

# Dagmar Binder workshop: 3d Felted Structures for Wearables - Sculptural Collar and Seamless Waistcoat.

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Organised by Evocative Arts Workshops. [www.evocativearts.com.au](http://www.evocativearts.com.au)

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## Workshop description from Dagmar Binder

In this workshop we will explore three-dimensional shaping of felt for scarves and garments. We'll have a close look at fibre direction and combinations of materials, and how they influence the consistency, shape and stretchability of your felt.

A sculptural collar allows you to practise on a smaller item, experiment with different forms, gain some experience and discover possibilities before planning your vest design.

A well-fitting garment is then a new challenge: developing a pattern for your size and laying out the body of your vest seamlessly around the resist. 3d-structures mounted on its surface will give each vest its own character and individuality. Careful pre-felting will secure all components in their position, before rolling and compacting the item, and finally accentuating last details by hand. These techniques are suitable for garments as well as other sculptural felt objects.



**Materials required:** (And see additional notes on next page about quantities and prefelts).

## Collar:

- About 150g 19-micron merino tops (you may also wish to add some silk fibres; you can use merino/silk blends)
- 50x100 cm commercial (needled) prefelt or 50g soft merino batts

## Waistcoat (approx. for a M/L size):

- Around 300g 19-micron merino tops (you may also wish to add some silk fibres, and can use merino/silk blends)
- 180 x 100 cm commercial (needled) prefelt or 200g soft merino batts
- Note: You can use tops only, but in order to achieve a good density in the felt I like to combine the long, straight fibres of combed tops with short, frizzy fibres of batts or prefelt. Short fibres very actively migrate and make the felting process a bit easier, too.

## For surface decoration:

- You may (but don't have to) use silk or viscose fibres, fine wool yarn or lightweight, loosely woven pieces of fabric like silk chiffon, tulle, gauze.

## Colour selection:

You can use any wool colours you like; mostly it's nice to mix some different shades and the result will be more 'alive'. For example, dark needle felt/batts (layer 1) and two colours of tops (layers 2 and 3).



**Note about quantities:**

The amount of wool needed will depend a lot on your size and design.

The bigger your size, the longer your vest, the more 3d elements you want to add to the surface... the more wool you will need. My waistcoats range from around 350g for size S, to 450g for size L.

**Note about prefelt:**

**Commercial prefelt** (needlefelt) is a fine, 1 mm thick and very even sheet of short fibred merino, slightly needled by machine, and is sold by the metre. **Caution:** its consistency differs a lot with the suppliers. Some prefelts seem to be needled very much and don't connect to other fibres so well. **It is better to use soft, fluffy, only slightly needled prefelts. In case of doubt, I'd prefer soft merino batts.**

I have good experience with and can recommend „Vorfilz“ from [www.wollknoll.eu](http://www.wollknoll.eu) - <https://www.wollknoll.eu/shop/schafschurwolle-891/vorfilz-905/vorfilz-100-wolle-180-cm-breit-962/> or the 80% merino/20% silk prefelt from DHGshop.it (not their 100% wool prefelt, it's too firm!) [https://www.dhgshop.it/item-prefelt-by-the-meter-120-cm-wide-80-wool-20-silk-prefelt-25\\_0\\_21\\_96\\_400.php](https://www.dhgshop.it/item-prefelt-by-the-meter-120-cm-wide-80-wool-20-silk-prefelt-25_0_21_96_400.php)

**However, if you have difficulty obtaining soft prefelts locally, there is no need to import wool from far away; instead of needlefelt you may use fine merino batts and split them into thin layers.**

Equipment (if you are traveling by public transport, contact Moira to arrange for these to be provided for you).

- 2 pieces of bubble wrap, min. 120 x 150 cm (or felting mat + 1 piece of bubble wrap)
- 1 pack thin painter's dust sheet
- 1 foam stick (tube insulation or pool noodle) 120 cm
- Approx. 80 x 80 cm plastic gauze, fly screen or old PE curtain
- Olive oil or other plant-based soap (Moira has some to sell).
- Sprinkler bottle
- Plastic bowl
- Tape measures
- Scissors
- Towels
- Chalk
- Masking or packing tape
- Plastic sheets for your template/resists:
  - 4 large (120 L) garbage bags (from the supermarket)
  - or: for the vest pattern, thin floor underlay 100 x 120 cm (from Bunnings or Ikea) and 2-3 garbage bags for small resists for 3d structures.
- For emergency repairs: sewing thread and needle, felting needles and sponge. (Moira will have these available, if you do not have any).
- Pen and paper to take notes

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