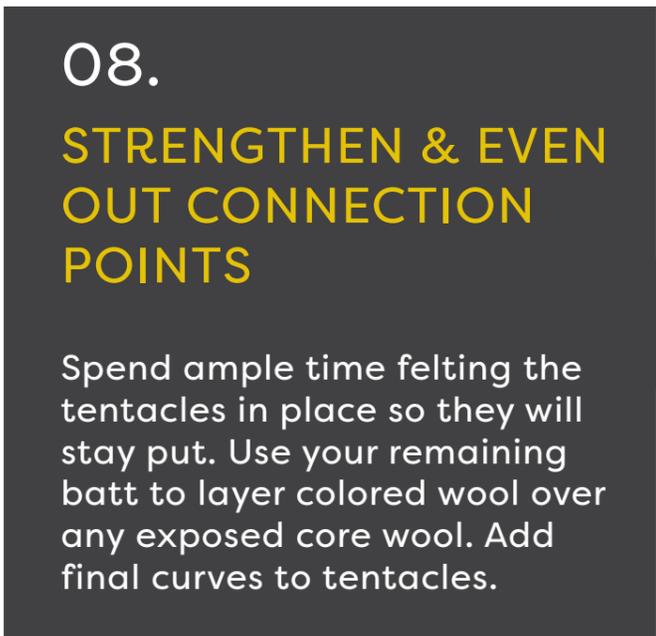


## 07. ATTACH THE HEAD

Place the head on top of the arranged tentacles. One by one, pull the loose colored wool fibers of the tentacle over the edge of the head and felt into place. Rotate between felting the fiber up onto the head and under across the bottom.



## 08. STRENGTHEN & EVEN OUT CONNECTION POINTS

Spend ample time felting the tentacles in place so they will stay put. Use your remaining batt to layer colored wool over any exposed core wool. Add final curves to tentacles.

### **Hillary Dow** Author Illustrator Fiber Artist

Born in Maine, Hillary resides in Hampden with her family. In 2019 Hillary launched her indie publishing company, Binding Tales. The illustrations in her books are created by needle-felting wool that she locally sources from Maine fiber farms. She also captures her process as tips and instruction to create her online felting lessons. Learn more about Hillary and her books and felting at [bindingtales.com](http://bindingtales.com).



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Scan this code with your phone to access the digital octopus felting lesson, including videos and still image galleries.

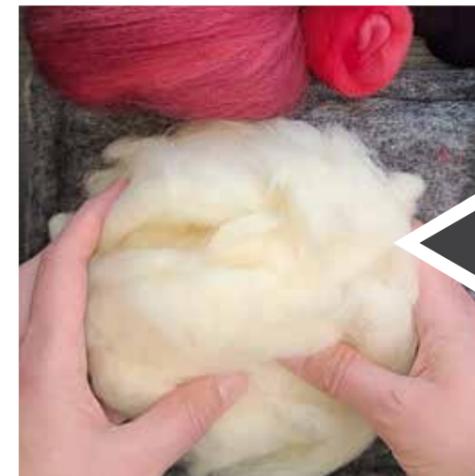


# OCTOPUS

## Needle Felting Lesson

### SUPPLIES

- Large Blended Batt
- Dark Blended Batt
- Core Wool
- Detail Wool
- Felting Needles
- Felting Pad



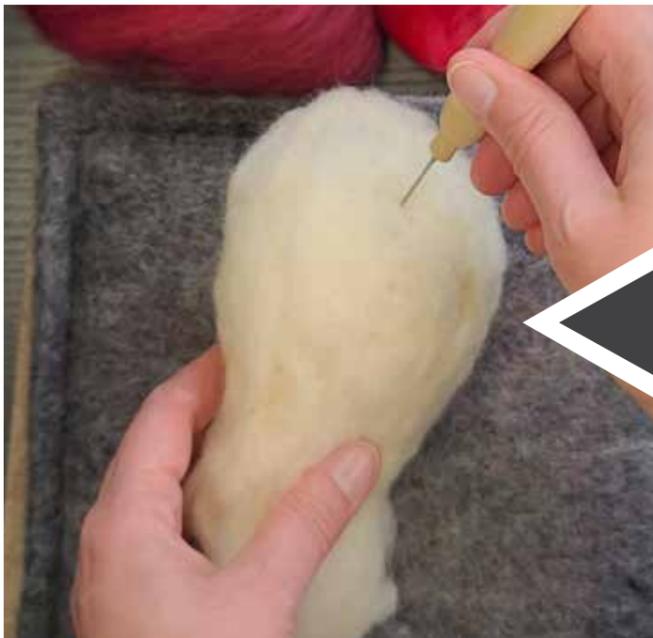
### WOOL STEWARDSHIP

The best way to conserve colored wool (and save money) is to use natural wool to build up the base and inner bulk. This method works best on thick elements that won't push white through the color on the other side.



