
Wool Felting: Make a Floral Crown with Melissa Lang Lytle

Chapter 1 - Wool Felting: Make a Floral Crown

Overview

(cheery music) - You know that feeling during springtime and summer when there's more light outside and everything is blooming. I found a way to create that feeling. I'm Melissa Lang Lytle of Hex House Crowns. I'm a fiber artist, a handwork teacher, and a lover of all things handmade. In this class, I'm going to teach you how to make your own felted, floral rainbow crown. I'll walk you through how to wet felt a flower, add some embellishments with needle felting, attach it to a crown. Additionally, I'll show you how to attach a silk and elastic band. What I love about felting is it's a full body sensory experience and has a really beautiful outcome. This project is really fun because it's big, bold, and celebrates yourself. (cheery music)

Materials

- These are the supplies that you're going to need for your wet felted flower crown. Wet felting supplies that I've included are all kinds of things that you can find in your kitchen. Each wet felter has their arsenal of wet felting supplies, and I'm gonna show you my favorites. I like to use drawer liner, which is made of rubber, a thick towel, a part of a pool noodle, bubble wrap, tulle, which can be thick or thin tulle 'cause we're really looking for friction, and rubber bands, which will help tie up your flowers once they're felted to keep them into place. I also recommend that you use olive oil soap. People use all kinds of soap anywhere from blue Dawn to the soap that they get in the hotel. I also like using a grater, water bottles, you can use a spray bottle or a squirt bottle. And now all the kinds of wool that I use, I use both batting and roving. Roving can range from really silky smooth to kind of thick and chunky. I use both in my wet felting and for these flowers, so it gives the flowers depth and lots of variation of color. I'm showing you all of the rainbow, but if I were to suggest what you need for one flower, I would say you need about an ounce. Felting needles come in all sizes. They usually range from about a 35 gauge all the way to a 42 gauge, and all that means for you is there are thin and thick felting needles. What I recommend to first time felters is not to worry about getting all of the needles, but finding what works for you. Felting needles have little tiny nicks in each of them and can be twisted or flat or even starred. I would just start experimenting with a wide range of needles if you're able. There's also a felting needle tool. This has several felting needles all in one tool with a nice little lock, so you can do a lot of wool felting at the same time. Felting pads, there are all kinds of felting pads as well, and they range in thickness and size. Some people use felting brushes. I prefer and brought felting pad. Embroidery floss, an embroidery needle. Embroidery needles also range in size. If you have a preference that you like to use, or you have eyes like mine and you need the hole a little larger, feel free to use it. I just use embroidery floss because I find it thicker and more secure with thicker felt. Elastic, silk for a band, if you choose to use a band on your crown. Ribbons, pins, wool felt, I like thick wool felt. And thick wool felt usually means around three millimeters. There's also one millimeter felt that you can find in most stores, but I prefer the thick felt. It's easier to secure the flowers, and it also holds the thick flowers as you begin to build your crown. I will include a pattern in the PDF. This pattern is a little bit thicker and it will hold all the flowers that you'll secure on the crown. We'll pin the pattern to the wool felt, and I'll show you how to cut it out, so you'll need a pair of scissors. You can hand sew your band or your ribbons into your crown. But I prefer using a sewing machine because then I know that it's secured.

I've showed you the supplies that I use and that are my favorite, but I encourage you to get curious about household items that have nubby things on them, or friction, because what we really want to do is have the wool felt to itself and to each other, so get creative.

Make a crown base

- I'm gonna show you how to make the crown base first. When I'm about to cut my base, I like to try to utilize and make sure that there's scraps left in my felt. And I'm gonna start by pinning the pattern onto my piece of felt that I'm going to be sewing the flowers onto. So I'm just quickly gonna pin my pattern onto the wool. I chose white for the top part of the base, but it actually doesn't matter which color felt you use because on this particular crown, the flowers are gonna cover the entire front. Some people have a preference for what color they use on the back, and I'm just using green and pink as an example. Some people like green because it feels more like the grass or where the flowers might be seen. But again, this is your personal preference. I'm gonna cut out the pattern in the felt. I'm just gonna cut slightly around so that I don't cut my pattern 'cause I like to use this pattern again and again. This does not have to be exact 'cause we're actually going to be embroidering around the entire crown, you won't see the edges. Sometimes I like to leave a little extra room on the bottom, margin for error. Okay. You might think that we would cut out the front and the back at the same time, but when you're sewing the flowers onto the crown, or if you're felting in any way, it actually shrinks the top part a little bit, and then I use the top to help make a pattern for the bottom. So we're going to wait to cut out the back after we've sewn on the flowers of the crown. And that's the front of your crown base.

