

# mushroom TERRARIUM

Felted wool sweater scraps turn into a needle-felted nature scene.

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## from your stash

Scraps of thick felted white wool sweater

Scraps of lightweight white felt, as from a blazer or pair of pants

Wool roving in white, brown, dark brown, moss green, and gray

Wool yarn (optional)

## gather

Basic felt sewing kit (page 7)

Felting needles in sizes 38 and 40

Felting foam

Glass apothecary jar, jelly jar, or candle jar

## make

### the mushrooms

- Form stems for your mushrooms by wrapping strips of the felted sweater with white roving and needle felting using a size 38 needle. Continue to add layers of roving until you have the desired shape and the stem is firm enough to support the weight of its cap. Be sure to make the stem long enough to be seated down into the base of the scene by about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1.3 cm).
- Cut a doughnut-shaped piece of the felted sweater, making the center hole just large enough for the mushroom stem to fit through. This will become the base for your mushroom gills.
- Cut several strips of the lightweight felt into pieces about  $\frac{1}{2}$  x 1 inch (1.3 x 2.5 cm). These will become the gills for your mushroom.
- Place the doughnut shape on the felting foam. Using a size 40 needle, carefully needle down the middle of one of the white strips until it begins to felt to the base. The edges of the strip will begin to naturally fold upward as the center becomes securely felted. Once the piece is secure, repeat the process with another strip directly across from the first. Continue to fill in the entire base with gill strips (**figs. A, B, & C**).



