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## **Candy Corn Headband** with Rad Megan

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

- Hi, I'm Wonder Woman, Creativebug's newest artist. Okay, it's actually Rad Megan. But, it's Halloween and I love Halloween. I love dressing up and making a total fool of myself. If you don't love dressing up, maybe you do love the idea of Halloween and just need a little accent. In this workshop, I'm going to show you how to make a little needle felted candy corn headband that's subtle enough, you can wear it to work or it's just a really cute accent for yourself, for your kids, whomever you want. It's super quick and easy. I'm gonna show you exactly how to make it with just a little bit of wool roving and a little bit of love. Happy Halloween.

### **Chapter 2 - Materials**

#### Materials

- To needle felt your own candy corn headband, you're only going to need a very small amount of materials. First of all, and most importantly, you're gonna need wool roving in white, yellow, and orange. The basic candy corn colors. You're also going to need a needle felting needle so that you can mat those fibers together. And an assortment of Halloween-flavored ribbons. I have some orange, purple, and white and black polka dots. You're not gonna need a lot of ribbon, so you can just use whatever scraps you have in your craft room. You're also gonna need some headbands. I bought these at the dollar store, they're great, you know, stretchy elastic headbands. You could use hair clips too, like these little alligator clips, if you wanted to make something else besides a headband. You could also use a hard headband and stitch that on as well, but I'll show you that later. And we're gonna need some thread, and just all-purpose thread is fine. And then some sewing needles. I have some embroidery floss here, too, and it's really just whatever your preference is. So you can use either-or here. And I have a couple pairs of scissors. My larger set is for really trimming down the wool roving. My small pair is for some fine detail work. And then I also have my needle felting pad. And I have a bristle brush that I love and just adore using, but you can also use a foam pad if you've got it, or you could also use a pillow if you have that, if you're just starting out with needle felting. Just be sure you work on the table and not on your lap. It's gonna go all the way through. That's not good.

### **Chapter 3 - Making Candy Corns**

#### Needle felting

- The basic candy corn shape consists of yellow, orange, and white in a little triangle. So that is exactly what we are going to do. We're gonna start with some yellow wool roving and start stabbing the heck out of it with our barbed needle. So this is about as much as I'm going to use for this bottom layer, just a little handful. You can see it kinda pulls apart. The more you manipulate it, the more fluffy it gets. And I'm just wrapping it around two fingers because I like to kind of give myself a head start when I'm needle felting, and try to get as close to the basic shape that I'm making as possible. So all these little wrinkles and seams, they're not gonna do me any favors. So if I can just fluff this out a little bit, and then roll it around, so that I have this smooth log. And that is what I wanna start with. Now I'm just going to put my little sample candy corn down. And I'm kind of folding the ends underneath. This is gonna compress, so it might be a little bit larger than the