Wet felt flowers

- The next step, I'm gonna show you how to make a wet felted flower. I'm gonna show you how to make one flower, but you're going to need about 22 to 26 flowers to fill this crown. Definitely you can experiment and have fun with it, but I'm gonna start with felting one flower. I have a lot of variations of felt here, and I wanna share with you a little bit about the different fibers and what I use for my flowers. I think wet felting flowers are really fun, and this is a place where you can really experiment. I have both wool batting and wool roving, and both in mixing them really make for a fun flower. Most wool roving is full of fibers, and the best way to start with your flower is to start pulling out very gently wool roving. I like to start with pulling enough, so that I can make the entire flower, which is gonna go around in a circle. I'm gonna show you in just a minute, but I like to pull out the fibers I'm going to be working with first. Try to keep it light and airy, because as you felt, I don't like big chunks of wool being in spaces. So you're gonna take your freshly pulled wool and you're gonna place them in a circle. This is what I say is, like, the base of the flower. Go around in a circle. And lay it out so that you get the color in all the spaces. This is just the first layer and this is definitely where you can get creative. I like to layer colors, so the flower, once it's felted, is really full of color and depth, so then I might put some around and I just try to stay consistent as I go around and think the center of a flower and lay it out. It does not need to be perfect. One of the best parts about using wool and animal fibers is that it's very forgiving. I'm using both roving and batting, and one thing I like about batting is it's shorter fibers that have already been carded and mixed together, so it's a little thicker, and the way I call it is it's the fatty wool. And one thing about wet felting flowers is batting really helps felt up really fast. I like to start experimenting here, so I might put some colors. Just play with what works. But if you're staying in the red family, just use all kinds of red around. Then you can literally pick up your flower and turn it over and start with the other side. Again, this is

the part where you just wanna have fun. When I think about the crown, I like to think about the whole spectrum of the rainbow. So that might be in cool reds and warm reds, and it doesn't have to be the same flower if it's in the red family. You can have a few different kinds of flowers. You wanna make sure it has a few layers of thickness so that once you felt the flower, it's not too thin. This flower crown has a lot of thick and beautiful flowers on it. After you have your felted flower for the most part laid out, I try to tuck in all, like, the loose edges and I'm going to lay my tulle over. This is basically to create friction when you're felting. I doubled up on this. You can do it single layer, double layer. Everyone has a different process, but this is how I do it. Next, I'm going to use the grater and my soap. This is just the olive oil soap, and I'm going to slightly grate it right over my project. I'm doing a little bit of double soap, because I also added a little soap to my water bottle. At this point, I'm going to gently put some drops of water over my flower just to start to get it wet. You don't wanna saturate your flower, so I'm just gonna start just a little bit and I'm gonna pat, pat down the water just to make sure I'm getting it in place. So when you get really detailed with your flowers, you might wanna put a specific thing in the middle, and if you start rubbing too fast without enough water, it will really get everything out of place. These flowers on this crown are just basic multiple colors, so nothing too specific. Okay, ready for a little more water. I'm gonna give enough water where I can start to rub this flower and have a nice little sud. You're gonna start slowly rubbing all of the fibers together. I like to start softly at this stage and get a little bit of some suds and see if these fibers are going to start to lock into place. This is very soothing. All these little edges don't, they really don't matter. I like to tuck them in. Gently rub all around the flower. You can kind of take a peek and see what's happening. Hasn't started felting yet, but this looks like a nice good beginning. I'm going to take my other piece of bubble wrap. Gonna lay it over here, and then you get to rub. (bubble wrap slushing) This is where you develop great arm muscles. I think I mentioned this before, but one of my favorite things about working with felts is that it's incredibly forgiving. There's really nothing you can do wrong. So as you're rubbing and it begins to get settled, I'm gonna take a little peek. So it's a little sudsy, that's okay. I'm gonna move the tulle. For this flower, I really like the edges to feel a little thicker and it can get a little thin out toward the edges. I'm just gonna pop these in. And these haven't felted yet, so I'm gonna put the tulle back on. I'm gonna continue rubbing. Keep these in place. Another alternative that you can do is to cut around the edge of the flower and then continue to rub. But I like to use all the felt. No need to trim. Can roll the felt up in the bubble wrap and continue to rub. I like to go back and forth. You can take it out and try another way. Again, this is the fun part. I would just make sure that when you think you're finished with felting, that you go back and continue felting. It's pretty hard to overfelt. (bubble wrap slushing) You can also take it outta the bubble wrap. Put it in your hands. I'm gonna keep this in my hands and keep felting. One indication that you're getting closer to the flower being felted is you'll see that the fibers are starting to hook into one another where they're not sticking up. I can still see little pieces of the edges of where I bent over the edges. They're not quite felted yet, so again, you can roll it in your hand. This is a wonderful project if you're doing it with children. Children love to wet felt. Not gonna hurt it. So just keep opening up the flower. It's a little soapy. And keep trying things. I might try rolling it up here. (bubble wrap slushing) Getting a little sudsy. Your hands start to get tired, you can use the pressure and rolling tool of a pool noodle. This was just a big long pool noodle that I cut into several pieces. (bubble wrap slushing) Let's take a peek. The flower is starting to be felted. You can see that the fibers are coming together. One thing I like is it doesn't have to be too perfect. It's one beautiful part about wool felting. So I have a few more pieces here that I would like to felt, and then I think this is gonna be ready. I like to take the flower into the flower form, and

