

Klic-N-Kut

Cut FELT with the KNK

Characteristics of Stabilizers

Heat 'n Bond ULTRAHOLD

- Iron-on Product
- Remove liner before applying to a sticky mat
- Applies lots of glue to the felt
- Not recommended for sewing
- Leaves mat with lots of felt fibers

OESD Stabil-Stick Tear-Away

- Hand pressure application
- Leave paper liner in place while cutting on a sticky mat
- Clean removal from mat & felt after cutting

Contact Paper

- Hand Pressure Application
- Leave liner in place while cutting on a sticky mat
- Clean removal from mat & felt after cutting

Lite Steam-A-Seam 2 or Steam-A-Seam

- Iron-on Product
- Leave liner in place while cutting on a sticky mat
- Clean removal from mat after cutting
- Leaves light adhesive on the back side of the felt.

The **most important factor** in successfully cutting felt **is your choice of felt!**

There are 4 types of soft felt:

Type	Content	Source
Wool	100% wool	Website*
Wool Blends	Ex: 35% wool/65% Rayon	Website*
Acrylic	Acrylic	Hobby Lobby
eco-fi "Eco-felt"	Polyester made from recycled post-consumer plastic bottles & 50% acrylic	Michaels & JoAnn's**
		* Sources listed on the last page of this handout ** Cut yardage and individual pieces are the same content
Bamboo	New & quite pricy-not included in this handout- has a very soft, buttery hand	

Stiffened felt can be the same content as the soft felt at Hobby Lobby and JoAnn's. Michael's stiffened felt is 100% eco-fi (Polyester made from recycled post-consumer plastic bottles)

Characteristics of the different types of felt –

Rated by American Felt and Craft with pictures and full explanation

(<http://americanfeltandcraft.wordpress.com/category/differences-between-felts/>)

This chart is my interpretation of their findings.

I Rated the results from 1- 4, with 1 being the best, 4 being the worst

Characteristic	Wool	Wool Blend	Acrylic	Eco-Felt
Appearance	1	2	3	4
Transparency	4	3	1	2
Stitching	1	2	4	3
Distortion under stress	1	2	3	4
Fuzz Factor	1	2	4	3
Tape Removal	1	2	4	3
Shrinkage	1	2	4	3
Burn Test (Safest)	1	2	4	2

Fuzz Factor pictures, using scanned photos of actual testing



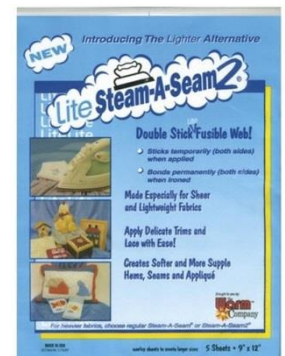
The felt samples for this test were cut by hand, with no stabilizer applied on the back. After cutting the circles, I roughed the edges by rubbing it between 2 fingers, simulating normal wear.

Felt must be stabilized to cut it on the KNK. I have had success with these stabilizers. I use a very sticky mat that is dedicated to cutting felt & fabrics.

Heat 'n Bond Ultrahold	OESD Stabil-Stick Tear-Away	Quality Contact Paper
 <p>Heat 'n Bond[®] Iron-on adhesive adhésif thermocollant adhesivo de activación con plancha ULTRAHOLD™</p> <p>NO-SEW PAS DE COULTURE SIN NECESIDAD DE COSER</p> <p>5 yd 4.6 m</p> <p>GREAT FOR: Fabric, Patches, Denim, Leather, Suede, Appliqués</p> <p>PARFAIT POUR: Tissus, Pâcles, Denim, Cuir, Soudé, Appliqués</p> <p>IDEAL PARA: Tela, Parches, Mezclilla, Cuero, Gomuzo, Aplicaciones</p> <p>PERMANENT PERMANENTE</p>	 <p>OESD Embroidery Stabilizer Stabil-Stick Tear-Away WHITE</p> <p>OESD starts with a high quality tear-away backing and combines it with a light adhesive that reduces gumming and releases easily - a sticky backed stabilizer that's right for knits and stretch fabrics! A safe alternative to spray adhesives for those with respiratory problems. Fabric can be attached before or after hooping. Stabil-Stick can be used alone or in combination with other stabilizers. Use like any tear-away.</p>	 <p>Clear Matte Transparent Mat Transparente Mate</p> <p>Con-Contact BRAND</p> <p>It may not make a difference but I always buy the best quality I can find, which is usually Walmart. Never do I use the dollar store version for this application.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron-on Product • Remove liner before cutting • Applies lots of glue to felt • Leaves mat with lots of fibers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand pressure application • Leave paper liner while cutting • Clean removal after cutting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand pressure application • Leave in place while cutting • Clean removal after cutting

If you want to sew your cut felt -

- NOT USE Heat 'n Bond Ultrahold – unless you are prepared to deal with glue on the needle & the frustration that goes with it.
- If you are using your cut felt as an applique and would like some adhesive on the back after it is cut, use Lite Steam-A-Seam2 or regular Steam-A-Seam.