### SIZE CONTINUITY

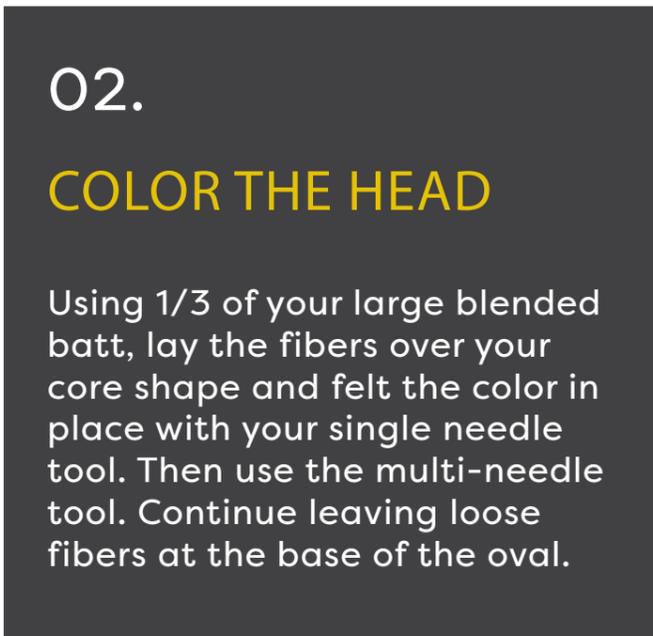
With a design of repeat elements, making portioned piles of wool helps create evenly sized components.



01.

### FORM THE HEAD

Using your natural wool and single needle tool, form an oval to use as the base of the octopus head. Leave one end of the oval loose and fluffy to allow for wool fibers used to attach the 8 tentacles.



02.

### COLOR THE HEAD

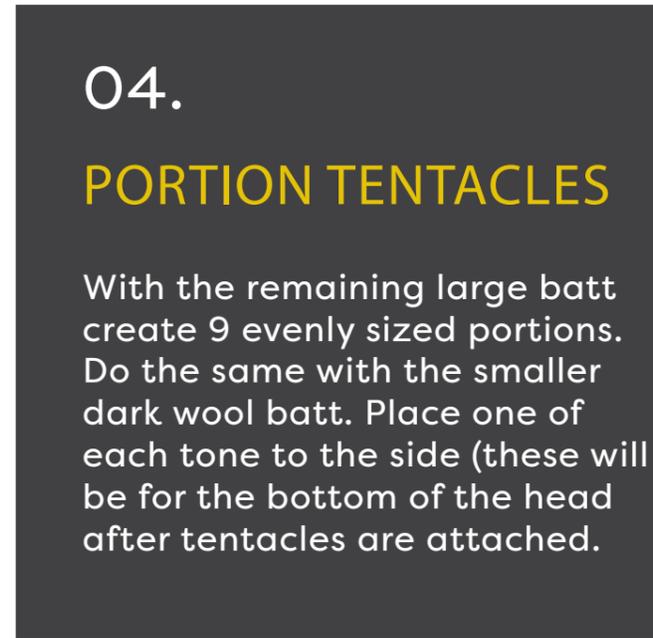
Using 1/3 of your large blended batt, lay the fibers over your core shape and felt the color in place with your single needle tool. Then use the multi-needle tool. Continue leaving loose fibers at the base of the oval.



03.

### ADD THE EYES

Create 2 depressions in which you'll place the eyeballs of a dark color with a highlight. Or add two mounds that will create a bulbous look to which you can add circular pupils in a dark color with an outline.



04.

### PORTION TENTACLES

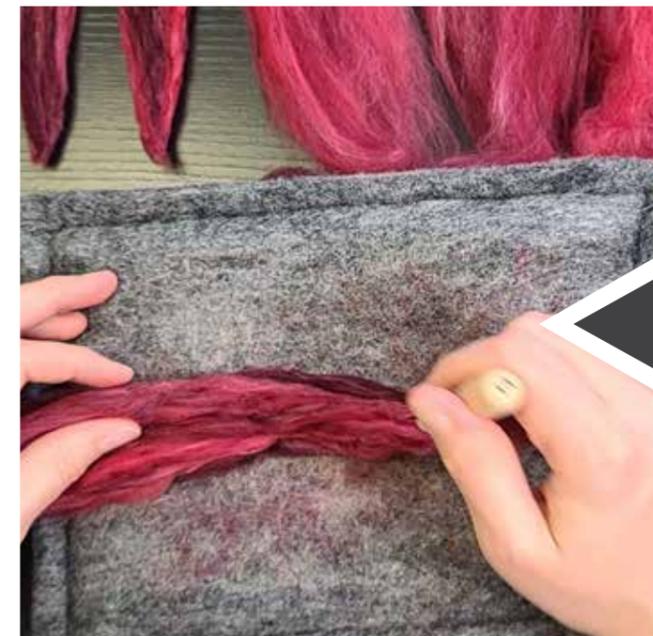
With the remaining large batt create 9 evenly sized portions. Do the same with the smaller dark wool batt. Place one of each tone to the side (these will be for the bottom of the head after tentacles are attached).



05.

### SHAPING TENTACLES

Place a portion of dark batt over a portion of the large batt and felt into a tapered shape. Be sure to periodically remove the tentacle from the work mat. Felting a lot in one spot will create curvy bends. Leave fluffy fibers on the wide end.



06.

### ARRANGE TENTACLES

Place the tentacles in an even circular pattern with the dark side facing down and the wide ends at the center. Alternating over & under will add strength to connection points between the tentacles and the head.