sometimes just rub around the top. Takes any loose edges and makes sure that everything's felted. (felt rubbing) These are really small, delicate flowers, so it's easy to do one small project. The challenge is going to be making about 20 of 'em, but I think that's fun. When your flower is felted enough, this is the time where you're gonna take your flower to running water under your sink and rinse it till it comes clean. I just rinsed this flower and what I'm noticing mostly about this is it's not fully felted, so what I would recommend you do is go back and felt it again, and that's starting from adding a little water, add a little soap, and just rub it until all of this little extra is felted into the flower. And notice all these nubbies. You can overlap, place, tuck, and felt. Once this is felted, you're gonna lay your wet flower in a nice dry towel and you're gonna make sure all of the water is out of the flower. I just tighten and make sure that I'm getting it all nice and dry. I'm gonna take your flower together, put a rubber band around the top, not too tight, but tight enough so that it helps it keep its shape. And you're going to dry your flower. Now, drying time varies depending on where you live. If you live in a dry area, it's going to dry pretty quickly. I'm from Seattle and things take a lot longer to dry. I would lay it out on a drying rack with all of your other flowers and leave it overnight. 24 hours is ideal. In a pinch, I've popped it into the dryer, but just keep in mind that that will get it a little bit fuzzy. Another way that you can make your flower a little more detailed is once they're dry, this is the time where if it's not fully felted and you wanna add some details with needle felting, this is a perfect way you can use your needle felting skills. Gonna take some wispy pieces of felt. This can be, again, roving or batting, and I might just lay these in the middle for a little pop of color. This is kind of looking like a poppy and just secure the felt in the middle of the flower. Again, this needle felting portion is just adding some detail to your already felted flower. We are not needle felting flowers, but adding details. I'm gonna keep tapping around, just adding some depth with color. You might wanna try adding something in the middle. This is where you're gonna get creative. And if you're noticing that most of one color of the flower in your crown is too dominant, this is how you can add some variety. I might also use my multi-felting tool. Unlock it. Just get a nice quick. (felting tool clicking) Adding color. I'm still, after pulling it off, gonna wanna try to shape that flower like we did in the rubber band, making sure that it feels like a flower versus a flat pancake. Again, you're gonna need about two dozen flowers. This is where it gets fun. Play with your color, play with the variety, and even if you're in a color family, you can make it fun. I would make about four to five flowers per color for this crown. To keep it fuller and if you want it to be really full, you can use about four to six.