sample I've already made here. But I'm taking my barbed needle, felting needle, and I'm just going to go up and down, and side to side, and just start working this wool roving. And what this needle's doing is it's pulling the fibers back and forth and it's just matting them together, so that we end up with a really solid piece of felt that we can later sew and cut. So I'm just gonna continue working the roving with my needle. And I like to pick up my piece and turn it around. That's why I really like my bristle brush. Because all the roving doesn't get totally matted into the pad like sometimes the foam pad does. So right now I'm just rounding the edges of my project. And I'm looking up at you, but when you're working on your needle felting project, keep your eyes on the project. That is how you are going to prevent yourself from getting stabbed. (laughs) I also like to work with my nails down, so that if I do stab, it's not going into my soft flesh. So you can see that it's starting to get kind of a curved bottom, which is what we want. It's also compressing, which is what we want. I'm just gonna keep going at this rate. So as I'm stabbing, I'm keeping my needle going straight up and down, or at an angle in a very straight line. I'm never going to push my needle into the felt and then try to angle it once it's in, because this needle is quite sharp, but it's also very delicate and fragile. And you don't wanna break the tip of your needle off into your project, because then you're gonna give somebody something that's all soft and squishy, but has a super sharp metal barb inside. And pulling those things out is no easy feat. And keep turning your project so that you don't develop any big crevices or creases in your piece. You really wanna try to evenly mat the entire piece. Just gonna work it a little bit more, and then I'm gonna roll it around in my hands. Sometimes the natural oils in your palms will help just kind of form this shape a little bit. Get some of those loose ends down by just rolling it around a little bit. Oopsie. And now I can see those dark pieces as well. So I'm just gonna kind of fish those out a little bit. I don't want my candy corn to look old. So the more you work your felt, the more dense it's going to be. And I really do like having a dense candy corn, especially if I'm making a headband for a child just because it's a little bit more durable. (chuckles) But you could just work your felt all day long until you just have the most thick, heavy-duty piece of felt on the planet. I've got my yellow layer, and I'm ready to add a little orange. So I'm just gonna pull a little bit of orange off. I'm just gonna wrap it around my finger so that I get this kind of smooth log shape, kind of. And just gonna pull out one finger, and basically roll it up in my fingers. And I'm just gonna place it right on top of my yellow. And this is larger right now. It's wider than my yellow layer. But that's okay, because this is going to compress, and I'm gonna be working these fibers right into the yellow fibers. So that's how we attach color. We simply put the color that we want to add just right next to the piece that we were working and just start stabbing our needle into the first layer. Now I just moved my fingers because when I had them like this, my needle could go right into my thumb, and that is not wise. So I am going to just be poking between my fingers and really just working right into the yellow. Now this yellow, or this orange layer has not been stabbed at all. The fibers are totally loose, and they have no density. So if I just work them straight into the yellow, the piece might have a little bit of a different consistency. So while I have the yellow and orange next to each other, I'm mostly working the orange right now, just because I wanna get that nice and firm as well. And keeping it next to the yellow, so that I can blend those fibers together from the get-go. One thing about adding color is that if you are poking your needle all the way through the project, all the way through to the bottom of the yellow layer, you might start seeing some little, tiny strands of orange poking through the yellow. That's not necessarily what you want. You wanna keep that yellow layer nice and pure. So as you're poking, try to just send your needle partway through your project. I know that sounds kind of like an impossible mission when you're stabbing, and you can always trim it up later, but it's just a little easier to kind of give yourself a head start and just poke,

since the yellow is so much more dense than the orange, just poke until you feel the dense yellow layer. Rather than going all the way through and really forcing your needle down. That is just gonna drive all those orange fibers through the yellow bit. I'm just gonna work my sides a little bit. And this orange layer is kind of humongous, so we're definitely gonna be trimming this down before we add our next layer. So one thing I'm trying to do as I'm working my needle is I am trying to sort of taper this edge, because my candy corn shape is a triangle. So I don't wanna have my orange layer fatter than my yellow layer. So I've got this set on its side here, and I'm really concentrating my strokes into the orange so that it will sort of taper down. Okay, so I'm pretty happy with my orange layer. And before I move on to adding my white, I really wanna make sure that the shape of the orange is good to go. Because once I put that white cap on it, there's kind of no turning back on that center. It's a lot harder to modify the width of it. So I'm gonna take my huge scissors. Nice and sharp, only for fabric or for wool. And now that this is a complete piece of fabric, it is truly felt now. We have felted it. I can cut it away and really help shape it, so that it's got that nice taper that I'm looking for. When you're trimming your felted work, the key to making it really look nice is a couple of things. Get that needle out of the way. You wanna kind of move your scissor so that you're just really pushing this flat edge against the blades. And once you go all the way around your piece, change the angle of how you're cutting so you don't get grooves in the felt. I also like to do that trick I did earlier where I rub the piece in my hands, just to put a little bit of those natural oils on. And so I really like the shape of this candy corn, but it's lacking this white layer. So I'm going to just cut this right off at the top. Seems a little scary, but now my orange layers match up, and I'm ready to add the white. And I'm gonna do that in the exact same way that I added the orange. Just gonna take these little orange bits off of my pad so they don't show up so much in my white layer. Grab a little bit of white roving. Just work it in my fingers, start stabbing it, and then place it right against that orange, and just start working those two in. And I just stab straight down. And this is just pulling those orange fibers into the white, and pushing the white fibers into the orange. And that is how we attach the two layers and add a new band of color here. I'm still turning my piece so that the white will get its nice tapered shape just like the orange layer did. But I'm still trying to stab into the orange as well. That will really create a strong bond, the more you stab into the layer below. You can also poke your needle from the orange layer into the white as well. That's gonna create a nice bond between the two. But you wanna be careful to avoid poking it all the way through so it comes out into the white, because then you're gonna have these little teeny, tiny wisps of orange. And I, you can see some here, I like to keep the white layer just as white as possible. We can trim it up a little later. And I'll show you how to do a little bit of patching if you have a big gap between your two layers. Or if you have picked up some of the wool roving from previous projects, I'll show you how to get rid of those. But for now, I am just attaching the white to the orange. That is my objective. I do like to give this layer a little bit of extra care, because this is the layer that I typically put my needle through and stitch when I'm creating my candy corn starbursts. So I wanna make sure that this layer is super dense. If you have kind of a flimsy cap on your candy corn, then when you go to sew it, you might find that you don't have as strong a base as you thought you did. And that can affect the overall structural integrity of your piece. Okay. As you're poking, you wanna periodically feel the felt, and this feels good. It feels like the white has the same density as the orange and the yellow. I'm really happy with this. What I can feel is that there's just a small dip all the way around. So because I cut that orange layer off, it just had this really severe edge. It wasn't like a nice organic layering of fabrics and fibers that could weave together and form a straight bond. I cut it, it was really severe. So there is this little tiny crevice that goes between the white and

