



Make Your Own Felt Story Pieces

FELT STORIES: If you're feeling crafty

Make story pieces using interfacing!

1.Trace 2.Color 3.Heat 4.Cut

Step 1: *Gather Your Supplies*

1. Light weight, non-fusible interfacing, available at fabric and hobby store. Choose the heaviest interfacing that you can still see through, since you'll be tracing your art. The fuzzier the backing, the better it will stick to your felt board.
2. Art, your own or someone else's for which you have authorization to use
3. Sharp scissors
4. Permanent and/or fabric markers
5. Clothes drier or iron, depending on what the instructions for your fabric markers
6. Access to a copy machine or printer for clip art

Step 2: *Copy Your Art*

Select some art from a book or computer clip art. Choose simple illustrations, avoiding anything with lots of thin parts sticking out unless you're not planning on cutting around those parts. You can also draw your own design on some paper. Do not trace directly on a book, as interfacing is thin and the ink will go right through. Copy or print your image on paper, then trace.

Coloring Page Resources:

http://www.dltk-kids.com/type/felt_board.htm

<http://www.coloring.ws/>

<http://coloringpages101.com/>

<http://color-your-own.com/index.html>

<http://www.thecolouringpages.com>

Step 3: *Trace Your Art*

Using a thin marker or crayon (permanent or fabric), trace your art onto the interfacing.

Step 4: *Color Your Pieces*

Using markers or crayons (again, permanent or fabric), color in your feltboard piece. Think about how it will look from a few feet away rather than up close.

Step 5: *Set the Colors*

Most fabric markers give you an iron option and a drier option.

Step 6: *Cut Out Your Pieces*

Cut away the extra interfacing. Pieces will stay flatter if the edges are round rather than cut in tiny detail with lots of parts sticking out.

Step 7: *Tell your Story*

You're finished! Note how many pieces belong with your story and store in a large sealable bag (use a hole punch in the bottom corner for safety)

<http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-Easy-Felt-BoardFlannel-Board-Pieces/>

FELT STORIES: If you're feeling SUPER crafty

Some tips on making your own felt stories:

Supplies:

Essentials:

- Craft felt, a variety of colors, 9"x 12" pieces
- Tacky glue or any flexible glue.
- Scissors

Optional extras:

- Acrylic paint
- Puff paint
- Fabric markers
- thread and sewing needle
- Google eyes
- Ribbon, yarn, ric-rac, and other embellishments

Choosing a story:

Parts of the story will be lost in the translation to felt. Picture books that have sweeping landscapes and intricate detail are not good choices. Simple is better.

Size:

No piece should be bigger than 8.5" x 11" Any piece that has to be folded to fit into the box is more likely to be wadded up and shoved back in, thus requiring constant repair.

Scale:

Try and keep things relevant within each story (i.e. the dog should be smaller than the horse, unless it's a miniature horse and a giant dog, of course). I like the pieces to look like they belong together, and keeping them close to scale is an easy way to do this.

Layers:

All the pieces should have a solid background. For example: Don't just glue the felt hat onto the felt head, glue them both to a felt background. Whether you cut the background to the exact shape of the piece or leave a border is up to you.

Consistency:

I like to use the same color background on all the pieces in a story. If you use ric-rac for hair on one character, do that for all of the characters. Give every character the same eyes. All google eyes, all black dots, all white felt with painted pupils, etc...I think it's important to have some sort of connection between the individual pieces. Keep the color palettes consistent. Of course using the original illustrations as your guide is always a great place to start.

Felt vs. Fabric:

The fancier you get the more repairs you'll have to make down the road. Using different types of fabric and embellishments can really make your piece pop, but there is such a thing as too many pom-poms. I've found that the pieces made with only felt hold up much better.

Painting:

Tiny pieces of felt tend to disintegrate, so a lot of the time it's easier to paint the details onto the felt. Eyes, buttons, hair, shoelaces, etc... It's also an easy solution when you've run out of a color. Just cut the shape out of white felt and paint away! You can use acrylic paint or puff paint.

Maintenance:

Keep a lint roller handy for cat and dog hair removal. Also, a bottle of tacky glue for pieces that may need some attention after being well-loved.

Patterns:

Make patterns from clip art or simple illustrations by printing out the image, cutting it out and taping the shape to your piece of felt. Stencils and cookie cutters are also very handy. Pencil works on lighter colors, or a white colored pencil for darker colored felt.

FELT STORIES: If you feel like shopping

Some links where you can purchase felt story kits:

Little Folk Visuals

<http://www.littlefolkvisuals.com/>

Story Time Felts & More

<https://www.storytimefeltsandmore.com/shop/felt-figures/figures-to-tell.html>

Kaplanco

<http://www.kaplanco.com/>