

# Decadent Fibers

Confections for the Fiber Artist  
[www.decadentfibers.com](http://www.decadentfibers.com)

Garnish your project with...

## A Decadent Button®

Another original Decadent Fibers needle-felting project

*Crazy for buttons? Decadent Fibers is here to celebrate a simple idea with you. Needle felt your own buttons using colorful wool fiber from our Penny Candy (34+ colors of hand-dyed wool roving), left over yarn from your project, or a combination of both. Needle felted buttons can be actual fasteners or decorative garnishes. Needle felted buttons are a creative punch to top off your one of a kind knitted, crocheted or felted project. Shape, size and color can be whatever your creative ability dictates. There are NO limits – NO rules...classic or wild, textural or smooth, colorful or plain...you are the designer so let your creative juices flow.*

Our first button was an inspiration out of desperation.

Finally, our long awaited sweater arrived from the designer, just minutes before



we were leaving for Stitches East. We had this glorious, colorful cardigan to introduce at the show, with no buttons. As we began our 7 hour

drive, I tried to think of where we could get buttons, what kind of buttons we should use, how would we get this done? And then it occurred to me – needle felt them! The leftover yarn was enclosed with the designer sweater, we had our needle felting tools with us so I began coiling the yarn in a small circle and needle felted it down on our

**Decadent Foam.** I continued to add more coils of the variegated yarn, building and felting the button until the button was firm, dome shaped and colorful. The 6 buttons were all made the same way, show casing a different main color of the variegated yarn on each button top.

Charming is the description for this simple button design.



Our knitted *Woven Cardigan* pattern and the needle felted buttons from the same *Cookie Dough* yarn paired perfectly. We constantly hear raves about our needle felted buttons. Our customers appreciate our simple demo on how this is done and amazed at the simplicity of the technique. No sewing, no gluing, just a simple felting needle, they can't wait to go home and try some!



### Ingredients you will need

- **Penny Candy** – Decadent Fibers, 34+ colors of custom hand-dyed wool roving
- Felting Needles – A Decadent 5 pack
- **Decadent Foam** – 2 x 10 x 10 (*The foam will protect you from the needle barb and is also your work area*)
- Yarn from you project

### The Needle Felting Technique

Felting is an ancient art, but needle felting is the newest phenomena and is it ever catching on in the needle arts world. It is a creative process that appears magical using just a few simple tools, instructions and your creativity. As you jab your felting needle down through the wool fibers, the barbs on the needle grab onto the fibers, entangling and interlocking them, felting them down permanently. Unlike wet felting which uses soap, water, and lots of agitation, this dry felting technique uses only the needle. The more you jab the needle through the fiber the more the fibers felt. Use many short fast jabs and remember the angle at which you pierce the fibers is the angle at which they will felt. The longer you jab, the denser the felt. You will be amazed at your creative ability and the magic of the dry felt technique! You are actually sculpting the fiber using the felting needle.

## Creating your Button

With a permanent marker, draw the button shape on your **Decadent Foam**. Choose your favorite colors from your new bag of **Penny Candy**. Pull off small wisps of fiber; hold the fiber with your thumbs and first two fingers using both hands, quickly, but gently, tug in opposite directions so the fibers will easily pull apart. Lay these wisps thinly over your pattern shape at right angles to each other, building your layers by colors or use one color. Do not be tempted to lay down thick layers of fiber; many thin wisps will needle felt easier. Go easy, you can always add more fibers at any time. You can also blend colors by combining wisps and teasing them together.



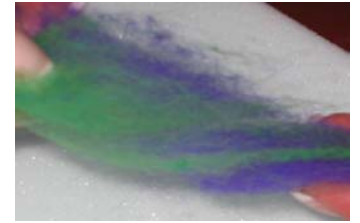
**Penny Candy**



**Decadent Foam**



**Pulling wisps of fiber**



**Teasing colors together**

Begin to needle felt your button, by plunging your felting needle into the fibers on your **Decadent Foam**. The barbs on the needle will grab the fibers, entangling and entwining them. Continue jabbing up and down, in a quick, fast motion. The point of the needle only needs to pierce through the fiber and barely into the foam as you felt. Once your button shape holds together, flip it over and needle felt the backside. Remember where you plunge the point of the needle is where the fibers felt. Bring the fibers over the edge of your button, angle your needle and felt down the edge fibers toward the middle of your button to accomplish a sharp and refined edge. You can add more fiber and color to build up the size of your button. Keep needle felting until your button is dense and firm. At this point you can decorate your button using different colors from your bag of **Penny Candy** or use yarn from your project. We needle felted different colored stripes of our **Crème Puff** yarn on each button to compliment our knitted jacket.



**Begin needle felting**



**Shaping the button**

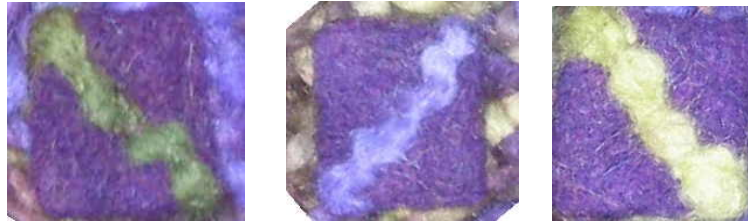


**Finished shape**



**Embellishing**

Needle felt as many buttons as you need for your project.



Our diagram shows our simple square button that we use on our **Decadent Crème Puff Jacket**.

Securely needle felt the center of a 5" piece of yarn to the center of the back of the button, making sure it is sturdy. To secure the button to the sweater, take the 2 ends of the yarn and poke them through to the inside of the sweater and tie in a knot. You may want to needle felt large buttons into the knitted surface of the garment to secure.



Adding yarn to back of button



Pulling through the sweater



Knotting inside the sweater



Embellishments are numerous and will be whatever your imagination can create. How about small flowers, using different **Penny Candy** colors, or building shapes, letters for a fun children's button, 3d designs, or textural and funky buttons for the **WOW** factor.

*Send us a picture of your decadent button and we'll showcase it on our website !*

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