

# Wool Scarf

This project was originally posted to the BERNINA Sewing Republic site

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## MATERIALS

- Felted sweater scraps
- Thread (coordinating or decorative)
- Ruler
- Rotary cutter and mat



# STEPS

## 1. How to felt a sweater

Have you ever thrown your favorite wool sweater into a too hot wash cycle only to discover that it's now too small to wear? What you just did was felt your fibers! Any sweater with at least 80% animal fibers (wool, cashmere, alpaca) can be felted with hot, soapy water in a washing machine, rinsed on cool, and dried using a heat setting on your dryer.

2. When you are finished, you will find that the knitted stitches are no longer visible and will not ravel when cut. You will also notice that there is a 'right' and 'wrong' side to your fabric. In this tutorial, we will always be working with 'right sides' up.



## 3. What if you have no sweaters to felt?

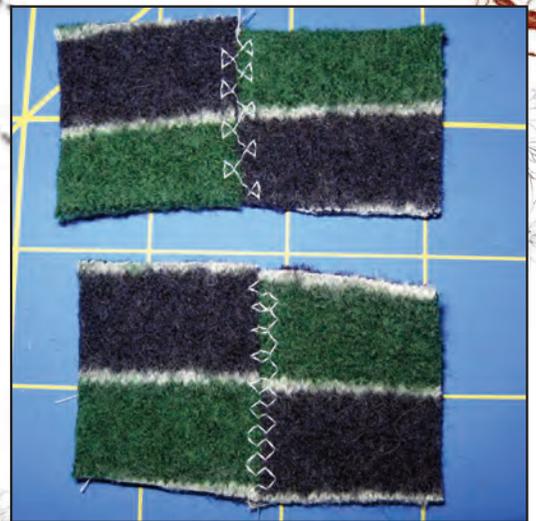
If you search your closet and find that you don't have any sweaters to felt, don't fret – you have several options! First shop your local Salvation Army, DAV, or second hand store. If you turn up empty handed, you can also visit auction sites and online stores such as Etsy. Not only can you find sweaters to felt, but many retailers carry pre-felted materials. You may even find some that sell remnant scrap bags – a great way to expand your color, texture, and pattern options.

#### 4. Cutting

This tutorial allows the sewer a lot of artistic freedom in how their finished scarf will look. To design yours, cut strips or squares of felted sweater pieces  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " long (or squares that when joined together are no wider than  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ") by your desired height. Since the pieces will be joined together by butting raw edges against each other, adding seam allowances to your pieces is not necessary – so have fun and play with your arrangement! The finished length of the model's scarf is 67". However, feel free to make yours longer or shorter depending on your needs.

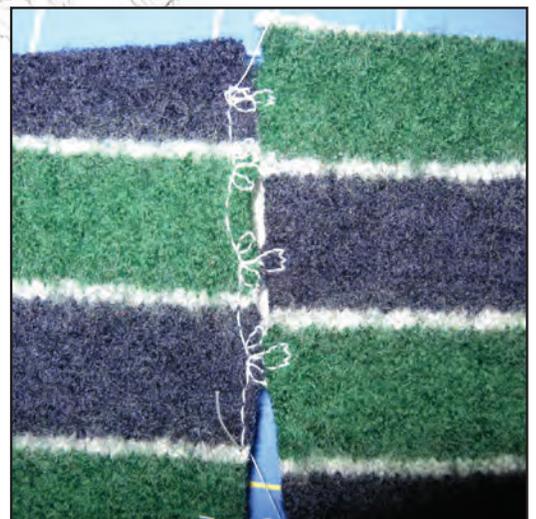
#### 5. Sewing

After you are happy with your arrangement, you'll need to join your squares and rectangles together. This is a good opportunity to try out the decorative stitches that come with your machine!



#### 6. Tips on selecting a machine stitch

It's important that the stitch join the two edges together, so the pattern you select should cross both sides of the material equally (zigzags and decorative zigzags work best). For example, stitches #25 or #57 (above) on the BERNINA aurora 440QE will work well, while a floral design like #64 will not.



7. Small stitch patterns tend to get lost in the felted fibers, so it's best to find designs that are not too close together. If your machine has the capability to lengthen and/or widen the design, this is a good time to do it. Otherwise, stick with larger scale patterns.



8. Be sure to test sew your stitch choice with scrap pieces of wool before sewing on your scarf. This will allow you to modify your design, change the stitch length or width, and practice the sewing technique before working with your pre-cut pieces.



### 9. Putting the pieces together

Join two felted wool pieces together so that the ends are butted up against each other, but not overlapping. Place the pieces so that the butted edges are centered with the center mark found on the presser foot and sew.



10. Continue joining wool squares until all pieces are sewn together to form a scarf.

You may find that sewing will cause some of your edges to stretch out of shape slightly. Even up the edges of your scarf by placing a ruler over the edges and trimming the excess material with your rotary cutter.