Sew flowers to crown

- To sew the flowers onto the base of the crown. You're going to get your embroidery floss. I chose green, but it is not important that you have green and I already threaded my needle. I don't like to give too much leeway in my floss, because it ends up getting tangled. So I like to, you know, a little bit more of, like, a foot, foot and a half. To begin, I personally like to go left to right and because this is a rainbow crown, we're gonna start with the color red on the left-hand side. If you're left-handed and you prefer to move right to left, I would just make sure which color the rainbow you wanna end with and I end on pink. So just make sure you're choosing pink. I'm right-handed, so I'm gonna start on the left-hand side. I wanna make sure that you know to leave enough room, because you're going to be sewing in either your band or the ribbons that will tie the crown. I'm gonna pick inside a little bit. I've already knotted the end of my floss. I'm gonna grab a flower. I'm gonna take the needle and go through the center of the flower. And ensure it stays nice and tight, go back through the center of the flower, but not into the same hole. Continue securing this flower a few more times in

the center. If your flower became unsquished, one way that I like to make sure that it stays in the flower shape is to secure a part of the petal to the crown. So that might come on one side and depending on where you're working. Now, I'm just working with one flower so I can choose any side. But as you gain momentum and more flowers are on the front of the crown, you'll see that you need to secure them in different places. So I'm gonna secure the back of the petal. You can see I'm gonna go back through the petal, but not in the same hole. And then to keep the flower closed, I'm gonna come back through where I was. It's not important to be precise and catch another part of the petal. This you'll find you'll just flow in and out with each flower and there's no rhyme or reason, but you're looking at covering the base of the crown. I'll show you when we get to the next flower. So that's flower one. I'm gonna add a second flower next to the same flower as close as I can so that the petals are coming upward and it inherently pushes the flowers together. So again, I'm gonna come back up through the base of the crown, through the center of the flower and back through the center of the flower, but not in the same exact spot. In order to secure the flower, I like to go back and forth a few more times. These flowers get really thick, and as you start to build additional flowers, it's important that they stay secured. After I do two or three flowers, I like to flip over the base and just tie a knot for extra security. I'm ready to add another flower. I'm gonna look for somewhere near the two flowers and come up through, go through the center of the flower, put all the way toward the base, and you can see how it starts to build the color red. I'm gonna go back through the center. And for this, this is where you can start to get creative and kind of mold, push, and squish the wool flowers to where you want it to go, and maybe fold the petals in together and come up through with your embroidery floss to secure it to the base. So I might go through here, petal this petal twice, and go back through that same petal so it holds that flower in place. This will make much more sense as you begin to add additional flowers. To help keep it secure, this is just something I like to do. Just tie a knot in the back. I normally would add maybe another red flower here, but I just wanna show you what it would look like once you start adding a new color. So I'm gonna come back up through the base of the crown. I'm gonna pop probably the darker orange, because as this moves through, this lighter orange is gonna be closer to yellow, where this is a deeper color orange and it's closer to red. I'm gonna go through the center of the flower. Now you can kind of see how it starts to get really squishy, but it also feels fantastic on your fingers. You're gonna go back through the center of the flower and see where it fits. If I see a spot of white and I don't wanna see a spot of white, I might bring up my floss in these open spaces back through the flower. This can be center or a little off center, and then I'm gonna take my needle back through. You might think that you would see the embroidery floss, but believe it or not, the felt is so thick and the flowers begin to squish together. It would not matter if I was using yellow, black, or blue. So use what you have. I'm gonna come back up through the base, center back of the flower. I'm gonna do that maybe another time on this side and back. You can see on some of the flowers, I have tiny bits of green that isn't necessary. I used to do it a lot if I had fewer flowers, but there are so many flowers on this crown. Most of what you wanna see are the pops of color. I'll tie a nice secure knot and I'm ready for my next color. As you begin to add the flowers onto your crown, what happens inevitably when you're using the embroidery floss is your crown front will start to shrink. So before your crown gets too full so that you don't cut any petals off the flowers, we wanna trace the back and match it up with the front so that you can begin to have both panels. So I'm gonna bring the back piece of felt. I wanna share that this back color is usually where you can be playful and have a preference. I like using any kind of bright color, but this is the panel that's gonna be on the back of your crown, but also on the forehead. So it's not necessarily going to be seen. If I am sewing the

