

Acorn's Leaf Vest Tutorial

Starting out I selected some Fall colors and decided to use felt for Acorn's vest. I wanted some color as well as contrast, which is why the red and green. Red and green (being contrasting colors) will create an eye catching and interesting piece of clothing.



After picking out my circle of colors, I used a downloaded leaf pattern from a free clipart search. I decided I wanted an oak leaf to go along with Acorn's name. The size of the leaf was determined by holding the leaf pattern up to Acorn to see how it would look.



I proceeded to cut out the number of leaves I would need. I figured about 9 to 10 mixed colored leaves would give me an assortment of colors around the body.



I also wanted some dimension and color to my felt pieces. To do this I dragged out the Oil Pastels. Now I have tried using pastels in the past on felt. I always thought that a stiff stippler brush was the way to go because I thought putting the color on felt would be like stenciling.



Again, through trial and error and looking at the brushes others were using, the light went on. Actually, a soft plush brush is what is best for applying the colors to the felt. This way the felt stays smooth as the color is applied instead of brushing up the felt.



I used the black color for the veining with just a few strokes of the brush. Keep in mind that pastels are just another form of chalk... so dust is good here. I have before ground up some pastels in a mortar bowl for doing a large project. This was going to be a smaller project so I just made sure I did several “scrubs” of my brush over the chalk to get my color.

Of course, then I wanted to play by adding more color to my leaves. I thought the lighter colors would be my favorites, but actually I liked the



results of my darker leaves better. Using combinations of colors, I just dried brush the colors over the felt.



With the leaves all colored, now it is time to attach them to a vest.

I could have just tacked the leaves together, but I wanted a vest-like look to them. Using a dark color from my circle of colors (used in creating the leaves), I started cutting out the vest. By using the dark color, wherever there is a space between leaves, it would now appear to be a shadow to the leaves.



After sewing the vest together at the top and side seams, I started placing the leaves around the vest.



Pinning them in place from here on out is done by hand. I hand sew the leaves in place with a blanket stitch. Liking the look of each leaf sewn to leaf, I continued around the leaf edges that didn't even need to be tacked down. I wanted a feeling of real leaves pulled together, so there is no symmetrical balance other than color.



Here is the final results.