orange. But I can patch that very easily by just taking a super thin piece of wool roving. And I give it a little bit of a twist. And by layering it into that little crevice that we created, we can make a nice hard line between the orange and the white. And it fills in that little dip, that depression that we had. I'm just gonna go ahead and stab that down. Okay, so that looks pretty good. It feels pretty good. So I'm ready to do a final trimming, and really clean up my candy corn. And all I'm gonna do is just I'm just gonna give this a final trim. Get all these little loose stray fibers cleaned up with my precision scissor. I'm gonna keep snipping until this looks really nice and clean, and then I'm done with my candy corn. And then you are going to make five more of these. And we're ready to stitch.

## **Chapter 4 - Creating Headband**

Stitch together

- Now that I have a collection of candy corns, I am going to put them together to make a starburst shape that we'll then stitch up. I like to use six candy corns so I got one extra here that I don't need. And I just like to kinda arrange them first. Sometimes your felted pieces will have one side that's a little nicer than another so if you have made a selection of candy corns, you can kinda be choosy about which one makes it into your little starburst. And I just like to kinda smush them together so that the whites make a cohesive ring. Once I've got that, I'm going to take my all purpose thread. You could use some embroidery floss if you would like to do that but I'm just going to go ahead and use thread. It's just as sturdy as anything else and I've got some needles. I need to use a medal needle so that I can poke it through the felt. And I've got either a sewing needle or an embroidery needle. Whatever has a pointy end and the eye will fit the thread or floss that you're using so I'm just going to use the sewing needle because I'm choosing to use the smaller all purpose thread. I'm just going to thread that. I double up my thread and we'll just knot it at the end. A few times, otherwise your knot is going to pull right through your felt. I just like to make a little mountain of knots there. It really won't be visible once you add your ribbon backing. And I'm going to snip that off. I take my needle and I'm just going to insert it right in the center of the white layer. And I'm gonna bring it all the way through just to make sure my knot doesn't come through. And it looks like that's going to be good. And then I'll do the next candy corn right in the center of the white. Poke it all the way through and just thread that up. And continue stitching all these candy corns together in the same matter. So now when I pull these together, you can see that it forms this nice shape. I'm gonna go through this again. Just because I wanna have a really sturdy seam. Right now it's just a little bit flimsy. That doesn't look so great. So I'm gonna go ahead and just run my needle all the way through the candy corns again. And I'm only going to sew into this white layer. The reason I'm doing that is because the white layers are all touching. If I ran my needle and thread, if I use my orange or my yellow thread and try to run through all the different layers of felting, the thread will be visible so I don't really want that. That's why I'm just going to keep reinforcing the white layer. And when we add our ribbon accent, that's also going to add as a little bit of a structural support as well. I'm just gonna do these two at a time. This felt is just so cool. Once you've worked these fibers, it's just amazing how you can manipulate it. You can sew it, you can cut it. It's really nice to work with. And pull that through again. I feel pretty good about this. I am going to now examine it on the other side. I wanna make sure that my prettiest side is facing up. So this one looks okay. The white doesn't match up as nicely as it does here but I do feel like I'm seeing a little bit of white poking through on this particular layer so I might just do a little bit of patchwork. And that's the key with all these needle felting projects is that you work, you look at it, kinda feel it, and then do any little patching that you need to. So I'm just knotting my thread right now. And bringing that knot as close to the

