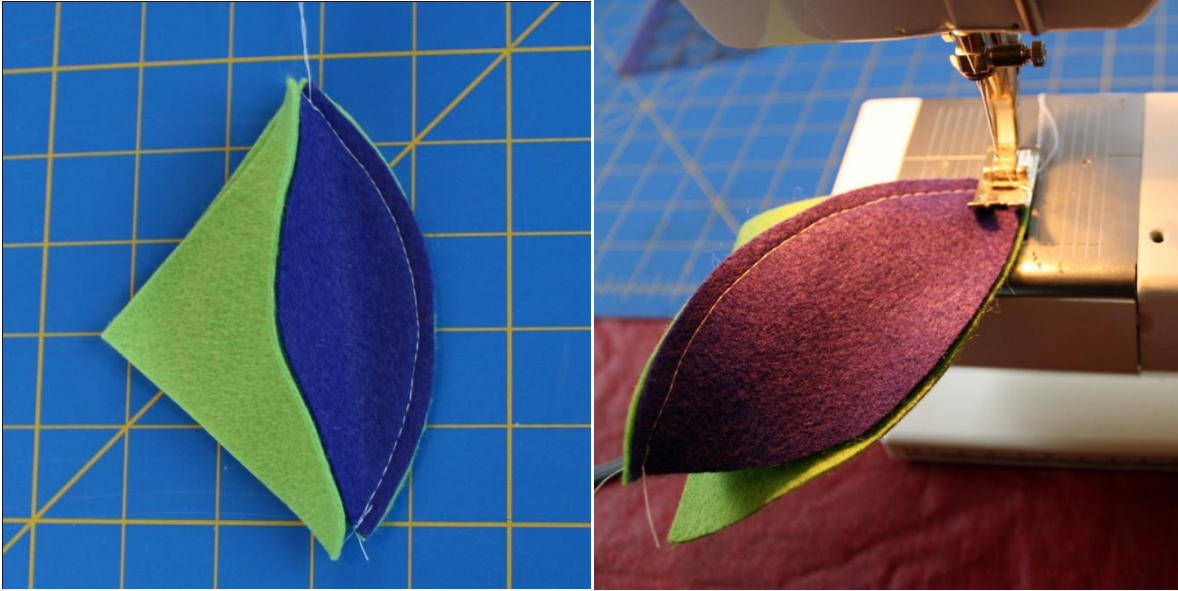
1. **Create wedges:** with the 12 ellipses and 24 quarter circles you will make 12 wedges that will be sewn together to form the ball. Here is what your wedges will look like:



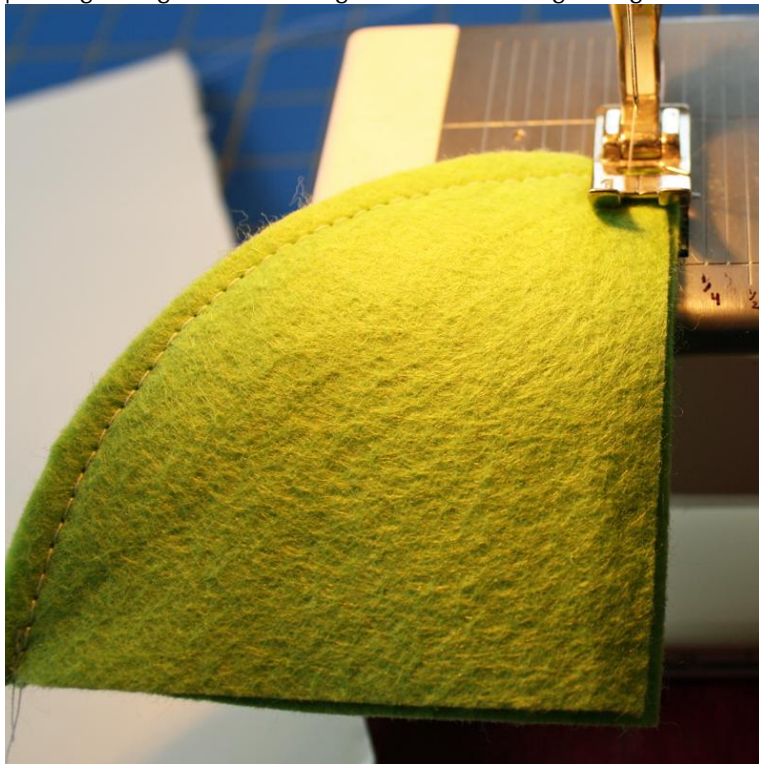
- a. To form the first wedge, take 1 elliptical piece and 1 quarter circle. Match the curved edge of the quarter circle to the curved edge of the elliptical piece. Sew together using a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam. Be sure to backstitch at the beginning and end.



- b. Fold back the elliptical piece and attach a second quarter circle to the other edge of the elliptical piece. Tip: Have the elliptical fabric on top as it goes through the machine.



- c. Match up straight edges of the wedge. Sew one straight edge with 1/8" seam.



- d. Insert stuffing into piece until full. Press stuffing to the side to make machine sewing easier.



- e. Match up straight edge of final open seam and stitch closed with a 1/8" seam, backstitching at the beginning and end.



- f. One wedge complete! Repeat 11 times to create each wedge of the ball.
2. **Trim:** snip loose threads and trim any excess felt to make sides of each wedge perfectly even.

3. **Felt edges:** this will create a soft appearance and hide the stitching.



- a. Fill a bowl with warm water. Dip each wedge into the water and gently rub each seam. The warm water and agitation will felt the seam.
- b. Remove excess water by wrapping the wedges in a clean towel and pressing to extract as much water as possible.
- c. Air dry pieces or use a hairdryer to speed the process.

Note: These steps must be done by hand because using a washing machine and dryer will cause the wedges to appear worn and pilled rather than felted.

4. **Connect wedges into circles.** You will create three circles that fit together to form the ball. Tip: Make sure felt is completely dry otherwise stitching this step will be difficult.



- a. To make the first circle, arrange 4 wedges into a circle. With embroidery floss (6 strands) hand stitch the outer tips together to connect the circle. Stitching should show on the top of the ellipse. Repeat stitch 3 times to create a solid connection. Then tie a tight knot and trim the thread.
 - b. Repeat 2 more times to sew second and third circles.
5. **Assemble ball.**
 - a. Stand one circle upright like a wheel and place a second circle over the top of it. This will form a basic sphere shape.



- b. Take the 3rd circle and place it over the other two circles, pulling the sphere shape through the third circle. Make sure wedges are all facing with points to the inside and elliptical pieces to the outside.



- c. Optional Design- if you prefer the ball to not be a puzzle, simply stitch the center sections together with embroidery thread.

6. TaDaal

Any questions or comments, please email us at help@TaDaaStudio.com

