

Judith Dios

3-D Watercolor Nuno Scarf

Materials and Supplies List

This *Materials and Supplies List* is for creating a nuno felted scarf which will feature 3-D surface design effects. It will be felted and then, color will be hand-painted on with dye. During the layout, you will use mostly un-dyed fiber and fabric, with a small amount of colored fabric and fiber for embellishment (as seen in the photo below). If you are not hand-painting your scarf, the fiber and fabric can be colored (pre-dyed).

BASE FABRIC, WOOL AND EMBELLISHMENT

4.5 mm* silk gauze for the base fabric: 3 yards (or meters), un-dyed. For a light and gauzy effect, I recommend a 4.5 mm silk gauze. Chiffon will work as well, but will appear heavier. My long scarves start out at 13" or 14" wide X 106" long. A short scarf is 12" wide x 96" (30.5 cm x 244 cm) long. 3 yards of fabric @ 45" wide (114 cm), is enough material for 3 scarves, if each one is 15" (38 cm) or less, in width. You can make your piece larger, or smaller, it is entirely up to you. Shrinkage will vary, depending on whether the fabric is measured and then dyed, the amount of wool used, the direction in which the fibers are placed and the amount of fulling the piece receives. I normally plan on a 35% shrinkage rate.

*mm = "momme," the measurement of the weight of silk fabric.

Wool: approximately 2 oz. (60 grams) un-dyed Merino wool. 19 micron superfine (or finer) is recommended and instruction will be based on this wool. Coarser Merino may be used, but will take longer to migrate through the fabric.

Optional Embellishment

3.0 mm and/or 4.5 mm silk gauze and/or habotai: 1 yard (or meter), un-dyed. For making rosettes, blossoms, leaves, or abstract ruffles. Either weight of silk gauze can be used for the 3-D effects, but it is recommended to have at least 1/2 yard of the 3.0 silk gauze on hand for the abstract ruffle effect. Small amounts of dyed silk gauze can be used to embellish with colored leaves and shapes for contrast as shown in the photo on page 2. An 18" x 18" (46 cm x 46 cm) square of dyed fabric should be sufficient. This amount of fabric can also be divided into smaller pieces of different colors and types of silk (gauze or habotai).

Optional Embellishment, continued

5.0 mm silk habotai (also known as China silk): 0.5 yard (or metre), un-dyed for making rosettes, blossoms, or "bark." Small amounts of dyed fabric can be used to embellish with colored leaves and shapes for contrast as shown in the photo. A 24" x 24" (30 cm x 30 cm) square of dyed fabric should be sufficient. This amount of fabric can also be divided into smaller pieces of different colors.

Silk roving or other fiber: 0.5 oz. (14 grams), dyed and un-dyed, adds color, shimmer and contrast.

Silk yarn: 0.5 oz. (14 grams), dyed and un-dyed. If you are a spinner, or know one, you can create overspun silk yarn. This isn't crucial but creates a nice impact. A similar effect may be obtained by using strands of unspun mulberry silk roving.



Colored materials are added for contrast in a hand-painted piece.

Note: The amounts given are estimates of the amount needed for the project. Actual amounts used may vary due to individual preferences.

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

1 table: at least 6' ft. long, 2 tables end to end, will be easier to work on, but for the first 6 years of felting, I worked on a 6' table. Lay out one half of the scarf, wet down the finished half, lay another piece of plastic on top of the project, roll up the finished end and slide the rest of the project onto the table. It is helpful to mark the center of the project.

4 table leg extenders: optional, but may save your back from strain. Lengths of PVC pipe can be cut and slipped over the table legs to raise the height.

Plastic sheets: 2 pieces, 2 mm painter's drop cloth clear plastic. The plastic should be about 8" (20 cm) wider than your scarf base fabric, all the way around. A 9" x 12" (274 cm x 366 cm) package will be more than sufficient.

Spray bottle: for water, should be able to spray a mist.

Scissors: for cutting fabric.

Equipment & Supplies, continued

Measuring tape: for measuring fabric.

Microwave: for heat setting of dyes.

Plastic dishpan: to be used in fulling and ideally, it will fit in your microwave so it can be used for heat setting. Don't worry if it doesn't fit, you can wrap the project in plastic and place it inside (make sure it can "breathe and allow steam to escape).

Small plastic tub or bucket: 1 qt. (1 liter) yogurt size or 1 gal. (4 liters) ice cream tub would suffice, for holding soapy water.

Ball brauser or sprinkling device: Also called a seedling or bonsai sprinkler. You can use a small watering can or pump sprayer, or a plastic bottle with holes poked in the top, a detergent bottle works well. It should deliver a gentle steady sprinkle of soapy water to your project.

Old towels: 3 or 4 large. However, 2 "Sham Wow," or other artificial chamomiles, are extra absorbent and could replace 2 of the towels.

Soap: any soap will do, but I prefer olive oil or goat's milk soap, due to the fact they are low-sudsing and gentler on skin.

Wide bubble wrap: for fulling, not rolling, needs to be at least 30 inches long. Two narrow pieces of bubble wrap can be taped together.

Ties: Note: In the video, I describe a new method where, instead of using ties, you can slip your project into a nylon panty hose leg, which has been cut from the panty hose. This method works very well and provides added security for your piece as it tumbles.

White vinegar: 1 qt. or liter.

Hot water source: I use an electric kettle, microwave or a pot on the stove to get my water hotter than the tap.

Clothing dryer: to tumble the project, replaces rolling, will use the air fluff or a no-heat cycle

Sink: for rinsing.

DYEING EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

Note items used for dyeing should not be used for food preparation.

Microwave: For heat setting dyes. Alternatively, the project can be steamed for 1 hour in a steamer basket in a pot.

Equipment & Supplies, continued

Acid dyes: I usually purchase Jacquard's primary colors: Red, Pink, Sky Blue and Turquoise, plus the compound mixtures, Silver Gray and Black. The 1/2 oz. bottles will be sufficient for this project, but if you plan to continue dyeing after you are finished with this course, consider ordering a larger size.

Regarding dyes you may have on hand: You are welcome to use what you have as long as you have experience with that particular dye. Dyes requiring soda ash cannot be used on wool. I have always used Jacquard acid dyes and know the idiosyncrasies of the individual (primary) colors. Have also used Sabraset. I am not able to advise on other dyes. I recommend experimenting on samples before hand-painting dyes onto your scarf.

Plastic apron or protective clothing

Protective gloves

Protective mask: To wear when mixing dyes

Brushes: 2"-3" inexpensive, any type of bristle. Will need 2-6 or use one and keep rinsing it out. A **half inch brush** for details is useful.

WEAR: old clothing and shoes. You may get a little wet. Sometimes, the runoff water has a very slight amount of dye in it. This dye is supposed to wash out of clothing made from plant fibers and adhere to silk, wool and nylon only, but there is no guarantee it won't stain your favorite jeans or sweater!

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