

# FELTED PIN CUSHIONS, POTHOLDERS, & MUG RUGS<sup>©</sup>

design by Amy E. Anderson

It's never too early to start working on stocking stuffers for Christmas. These projects are a great way to use up leftovers of wool yarns. Almost any wool yarn will felt, but washing times vary greatly. Note: If you use a knitting machine, allow the finished piece to sit for a couple of days before felting.

## Recommended Yarns (1 or 2 skeins):

Cascade 220  
Galway  
Paton's Classic Wool  
Blackberry Ridge Wool & Mohair  
Old Germantown

## Other Materials:

Embroidery Floss, Needlepoint yarn, or lightweight wool yarn for embroidery.  
Long sewing needle with large eye.  
For potholders and mug rugs, you will need a square of fabric that is 2" larger than your felt.

## Needles:

Size 10 or 11, 16" circular  
(gauge is not important)

## Knitting The Felt:

Cast on 66 sts.

Join and knit until the yarn runs out, binding off all stitches, snugly, on your last round. The ends of the tube will have a tendency to bell out when felted; to prevent this, run a strand of yarn in and out of the cast on edge, then tie it in a knot.

## Felting:

Weave in loose ends. Turn knitting inside out and wash in machine, using hot water and long cycle. If using an automatic washer (I use an old wringer washer) place knitting inside a pillowcase and pin the top shut. This will prevent loose fibers from clogging your machine. You may need to wash as many as 3-5 times. Fabric will shrink twice as much in the length as the width. When you are no longer able to see the stitches, felting is done. Cut the tube open and lay flat to dry. If desired, press with an iron to flatten the piece and the surface fibers.

## Pot Holders:

Wool felt is perfect for potholders because it is naturally fire resistant.

Cut felt into 7" or 8" squares, depending on how much your felt shrank. Using 2-3 colors of embroidery floss or yarn, embroider any design on the felt.

Cut a square of fabric that is 2" larger than your felt.

(For a 7" square of felt, you'll need a 9" square of fabric)

Lay the fabric with right side down and center the embroidered felt on top of it. Fold the sides of the fabric up over the felt and turn the edges of the fabric under. Pin in place. Stitch fabric down by hand or machine....whichever you prefer. Add a hanging loop at one corner if desired.

## Mug Rugs:

Cut felt into 4 – 4½" squares. Embroider a fun design on the felt. Cut a square of fabric that is 2" larger than your felt. (For a 4" square of felt, you'll need a 6" square of fabric) Sew fabric onto felt, same as for potholder

## Pin Cushions:

Cut felt into 3" squares – rotary cutters are great for this! You will want to use 3 or 4 layers of felt for each pin cushion – it should be at least 1" thick so that pins don't go all the way through. Using 2-3 colors of embroidery floss (all six strands) embroider a design on the felt. If you are using multiple colors, designs in the center of the square can be worked through just one layer of felt, but designs on the edges should go through all layers, to hold them together.



**Sample Embroidery Ideas:**

