

# Nuno Felt Meditation Beads Material List

by Nancy Ballesteros

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On the Friday Evening of the workshop we will be creating a felted mosaic utilizing all the amazing exotic and challenging fabrics which you have brought along from your fabric stash. You should dig deep into your stash and bring some amazing fabrics to play with – We will learn a technique I call Extreme Felting – don't be afraid to bring things which you don't think will felt (synthetics, heavy wovens, glitzy beaded and sequenced fabric)! We need to finish this mosaic on Friday Evening so it can dry overnight and be ready to use on Sat. The second day will be used for creating beads from your felted mosaics and exploring necklace designs. Much time, thought and love goes into each bead. In this short workshop there won't be enough time to make beads for an entire necklace, but you will be well on your way! On Sunday we will cover several cord making techniques and stringing options.

## Fibre Requirements

**Exotic and unusual fabrics:** We first need to create a 1 metre square mosaic of felt with interesting nuno textures. Each piece of fabric should be **no larger** than 15 cm x 15 cm. It's important to try and keep in a colour family (ie. earth tones, red /black/grey, creams, brights, etc...). It's also important to try and identify a "look" or "feel" that you are trying to express (ie. Indian sari influenced, vintage lace look, a Japanese feel, American Southwest style, African influenced...). Now try and gather textured fabrics and prints that express this feel. It is better if the design on any printed fabrics is small. Remember you will only be making small beads the size of a twenty-five cent piece. Thrift shops are great for finding interesting and affordable bits of fabrics.

Here are a few types of fabrics that are worth exploring. Be really adventuresome! Try much heavier fabrics than you would normally use, try more modern synthetic fabrics. If it won't felt down, we will stitch it down! If you like its texture and the colour give it a try!

- knitted fabrics with texture (cables, moss stitch....) or you can simply bring along any wool knits that have already been felted
- Embroidered with sequins and beads
- Velvet and velvet burn out
- Thai Silks
- Lace
- Synthetic fabrics with interesting patterns/textures
  - Techno glitzy fabrics - Linens
  - Stretch netting/lace fabrics
  - Embroidered borders

## Haberdashery

-Variety of sewing needles: beading needle, sewing needles, Chenille needle or Sharp Embroidery size between No. 18-24 with large eye. Also a sharp long Darnier No. 14-18 can be useful.

- Variety of threads that contrast and/or match your fabrics. Threads are very important. I have a huge selection to work from. Some shiny, some matt, some linen, some silks, some thick some thin, etc. I'm sure if you bring a selection we can all share around.

- Thimbles are useful
- Scissors, normal and small sharp pointy ones are good
- Beads – small seed beads or similar types to hand sew on as decoration – optional
- Large beach glass beads or other beads (fimo, resin...) that have a pretty large hole (your cord must be able to go through) that look good with your fabrics – could source these after you have made your beads so you get the size and colour and feel right. – optional
- Cording for the necklaces. This is a big subject. We will learn to make our own cord from fabric I will supply or you can bring something that looks good with your fabrics. Bring any other materials you think would be appropriate and interesting for cords. I will also bring some other types for purchase. If you don't have anything on the day, it will be fine. The choice of what cord to use takes some time and thought. We can work on this together.

## Wool for Felting:

Bring 100gm – 200gm of Superfine or fine Merino tops (18.5 – 21 micron). I prefer finer wools for a less hairy felt. Try bringing a couple of different colours that **TONE** with your fabrics (ie brown fabric bring brown or beige wool) and also bring wool to **CONTRAST** with your fabrics (ie, if you have a brown fabric bring red wool). A carded wool batt is fine, but be aware it will have a very predominant effect in the way the beads look.

## Felting Equipment

- Bubble wrap or non-stick matting, 6'long x 2.5' wide (roughly the size of a trestle table)
- If you have a small piece of non-stick matting bring it along as I find it useful to keep your work from sliding around.
- Lightweight plastic sheeting, at least TWO pieces 6' long x 2.5' wide.
- Pole or pool noodle approximately 5' x 4" diameter.
- Several old towels
- Olive oil soap Dawn Ultra Dishwashing Liquid, Original liquid dishwashing soap is a good choice as it has a pH of 9-9.5.
- Bottle with fine holes for wetting out
- Netting to cover work for wetting out
- Bucket
- Notebook, pencil
- Lunch
- Name tag
- Plastic painter's tray (make sure it has lots of ridges) OR Glass Washboard OR Ikea has a plastic cutting board with ridges on back – these will be used as a fulling surface.

