

Light your creative fuse and take part in
'CRAFT BOMB 2016'
for Voluntary Arts Week
Let's inspire you to make



Wonderful Woolly Flowers!



You will need:

- A flower loom – it doesn't have to be a bought one, it can be homemade from recycled cardboard rolls or plastic from ice cream or margarine tubs.
- A bodkin needle (a large blunt needle with a large eye)
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- A variety of materials; wool, paper raffia, ribbon, felt, plastic bags, buttons
- Art straws, pipe cleaners, plastic coated wire or plant sticks for flower stalks



Make a simple flower loom

Cut out a template (below) from the lid of a plastic margarine or ice cream tub. A flower loom always has a hole in the centre and an even number of teeth!



Or make a loom from a robust cardboard tube, a gravy granules tube is ideal. Shorten the tube (5cm is deep enough) and cut out loom teeth, evenly spaced at one end.



Loom Flowers

1. Choose the material you want to make your flower from - here we are using a strip of plastic carrier bag. Start at one of the teeth and secure the material to the back of the loom (sticky tape is useful for this). Wind the length of material diagonally across to the opposite tooth.



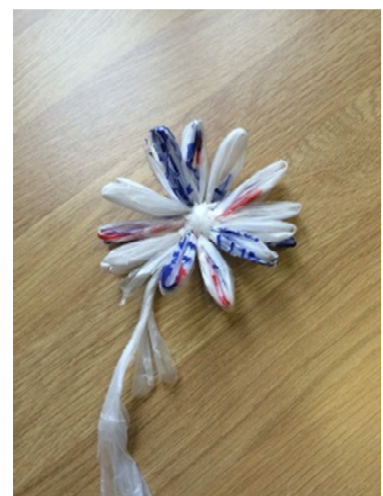
2. Repeat winding and work your way to the left around the loom. Always cross over in the middle to go over to the opposite tooth. Making sure to pull your length tight to keep it securely on the loom.



3. Repeat around the loom circle a couple of times (you may need to do this up to 4 times if you have chosen a thin material).
4. Once you have completed this, feed your working end through the centre of the flower and tie it to the starting end taped at the back of the loom.

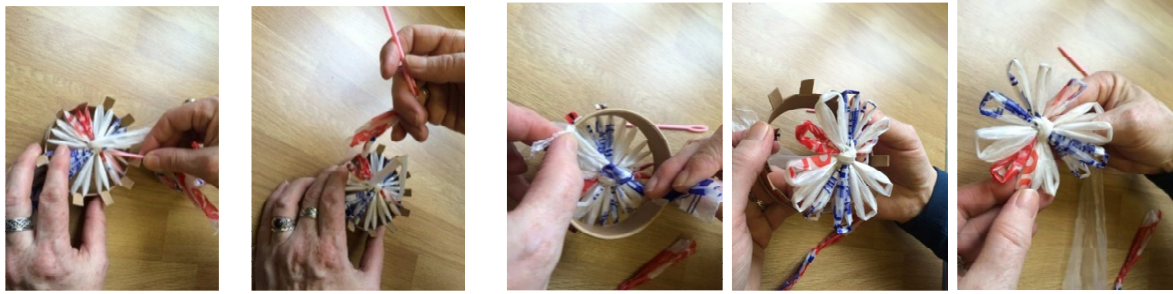


5. To create the centre of the flower cut another length of material – maybe in a different colour. Thread the length onto a bodkin needle and stitch through from the back of the flower, bind over and over to create a centre point. Cross over the centre between each pair of opposing petals in turn to secure them all.
6. Tie securely at the back leaving the ends untrimmed (to attach the stalk). Pull gently to remove the flower petals from the loom.



7. Tie a stalk to your flower – and its ready to plant in your Craft Bomb!

Use the same winding technique on homemade looms



Fork Flowers

For a quick simple little woolly flower try using a fork.



French Knitting Flowers



You will need:

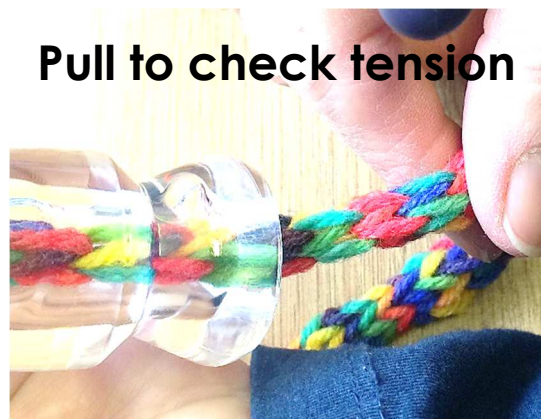
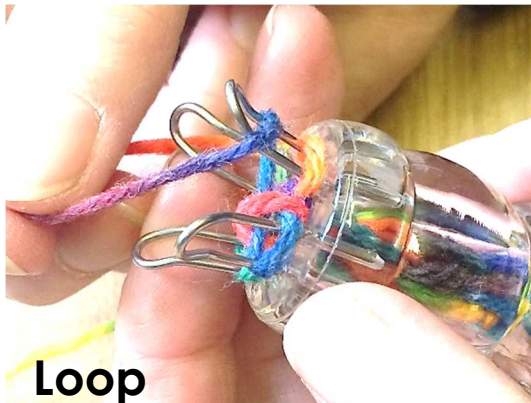
- A French Knitting Dolly – it doesn't have to be a bought one, it can be homemade from a recycled cardboard roll and lolly sticks
- A bodkin needle or plastic hook
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- A variety of materials; wool, paper raffia, ribbon, felt, plastic bags, buttons
- A needle and thread
- Art straws, pipe cleaners, plastic coated wire or plant sticks for flower stalks

Make your own French Knitting Dolly from a cardboard tube. Attach 4 equally spaced lolly sticks with sticky tape around the outside of the tube.



To French Knit

1. To start drop the tail end of the yarn down the centre of the knitting tube then loop the yarn around each stick in turn until they all have one loop.
2. Carry on and make a second loop on the first stick - there are now 2 loops so you can make the stitch, lift the back loop up and over the second loop then release the lifted loop so it 'drops off' the stick into the centre of the tube - (a bodkin needle can help to lift the loops and make the stitches as it can be fiddly).
3. Repeat on the next stick – make the loop, lift the back loop over, release the stitch and pull emerging knitting gently to check tension.
4. Repeat with the next stick and the next round the circuit to grow the length of French knitting.



5. Once you have a desired length you can be creative and make all sorts of flowers – lots of loops and coils have been stitched together to make this flower.



Finger Knitting Flowers

With your fingers and a thick yarn make a simple chain stitch, this quickly forms a length that can be shaped into a flower and a button stitched in the centre will decoratively finish it.



Fabric Flowers

You will need:

- Gather together scraps of felt and fabric from old clothes, old knitwear and recycled buttons
- Paper art straws, pipe cleaners, plastic coated wire or plant sticks for flower stalks
- A pen or pencil
- Scissors
- A needle and thread



1. Cut out different flower shapes in a range of sizes from lots of different materials.
2. Combine the different flowers, pile them one on top of another mixing the colours and textures you like.
3. When you are happy with your chosen combination secure in place with a couple of stitches in the centre through all the layers. Use simple straight stitches or decorative stitches, try French knots for example - you could also choose to add a button!
4. Finally attach a stalk to the back of your flower with a few stitches and a knot - now it is ready to be planted!



For lots more Craft Bomb ideas and supportive free resources visit
<http://voluntaryartsweek.org/> <http://voluntaryartsweek.org/craftbomb/>



Templates

