

Gnomes in a Basket Tutorial



These simple needle felted gnomes were inspired by the little felt root gnomes I have been making for years. They are easy to make, can be hung up individually in a tree, or attached to the outside of a present, or in a basket together they make a nice gift.

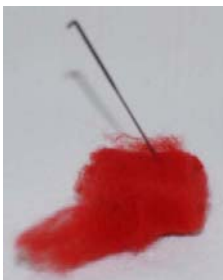
What you will need:

- Small amounts of wool roving or fleece. For the gnome pictured here I started with about 4 grams of wool (approx. $\frac{1}{8}$ oz.) in fire red, plus a tuft in camel corriedale.
- Needle felting needle. Here I used a basic .36 gauge for the whole project. To finish smoother, use a .40 fine.
- Basket. Try your local craft store. Pictured here is a basket from the Kraul Basket Cable Car kit (extra baskets available).
- A piece of foam to needle felt on, or another surface, such as a rolled up sweater or pillow, to prevent the needle from poking you as you work.

Instructions:



1. Lay out your wool. With above mentioned amount, you will have plenty for your little gnome (the green gnome pictured is 7 cm/ 3").

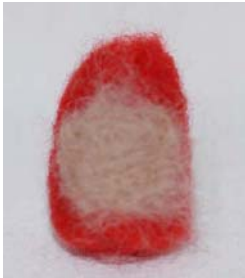


2. Tear off a strip of the red wool, about half. Roll it up. Begin needle felting it by poking your needle in and out of the rolled up shape. It will begin to resemble a rolled hay bale. Choose one end to be the bottom, and begin to needle felt it flat, so that the gnome can stand.





3. Shape the top of the gnome into a pointed shape, like a cone. This part will be finished off later, so once it only needs the basic shape now. Take a tuft of camel coloured wool and holding it flat in your hand, fold the ends underneath the middle. This is going to make the face, so adjust the amount of wool if necessary.



4. Needle felt the face shape onto the front of the gnome body.



5. For the nose, roll a tiny wee amount of camel wool around your felting needle. Slide it off the sharp end and add it onto the face.



6. Needle felt features onto the face by repeatedly poking your needle in and out.



7. Finishing the basket gnome: Add wool to the top and bottom of your gnome as needed. For the peaked top, wrap small slivers of wool around, then needle felt in place. Do the same for the bottom if needed. Use a finer needle for finishing if desired. Put your gnome in his/her basket and make another using the same instructions. Or, sew a thread through the peaked top and hang your gnome up.



*It's okay to make as many gnomes as you like for family and friends, these instructions are for personal use. Please respect the copyright, and do not use or sell for profit in any way. Thanks!