

Felting of knitted fabric:

Use a wool or wool-mix yarn, such as lambs-wool, angora etc. You can also buy an old woollen garment from a charity shop. 2ply is very good, knitted at tension 3 or 4. The looser the knitting, the better it felts.

Knit yarn into a length of fabric that can be felted then use for cutting out pieces to whatever shape you need. You can use any oddments, including some non-wool content, to make stripes or knit a fairisle pattern. You can also knit in tuck or lace pattern for an interestingly subtle finish. Different yarn thicknesses/textures will add interest to the felted fabric. Measure a tension square before and after felting so that you can calculate the amount of shrinkage and therefore the finished size of your felted item, where this is important.

Wash the knitted piece at 40 deg in a washing machine, with other clothing to add friction and help the felting process. Higher temperature gives thicker felting

The sides of the knitting will roll and felt into a lump, so sew the knitted fabric to a piece of cotton fabric like a piece of old sheet, or tack or whip the edges together with sewing cotton to prevent rolling. Use acrylic waste yarn to start and finish your knitting, as it won't felt. Once felted, the acrylic can be removed and the felted fabric will not unravel and can be cut. Steam press felted fabric with a hot iron to burnish the felt.