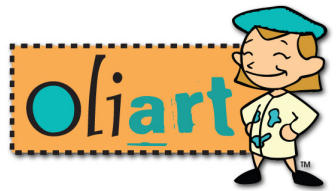


Hat on a Ball (episode 08)



Materials:

- Alpaca fibers (approximately 2-4 ounces)
- 9 inch deflatable ball
- inflation needle
- bowl
- 3 pair pantyhose
- liquid dish soap
- spray bottle of soapy water
- towel
- bubble-wrap
- large pan or sink to hold hot and cold water



1. Cover work surface with towel.



2. Place bowl in center of towel.



3. Place ball in bowl. Make sure the air hole is facing down into the bowl.



4. Drizzle the ball with liquid dish soap.

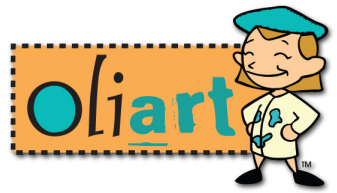


5. Separate thin strands of fiber (long enough to drape all the way over the ball).



6. Drape the first strand over the ball.

Hat on a Ball (episode 08)



7. Drape the next strand in the opposite direction.



8. Continue draping fibers over the ball until the entire ball is covered.



9. Using long thin strips, place the fibers on the ball in a spiral pattern, starting at the top.



10. If you are concerned about the thickness of the fibers, add another layer of fibers in the same manner as the first layer.



11. Spray the fibers with soapy water to keep them in place.



12. Have a friend help you place the first pair of pantyhose over the ball.



13. Carefully lift the ball from the bowl.



14. Make sure the air hole is exposed. Tuck the exposed fibers into the pantyhose.



15. Place the next pair of pantyhose over the ball.





16. Rotate the ball to its side and place the last pair of pantyhose over it.



17. Dunk the ball into hot water, soaking all of the fibers.



18. Dunk the ball into cold water. Repeat steps 17 & 18 three or four times, ending in the hot water.



19. Cover your work surface with bubble wrap. Place the bubble side up.



20. Roll your ball back and forth over the bubbles several times.



21. Bounce the ball on the work surface. Repeat steps 20 & 21 for about three minutes.



22. Carefully remove the outer two pair of pantyhose.



23. Test the fibers by gently pulling them with your fingers. You want them to be lightly bonded to each other. *If they feel too loose, replace the pantyhose and repeat steps 20 and 21 for another minute or two.



24. When the fibers are bonded well enough, remove the last pair of pantyhose.



25. Deflate the ball using the inflation needle.



26. Remove the ball from the fibers. Take care not to stretch the fibers.



27. Very gently, stretch only the opening of the "bag" shape, until it looks large enough to fit your head.



28. Dunk the hat into hot water then cold water, gently kneading it with each dunk. Take care not to stretch the fibers.



29. Without stretching them, squeeze most of the water out of the fibers.



30. To harden the felt, throw it onto your work surface repeatedly for several minutes.



31. Gently begin shaping your hat.



32. Block the hat on foam or your own head. Look in a mirror to ensure the desired style.



33. Use gentle pressure to shape and mold the hat as needed.



34. When the hat is in the desired shape, place it in an undisturbed location until it dries. *It helps to place it on a drying rack for better air circulation.



These hats can be decorated with buttons, beads, hand or machine stitching, or needle felting. They are fantastic hand made gifts for any occasion and are really fun to make.

We hope you enjoy this project as much as Olivia did!