



# Nuno Felt Hat on a Ball

with *Natasha Smart*

Nuno Felting a Fantastically Embellished, Pleated and Brimmed Hat on a Ball!

~ Materials and Tools Available from Living Felt ~

[Supply List](#)

**Shop Supplies from Living Felt: [Hat Supplies Page](#)**

## Fibers

Listed below are the minimum fiber recommendations. To create a hat that fits a head measuring 21-22 in/53.5-56 cm, a minimum of 108 grams of carded wool batting is required. To accommodate for a larger or smaller head size, see the Sizing and Fiber Guide section of this document.

- [Bergschaf Carded Wool Batting](#) **108 grams total:**  
72g in Main Color (A)  
36g in Secondary Color (B)

Natasha used the following combination of fiber colors:

Layout Element	Color	Amount
Layer 1: Main	A	32g
Layer 1: Brim	A	4g
Layer 2: Main	B	32g
Layer 2: Brim	B	4g
Layer 3: Main	A	32g
Layer 3: Brim	A	4g

You can choose to follow this blended color combination, make your hat all one color fiber, or mix it up however you choose!

- [Margilan Silk Fabric \(Optional\)](#) **1-2 pieces, each approx. 12 x 12 inch (30.5 x 30.5 cm)**
  - Natasha uses hand-dyed Margilan silks to embellish this hat. As an alternative to hand-dyeing, she recommends using commercially dyed [silk gauze](#) for beautiful color results!
  - The silk pieces can match, complement, or contrast the chosen batting fiber colors. The silk does not need to be all in one piece, and can be patched in from scraps.
- [Wool Yarns \(Optional\)](#) **3-5 meters of 100% wool yarns**  
Natasha uses chunky, thick-n-thin wool art yarns in this course, but also recommends brushed or loopy mohair boucle yarns, or sari silk ribbon yarns.
- **Silk Embellishment Fibers** **Your choices, approximately 5 grams total:**
  - [Merino Silk Blend Tops Fibers](#)
  - [Multicolored Bamboo Tops](#)
  - [Silk Hankies](#)
  - [Sari Silk Waste](#)



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## Supply List

### Tools

- [Living Felt Big Bertha Ball \(Starting Form\)](#) Inflated to **31.5 inches (80 cm)** in circumference  
\* Use a hand pump to achieve target inflation.
- [Living Felt "Little B" Bertha Ball – Small\\* \(Finishing Form\)](#) Inflated to **29 inches (74 cm)** in circumference  
(\*Optional – you can also inflate the Big Bertha Ball to this size)
- **Plastic washing up bowls/bins**
  - Bowl to prop up the ball when working: 10 in (25 cm) diameter
  - Bowl to push and roll the ball around in: 11 in (28 cm) diameter (**Minimum** internal size)
  - Large bowl to hold water and soap solution
- **Pantyhose / Tights (2 Pairs)** **Size M/L:** 40-48 inch hips (102-122 cm hips)  
**Medium Sheer**, 20 Denier recommended
- [Thin Plastic Sheeting](#) 40 x 22 in (100 x 55 cm) piece for main body  
12 x 12 in (30.5 x 30.5 cm) piece for brim
- **Dish Washing Soap or [Olive Oil Soap](#)** This course uses a liquid dishwashing soap.  
Olive Oil Soap can also be used.
- **Spray Bottle** For washing-up liquid and warm water solution
- [Ball Brause Sprinkler](#) Optional
- **Weighing Scale** Highly recommended for allocating fiber sections.

### Additional Items

- Electric or Hand Pump for inflating the Bertha Ball
- Measuring Tape
- Permanent Marker Pen
- Pins
- Large Fabric Scissors
- Approximately 15 clothes pegs
- Towels (Several large towels and several small hand/tea towels)
- Steam Iron & Ironing Board (Optional)
- Hat Block (Optional)



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## Sizing and Fiber Guide

### Head Size

The standard hat project measurements are based on Natasha’s head circumference size, measured at an angle from the back of the head, covering the ears, to the forehead, which is where the hat will sit. For Natasha, this is approximately 21.5 in/55 cm. There should be enough flexibility within the felting process for this size to accommodate your head in the range 21-22 in/53.5-56 cm.

If your head is bigger than this, add a corresponding 0.5-1 in/2-3 cm to the starting ball circumference for every 0.5-1 in/2-3 cm bigger your head is than the upper range size (22 in/56 cm) (or reduce it similarly for a smaller size). You may also need to add slightly more (or less) carded wool fiber to accommodate any size changes. See table below for example fiber weights for a larger hat size.

### Target Hat Size

The target hat sizes shown in the table (for stopping felting the hat prior to rinsing with the hat laid flat and the brim folded up) are the minimums.

If unsure or you prefer a looser fit, then add at least 0.5 in/1.5 cm to the target opening width to ensure your opening does not end up too small, and keep trying the hat on your head throughout the felting process to keep on track of this.

### Example Quantities/Sizes Table

	<b>21.5 in/54.5 cm</b>	<b>23 in/58.5 cm</b>
	<b>Head Circumference</b>	<b>Head Circumference</b>
Ball circumference	31.5 in/80 cm	33 in/84 cm
Total Fiber	<b>108g</b> (72g Color A, 36g Color B)	<b>120g</b> (80g Color A, 40g Color B)
Layout: Layer 1 Main (Color A)	32g	35g
Layout: Layer 1 Brim (Color A)	4g	5g
Layout: Layer 2 Main (Color B)	32g	35g
Layout: Layer 2 Brim (Color B)	4g	5g
Layout: Layer 3 Main (Color A)	32g	35g
Layout: Layer 3 Brim (Color A)	4g	5g
<b>Minimum</b> target sizes to stop felting (prior to rinsing, with hat laid flat and brim folded up)	Opening width: 11 in/28 cm Widest width: 12.5 in/31.5 cm Height: 11 in/28 cm	Opening width: 12 in/30.5 cm Widest width: 13.5 in/34.5 cm Height: 11.5 in/29 cm
Approximate finished opening circumference	21.5 – 22 in / 54.5 – 56 cm	23 - 23.5 in / 58.5 - 59.5 cm



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### Notes on Making the Hat

#### Soapy Water

Use lukewarm water with a very long squirt of dishwashing liquid (more than you would use for washing dishes).

#### Hat Shaping

To create the two hat pleats/folds, use pins to mark the first pleat/fold 1.5 in/4 cm (from the brim fold, then mark the second pleat/fold a further 1.5 in/4 cm from the first pleat fold. Create the folds/pleats using the pins as markers, then use clothes pegs to temporarily hold them in place whilst you finish shaping the hat.

#### Hat Block

A hat block or head form is helpful for shaping the hat if you have one, but not essential. A small ball (inflated to your approximate head circumference) is a helpful alternative.

### Tips for Making the Hat and Cowl Together

#### Coordinating Materials

Use the same Margilan silk fabric and Merino silk blend combed wool tops as embellishment in both projects for a coordinated look.

For fully coordinated projects, you could also add any of the fine silk embellishments (fabric or fibers/hankies etc.) used in the hat project on top of the wool fiber layer in the cowl project.

#### Bowls

If you only have or want to purchase one washing-up bowl for use in the pushing-rubbing stage for both the cowl and hat projects, ensure you use the larger size (12.5 inch/32 cm diameter) to accommodate both projects.

#### Tights/Pantyhose

Use the larger XXL tights/pantyhose for both projects if you only have one set (remember they are reusable).