piece as possible. I like to know that things I'm making for children are not going to fall apart. So once I've got knots together, I'm just going to send my needle through, back through this white layer so that the knot is buried deep within my candy corn and I'm going to snip this thread. It's stitched together, it's sturdy. It's looks nice but I see a bald spot and I would like to patch that up a little bit right now because I really wanna give this to somebody and feel good about what I've made. So I'm gonna take a tiny little bit of orange. Just tiny, tiny. And I'm gonna lay it right over that bald spot. Just right on top. And get my needle felting needle out. Just tack it right over that little patch of white. That white happened because when I made this candy corn in particular, my white layer came down pretty deep. It was actually a lot longer than my other layers had been and I just covered it with some orange. So when I was trimming away all the extra fuzz, I just trimmed a little too much and exposed the white below. That's why I don't really like just doing a fine layer of color when I'm working. I like to have a solid block of color when I'm needle felting because that way you can trim it away and you won't get any weird surprises. And just tacking that in all way around the candy corn so that those fibers blend in nicely and then we'll just trim it up again. We'll take a look at it. So it's nice that you can work it even after you've stitched everything together. I just wanna poke this orange roving into that little white bald spot until it's no longer visible. And it looks like it's no longer visible. So this the time again to just do any final trimming any extra crazy fluff that's really cramping your style. Needle felting projects are always going to be on the fluffy side but you can kinda eliminate some these loose ends by just doing a final trim. And I do like to do that right before I make any finishing touches. It's easier to trim the whole thing up before you add ribbon. That looks pretty good. It's attached, it's intact. It's ready to add some embellishments. So it's ribbon time.

### Finishing

- I'm gonna add a couple of ribbon accents to my candy corn starburst. I happen to have some spools here today in some Halloween colors, but we really don't need to use that much. So, I'm just gonna measure out a little bit of orange and purple and my white and black polka dot and just kind of snip off, at random. I'm not really even measuring this, but since I cut this bigger piece, I can kind of afford to just fold it underneath my piece a couple of times. Then I'm gonna cut this at an angle and have it peeking out of both sides. I think that looks nice, so I'm just going to stitch that down and then I'll add some more colors. It's not how much ribbon I'm really using, but it's how much space I'm covering because I do want this ribbon to kind of be a foundation for this piece. I'm already not loving this loop, so I'm just gonna go ahead and snip this guy and give this some little angled edges, just because I think that looks better than the loop. So I'm all about making these little design choices as we're working and now I think I'm ready to continue stitching. It was sort of bothering me to have those loops. I didn't really love it and I just wanted a peek of the polka dots. Now I'll take my thread and just stitch those down. Really it was not important to me to have the loops, just the coverage. So now I can go ahead and take my needle and just... I feel like now it's simplified. I have less material back here to work with and that is the way I like it. And then I'll add some more colors. And then a nice tug and this is going to be my final knot before I cover up all these stitches with some more ribbon. I've got a couple of straps here and what I'm gonna do is, rather than just adding this ribbon as a patch, I'm going to use it to help me attach my elastic headband. So I'm gonna place this headband. Use my little pin here to hold it in place. Just take a look at it and this is how my headband is going to lay. I really think that that looks nice so now we're going to take our needle and thread and I'm going to insert my needle from underneath the ribbon

and into my fleshy finger. Just kidding. Just so that the knot is hidden behind the ribbon and we'll snip that little tail off. Get outta here, tail. And now I'm going to send my needle back through the white polka dot. If you're not using polka dot thread, you could just use the same color thread as whatever your ribbon is and your stitches will not be so obvious. Okay. The most important here is that I'm just stitching on one side of my elastic headband and the other side. Just so that this thing is solid. I'm pretty confident that this ribbon is now holding down my piece and it's attaching it to the headband the way that I want but I'm also just going through and adding a couple more stitches so that this black ribbon just doesn't kind of flap around. I don't really want it to be seen. So I'm just cleaning that up. I'm making my final knot. Now we are all set. One little modification you can make if you're maybe not so much a headband girl but more of a clip lady, since we stitched on either side of the headband, we made this perfect pocket to insert the clip and once the clip is in, the needle felted candy corn headband is done. It looks awesome. You might not wanna dress like Wonder Woman all day long and this is a perfect way to just be casual about your love for Halloween.