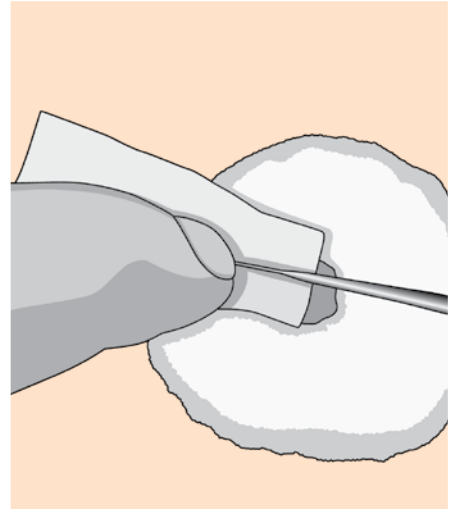


fig. A

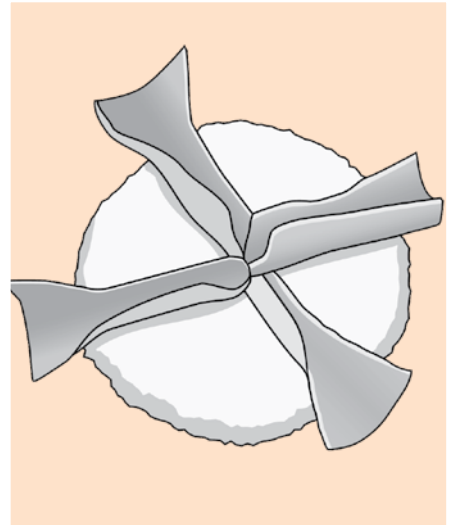


fig. C



fig. E

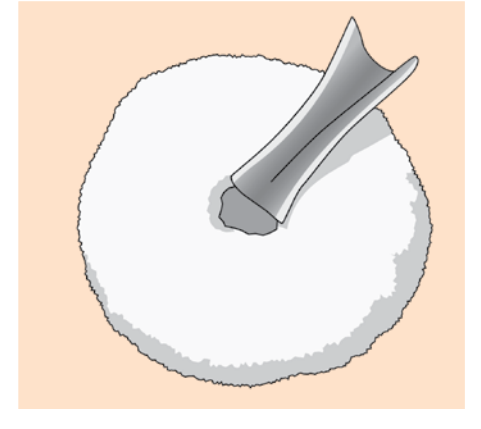


fig. B

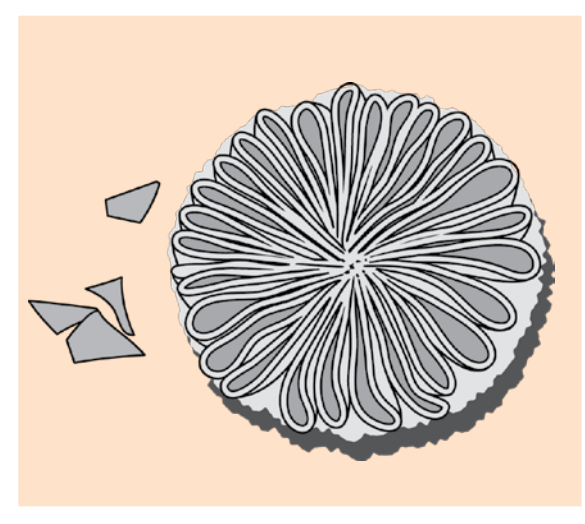


fig. D



fig. F

5 Trim the gills to sit flush with the outside diameter of the gill base and to be of a uniform height (**fig. D**).

6 Insert the mushroom stem through the hole in the gill base and needle it to secure it to the base (**fig. E**).

7 Cut a circle of felted sweater slightly smaller than the gill base. Wrap the piece in brown roving, place it on the felting foam, and needle it until the roving has covered the piece entirely. This is the beginning of your mushroom cap. Place this piece on the gill base and carefully needle it in place, taking care not to push the needle all the way through to the gills. Once the piece is tacked in place, wrap brown roving around the edge of the cap, and needle it into place to cover the exposed gill edges. Continue to needle the brown roving around the edge and over the top of the cap until you've achieved the desired size and shape (**fig. F**).

8 Repeat steps 1 to 7 to create a second mushroom. If desired, form the second mushroom smaller and without the gills.

### the scene

9 Cut out two circles from the felted sweater, using the glass jar as a template. One circle should be the same size as the bottom of your jar, and one should be slightly smaller. (If you're not using a jar, cut the pieces to the size and shape you would like for a base.)

10 Stack the two base pieces, wrap them in dark brown roving, place them on the felting foam, and needle them together until the piece is uniformly covered. This will create the dirt in your scene and the base for your mushrooms. Check to be sure the base fits firmly into your jar. If it doesn't, you can needle the base into shape or add more roving until it fits. If desired, needle gray roving into pebble shapes and attach them to the bottom of the base.

11 Wrap moss green roving around the outside of the base and needle it into place, leaving the top of the base uncovered.

12 Designate the spots where your mushrooms will be planted and cut small, shallow holes in the top of the base to accommodate them. Needle the mushroom stems into the holes. Continue wrapping and needle felting moss green wool around the base and mushroom stems until the base is covered and the mushroom stems are secure.

13 Add details to your piece by using scrap pieces of felted wool and wool yarn. Wrap gray roving around small pieces of felted sweater and needle it to form stones. Cut thin pieces of roving into leaf shapes. A small scrap of wool yarn can be needled to the leaf to act as a stem. Needle these details directly to the base. Small scraps of wool can also be needled beneath the moss layer to add height and interest (**fig. G**).

14 Place your completed scene into the jar, pressing firmly into place.

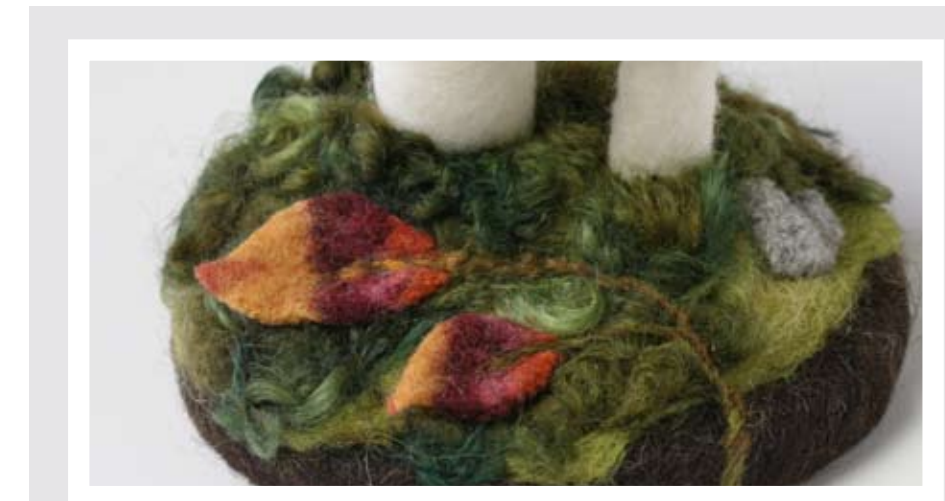


fig. G