



Independence Day Tea Cosy

By Emma Jackson (Silversoles)

Difficult Level : Easy - Medium

Material & Equipment

- Bubble wrap (150 x 100cm)
- Felting Solution (Soap & Water – Two squirts of washing up liquid to 500 ml of warm water)
- Needlepunch or Merino wool tops:

(0.5 x 1.4m)	Deep Red	50g
(0.5 x 1.4m)	Royal / Dark Blue	50g
(0.5 x 2m)	White	100g

Make the prefelt

(if using needlepunch skip this stage)

You will need to make prefelt for the flag details if not using needlepunch.

Step 1: Layout two layers of blue tops in a 30x30cm square on one half of the bubble wrap – lay first layer vertically and second layer horizontally.

Step 2: Wet out with felting solution.

Step 3: Fold over the bubble wrap and flatten down pressing the water through the wool (make sure it is all wet, but not dripping wet!).

Step 4: Take one side and roll up the bubble wrap. Roll back and forth gently (count 30 rolls)

Step 5: Un-roll, smooth flat and rotate 90 degrees clockwise.

Step 6: Roll up bubble wrap and roll back and forth (count 30 rolls).

Step 7: Repeat above steps until you have rotated and rolled the package 360 degrees (120 rolls).

Step 8: Turn the package over and repeat rolling and rotating for another 120 rolls. (30 rolls for each 90 degree turn).

Step 9: Take prefelt from the bubble wrap and put to one side.

Step 10: Now make the red prefelt – layout 2 layers of the red wool tops in a 60x40cm rectangle.

Follow instructions for making blue prefelt.

Step 11: Make the white prefelt – lay out 2 layers of white wool in a 25x25 cm square and follow the instructions for the other prefelts.

Cut Out Pattern

Cut out patterns from the templates provided in the article. You will need:

- 2 Blue Rectangles (25x18 cm)
 - 1 Blue rectangle (30x6cm)
 - 10 Red Rectangle (2cmx50cm)
 - 4 Red Rectangles (3cmx50cm)
 - 2 White Rectangles (50x34cm)
 - 32 White Stars
- [Image 2]



image 2

Laying Out The Pattern

Step 1: Take the bubble wrap and layout on the table with the bubble-side facing up.

Step 2: Lay one rectangle measuring 50x34cm in white merino wool tops. Use three layers of wool tops in alternate directions. Alternatively take one of the two 50x34cm white needlepunch rectangles.

Step 3: Place one of the blue rectangles on the white wool/needlepunch – place it at the top left hand side of the white rectangle. Lay out the red stripes and arrange the white stars on the blue rectangle as directed in the image below. [image3]



image 3

Step 4: Repeat the above steps for the second side of the tea cosy. This can be done now or after felting the first side if space/size of your bubble wrap restricts your working space.

Tip! As an alternative design option you could choose to either leave the second side plain using either white, red or blue on the second side.

Step 5: Wet out the two wool rectangles with felting solution, ensuring all areas absorb the soap and water solution.

Step 6: Fold over the bubble wrap and press down forcing the felting solution through the layers of wool and expelling any air.

Felt the wool

Step 1: Roll up the bubble wrap package of wool to form a tube package. Gently roll the package back and forth (count to 30).

Step 2: Unroll the package, smooth out the bubble wrap and rotate 90 degrees clockwise. Roll up the package again and roll for a count of 30.

Step 3: Repeat the above steps twice so you have done 120 rolls.

Step 4: Flip package over and repeat, continuing to roll and rotate. Check at intervals that the design is in place (adjust where any slippage has occurred). Once you have rolled the package for 240 rolls you can increase the pressure you put on each roll. Continue to repeat the above steps.

Tip! When the wool begins to felt you will notice that the texture of the wool begins to change – becoming harder and will shrink in size. As a guide to knowing when the wool has completely felted it will have shrunk by approximately 30%

Step 5:

Once the wool rectangle measures 39cm (width) x 26cm (height) take out of the bubble wrap. Wash out the soap by gently squeezing warm then cold water through the felted wool.

Tip! You can iron the wool flag under a tea towel on a hot iron if you want a smooth finish.

Step 6:

Leave to try naturally – either line dry or dry flat.

Felt the Tea cosy Handle

Step 1:

Take the blue prefelt or needlepunch rectangle (30x6 cm) and place on bubble wrap

Step 2:

Roll up the wool to form a sausage of blue wool along the short width [image4]



image 4

Step 3: Wet out with felting solution.

Step 4: Fold over the bubble wrap and rub the wool sandwiched between the bubble wrap. Alternate rubbing and rolling the 'blue wool sausage' in the bubble wrap package to felt the wool. The blue wool handle tab will shrink and become hard.

Step 5: Wash out the soap as before and leave to dry naturally.

Make up the Tea Cosy

(Use the templates provided in the article as a guide to the cosy size.)

Once all the pieces are dry you can sew up the sides to make the cosy. Place side one of the tea cosy with right side up on table.

Fold the handle tab in half to form a loop. Put the loop end of the handle tap at the centre top of side one. Ensure at least 5cm of the loop ends stick out over the edge.

Pin/tack in place.

Lay side two of the cosy on top of side one matching the edges – right sides facing. Pin the two sides together and tack.

Double Stitch the two sides together using straight stitch.