flowers on the front panel of the crown, I try to keep the colors in the center and then move outward. But again, like I mentioned, it starts to shrink. So what I wanna do before I get too many flowers on there, is pin the crown front to the back. One thing I wanna show you is as I'm pinning, I'm gonna position the crown as if it would be on someone's head. So what happens is the back piece is actually going to be a little bit longer than the front piece, so I'm gonna round it. This part is important not to accidentally trim the flowers. That's why I'm showing you a little bit earlier. If you were to cut both the front and the back out, unfortunately what would happen is as the front panel begins to shrink, the back won't shrink and it won't line up, and you'll have a really hard time figuring out where the height and the dips are, and you'll end up having to cut a new piece. Now I'm going to trim, and I'm gonna be really mindful around these flowers, which is what you would be doing. So keep the flowers in the center. Trim the back panel. (scissors snipping) Like the front panel, it's not important that it be perfect. And if anything, leave the back panel slightly bigger so that if you have to trim off any extras, you can. (scissors snipping) (scissors tapping) Maybe put an extra pin here. Tuck the flower petals away. I've just found that if you cut your panels together in too early, you end up having to do it multiple times. And I've just found this way easier, even though you're having to work around your flowers. Now you have your back panel and your front panel together. You'll need to unpin it and set the back panel aside. You'll continue sewing on your flowers on the front panel of the crown. It will continue to get full, and that is the fun part. I'm gonna show you some of my flowers have flattened, but what you can do to keep them together to help this crown become really full. Like before, look, I started with green and I moved to gold. Gonna come in the back of the base. I'm gonna get a green. I'm gonna go through the center of the flower. I'm gonna position it into the crown, go back through the center of the flower. And this is really important where you start to secure the flowers, because it's getting full and heavy. You might have noticed I sewed the pink and the purple on the end first. One of the reasons I do that is because you can get carried away with moving through the crown and be all the way toward the end and not be able to get purple and pink on. So I kind of like to move left to right, and as I'm getting toward the end, I secure the colors that I wanna make sure I don't accidentally leave off. So I pop some pink and some purples on. I'm gonna squish the green and the blue in here. I'm noticing that some of my flowers have flattened out, and that happens from time to time. If you're felting a day before and you lay them out and they get flat, what I like to do is I will re-wet them and put a rubber band around them. And other times, I'll use my embroidery floss and my needle to kind of form the flowers. So if your flowers do end up flat, you can kind of squish the sides together and sew them into place. So I might go down here, come up through both petals of the flower and come back down again. The weight of the wool sometimes helps it stay flat unless they stay in the rubber band. So you're gonna continue sewing on the flowers all the way to the end. I'm gonna add a blue in here before I need to switch floss. My goal is really to make sure that the backing isn't showing. I want it so full of flowers that you're not really seeing the back. I can squish some blue in here, getting in the nitty gritty and sewing. Some of my wool flowers are different sizes, and that's okay. It actually adds to depth of the crown and gives some height. So for these little spaces at the end as it comes together, you see it's squishing, but I want you to think about it being on someone's head. So make sure every once in a while, you're kind of taking a look to see where your white spaces are, or pink or green or whatever color you're using for your background. And just make sure that it's mostly covered. It's a little harder to see, so you're gonna feel your way through the center of the crown. Sometimes I just put my thumb right in the middle, so as the flower petals kind of gather around, I know where I'm going and I look for white spaces and I just put my needle and my petal down in

there so I know that it's being covered. It looks a little messy from behind, but don't worry. We're gonna cover that with the back panel of the crown. A few extra knots for security. And then at the very end, I'm gonna weave my needle in and pull it all the way through and even tie an extra knot. This crown gets really heavy, and while embroidery floss is thick, I like to give it just an extra. You've finished the front panel of your flower crown. I like to kind of squish and manipulate the wool to make sure all holes are covered. One good way when you're looking at the front of the crown to make sure that you have it the size and the thickness that you want is you can kind of try it on your head and look in the mirror and see if it's the height and fullness that you want, and kind of take a peek to see if there are any holes in the panel.