Questions to ask yourself before you begin a felt project –

- Is the “Fuzz Factor” important?
- Will I need to sew by hand or machine after it is cut?
- Do I care if there is glue on the back side, when I’m not gluing it to a base fabric?
- Do I want to order a quality wool or wool-blend felt from an online source?

Asking yourself these questions will help you choose the right stabilizer for your chosen felt. This is always a first step toward matching your project goals and expectations.

Stiffened Sticky-Backed Felt with a liner was used to make the mitten coaster in this Christmas project. The Fiber content of Stiffened Felts is usually the same as the soft felts being stocked by the same retailer. The paper liner was stuck directly onto a sticky mat with the felt side up. If it resists sticking, remove the backing and stick the sticky back directly on the sticky mat. For me, it cut fine with the paper backing intact. After the two opposite mittens were cut, the paper backing was removed and very carefully the two very sticky sides were glued together, matching all sides. A holly sprig & fur cuff gave the finishing touch. Files for this design available at <http://teamknk.com/celebrate-the-season/>



For the napkin ring, plain felt was used. Heat 'n Bond was ironed onto the back side, creating the equivalent of sticky back felt, but it also made the back side of the beard and band very sticky and shiny with glue (see picture). To cover all the exposed glue from the Heat 'n Bond a piece of cotton fabric was cut the exact same size as the beard and band and ironed in place.

Pillow with Dahlia Design Created from Eco-Felt



This was a fun project cut from 100% Eco-Felt.



Contact Paper was used as a stabilizer, because I didn't want a sticky residue on the back side of the cut petals after they were cut. The design consisted of petals, cut in 4 sizes, ranging from small to large. The cut petals were hot glued in a circle, taking care to off-set each row. A button in the middle was the perfect finishing touch.

The most important thing that I learned from this project is that **Eco-Felt WILL DULL THE CUTTING BLADE.** By the time I was finished cutting these petals my blade would hardly score felt, using the same settings that I used to cut these petals.

Pillow Embellished with Circles cut from ACRYLIC & ECO-FELT

The major thing that these two felts have in common is a significant FUZZ FACTOR. I stabilized both felts with Contact Paper and cut on a very sticky mat. I chose Contact Paper because I knew that I was going to sew the circles in place and I didn't want sticky residue on the back side of the felt after it was cut that would "gunk-up" my sewing machine needle.

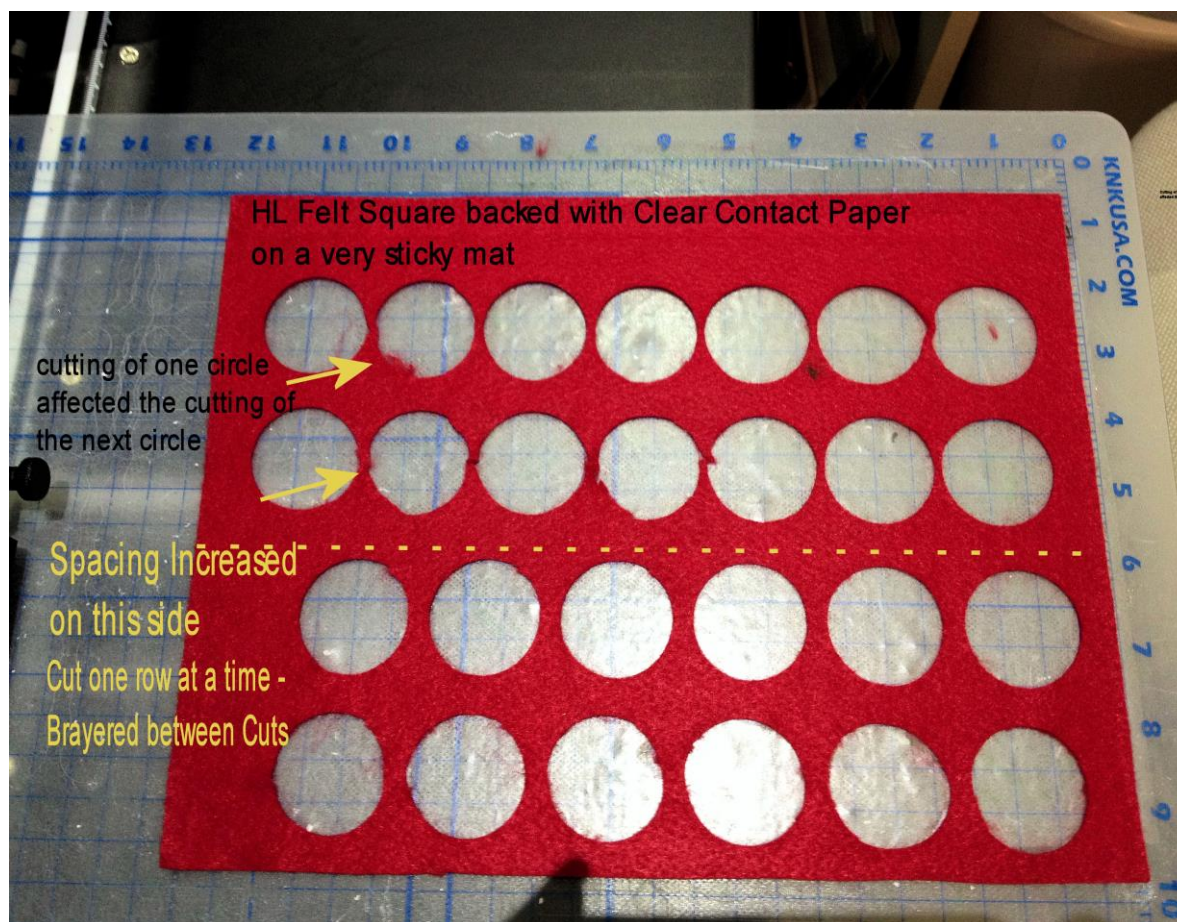
The circles were sewn in place with a single, straight stitching line, stacking a red circle over a green and vice versa.

