

# How to Needlefelt an easy pair of festive robin redbreast earrings



## Materials

- ☉ Felting needles.
  - As a basis, I suggest a coarse (for initial felting) and a fine needle (for details)
- ☉ Foam pad to felt on
- ☉ Wool Roving (I am using merino) in
  - ☉ Red
  - ☉ White
  - ☉ Brown
  - ☉ Black
- ☉ 8 small black beads
- ☉ Strong thread (I am using nylon bead thread)
- ☉ Sewing thread
- ☉ Sewing needles
- ☉ Earring findings



## Step One

Take two pinches of your brown roving. You don't want them to be very big, or you will end up with massive earrings.



Start to fold your pinches over and felt them into spheres. Mind your fingers!

Felt loosely at first. I'm using a #36 star needle at this point. As you are going, roll the balls between your palms now and then to keep them spherical and smooth.



Keep felting until you have a firm egg shape. I started with a #32 needle and then moved to a #40 spiral needle when they started to get firmer. You don't want your shapes to be too loose or the next step will be difficult.



## Step Two

Take two small wisps of red roving and felt them onto the front of each brown egg. You want to essentially felt a flat egg shape onto each, slightly smaller than the brown. I'm still using my #40 spiral needle.



## Step Three

Take two small wisps of white roving and felt them onto the bottom half of the egg shapes. Place only a very thin amount of roving over the middle, to give more of a gradient effect, with more roving added lower down to build up some solid white.



## Step Four

Take some black sewing thread and sew on two black beads for the eyes, one on each side of the top of the red oval shape.

Start by creating a small oversew stitch where the robin's bum is, then push the needle right through the body to come out where you want one of the eyes to be. This way you won't have any untidy ends around the eyes. Sew the eyes on securely by running the thread through them several times, pulling a little so that they dig into the felting, rather than looking 'stuck on'.



## Step Five

Take VERY tiny wisps of black roving and felt them between the eyes for the beak. Start by felting the centre to attach, then felt the sides inwards to create a triangular shape. At this point I also add a little extra red and white roving to build up the shape a little, for maximum cuteness now that I know where the eyes are.



## Step Six

Take some wisps of brown roving, fold them over onto each other, and felt them into two small rectangles. Trim the edges so that you have a nice shape for the tails, and felt one tail on each robin - this will cover up the over stitching from when you stitched on the eyes. Add a little extra white roving to build up the body under the tail, and a little extra brown over the join, to make sure it's firmly attached.



## Step Seven

Take some more wisps of brown roving and follow step 8 again - this time to make four wing shapes. Attach these.



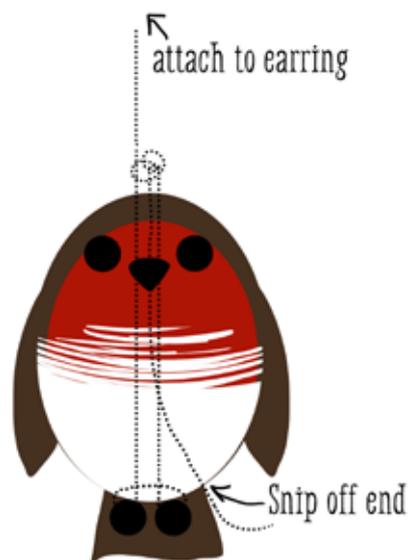
## Step Eight

Grab your earring findings and some strong thread. I'm using transparent beading thread, the thick stuff (that being all I have on hand). Starting from the top of the robin, use a strong needle to pass your thread through the length of the robin, attach a black bead for one foot, pass the thread through the bottom of the robin, add another bead for the other foot, and pass the thread back up through to the top of the robin. I then tied the two ends in a knot, and threaded one end back through the robin and cut it off.



Decide how far down you want your robins to dangle. I'm having them fairly low, as I have bobbed hair and don't want them to be hidden. Leave an appropriate amount of thread, and tie it securely to your earring finding, snipping off the end. I'm using clip-on earrings.

Since this beading thread has a distressing tendency to un-knot itself, I've added a generous dab of hot glue over the knot, and decorated it by pressing some gold beads into the glue before it sets.



## Step Nine

Use some sharp scissors to trim off any loose fibres, and you're done!