Lessons I learned on this project:

- When cutting felt, place objects, such as these circles, at least ¼" apart
- Cut only one row at a time
- Brayer between cuts
- Illustrated in following diagram



Only a cutter could cut circles so perfectly round!

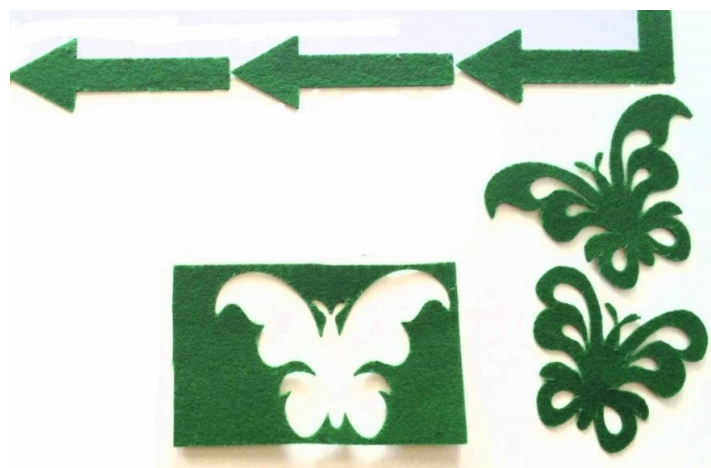


STIFFENED FELT WITHOUT ADHESIVE ON THE BACK

Was used for this arrow border and butterflies. No specific fiber content was noted on the label.

Stiffened felt doesn't need stabilizing. Just the fact that it is stiffened makes it ready to cut.

To cut these objects I simply brayered the felt to a sticky mat. I was pleased with the results and would probably do it again. Designs with minimum detail will probably give the best results.



WOOL FELT OR WOOL BLENDED FELT?

This was a question that I asked myself. The only way for me to answer the question was to purchase some of both, so I did. From my perspective, I have found that they are compatible for my purposes.

- They both cut with clean edges and had a low Fuzz Factor
- Both come in rich colors, depending on where you order them from
- If I can get the color I want, I will choose a Wool blended felt, because of price point.
- I chose wool for the butterflies below because the company offered color-family packs.
- A list of on-line suppliers is on the last page of this tutorial.

Stacked Butterflies Cut From Wool Felt

A local store is selling these stacked butterflies:



---and like any good crafter, I thought "I can do that!"

This is my version:

They are being sold as package trims, but I think they make great napkin rings also.

I stabilized the wool with OESD Stabil-Stick Tear-Away and cut it on a very sticky mat.

Note how clean and round the circles are on the wings.

The wings were sewn together with a single line of stitching. The black body was hot glued in place and the one butterfly was hot glued to ribbon for a napkin ring. The stamen are made from DMC Color Infusions Memory Thread.



Online Felt sources:

American Felt and Craft: <http://stores.americanfeltandcraft.com/StoreFront.bok>

Commonwealth Felt: <http://www.commonwealthfelt.com/>

Felt On The Fly: http://www.etsy.com/shop/feltonthefly?section_id=5708993&page=2

Magic Cabin: http://www.etsy.com/shop/feltonthefly?section_id=5708993&page=2

Material Evidence: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/materialevidenceshop>

Purl SOHO: <http://www.purlsoho.com/purl/products/76-crafts-felt>

OhMaFelt: <http://ohmafelt.com/>

Sue Spargo: <http://www.suespargo.com/store.php?cat=23>

Wool Felt Central: <http://www.trueup.net/wool-felt-source-guide/>