Assembly

- Now we have the front panel full with flowers and the back panel. So we're gonna sew these two pieces together up and around the top until we get to the part where we're gonna add the ribbons. I'm gonna take the back panel and I'm gonna add it to the front panel. I'm gonna start with the side that I'm gonna sew up first. For me, I'm right-handed, so I like to go from right to left. I'm going to begin on one side, and I'm gonna line these up, the back and the front together. And as you can see, it didn't line up perfectly, but we will snip and tie and use our embroidery floss to hide some of those little flaws. It's inevitable to happen because the front side is gonna continue to shrink, like I mentioned. So you can prep as much as you want, but that's why I leave a little bit of extra on the back. I'm going to pin both the back and the front together, trying as hard as I can not to capture the flowers. This is just to set the back panel and the front panel into place so that I can sew it in an aligned way. So I'm going to pin the top before I pin the bottom. And like I said, I'm going to put it as if it was on a head with a slight curve. Pinning the top to the back. It helps keep it in place. You can see I have a little trimming to do on the back, but that's okay. That's a good place to be versus coming up short. It's a little tricky with the flowers, but if you could just go through and come back up. Really, we just wanna hold this in place. You can see I have some trimming I'd like to do here. Tuck in some embroidery floss here. Just try to clean up your lines and your edges. This is a little misaligned, so I'm gonna use my scissors and trim. I just wanna remind everyone to be really mindful of not trimming the flowers. So I like to pull them back a little. Trim the wool. It's not important that they be perfect, but that you just don't have a big piece of wool hanging out at the end. Pick up your needle and floss, and we're gonna do the blanket stitch starting in the front panel, which, now while you're facing your crown, will look like the back panel. The panel that the flowers are tied to, you're gonna go through that panel first about halfway up the crown. We're gonna leave space because we're gonna need to sew in the ribbons on the other side when we come back around. The knot has gone through the front panel. You're gonna put both front and back together, swing out and over both pieces, and go through both pieces near the initial hole that you made with your needle. You're gonna pull it all the way through. Right before you pull it tight, you're gonna slip your needle right underneath the loop and pull it through. This has a nice starting stitch for your blanket stitch. Next, you're gonna go through the back, which, again, is your now front, straight through both pieces. Pull up and around. Go through the loop, and pull it nice and tight. This part is important. If you're used to doing the blanket stitch, sometimes you can be loosey goosey, but this wool is really thick, so I like to pull it nice and tight. You are gonna go up to the corner, the top piece. Sometimes I turn it so it's easier to look at and see. Be one more stitch here. I wanna show you what to do when you get up into the point so that it doesn't pull the back. This part is important. I like to go up through both, where the point is. I'm very carefully going to put my needle

through the loop like I do on the others. Then I'm gonna guide this pull at the top, the point of the crown. I'm gonna do that again because it secures the point. So I'm gonna go through, loop it through, and pull it at the point. That helps your blanket stitch not pull the crown down. So now it's kind of tight here, but it's still important that you keep them together. So I just use my thumb and my forefinger to keep both pieces together as I continue stitching. It's easy to catch the petals of the flower. That's not a problem unless you want them to be free and clear. Sometimes I secure the petals while I'm doing the stitch, but for this crown, we're not going to. But it's not a problem unless you don't want it to. 'Cause you're dealing with all the flowers being tightly sewn onto the front, the beautiful thing is you can just kind of manipulate the wool, push the flowers down a little bit, and get your fingers in there. So I'm going through both pieces of felt, trying to miss the flowers, securing both pieces together. If you'll notice, my stitching is staying consistent. Whether you go wide or tight, I would just make it consistent. I like it to be a little tighter than I would say half an inch because it keeps the pieces together without getting anything in between. But this is a personal preference. You're gonna keep stitching the two sides together all along the top of the crown until the bit halfway down or a quarter of the way down so that we can secure and sew in the ribbons. I chose three colorful ribbons that match the end of the flowers. So the end of this crown is pink and purple. This is where you can really make your personal choice. Ribbons don't matter so much as they're comfortable. These are a nice satin ribbon, but you can use silk or anything you like. I'm gonna stay about a little longer than an arm's length. What's important is that they all stay the same length. Snip them together. I like to hold that and place a pin in it. So that it's easier to sew. And you're ready to get the sewing machine. Or, if you choose, you can hand sew all three of these pieces together. Place your ribbons together under the foot. Just gonna sew back and forth to make sure that it's secured. Real quickly, I get to sew the ribbons into the crown. I like to lay the ribbons in between the two pieces of felt. I would say you give it about half an inch up from the bottom of the bottom piece of the felt, which is technically the front panel. Secure it in between both pieces of felt and place a pin in so it stays secure. This part is a little bit tricky with fingers. If you're a wonderful hand sewer, you can absolutely hand sew these together. I like to use the machine because I know that it'll be really secure because these get pulled a lot. But you wanna make sure there's enough room to get your machine in there. I'm gonna pop this right back into the sewing machine. Now, the flowers are gonna squish a little. It's tight and squishy. If you can get underneath your foot, place the foot, and you're gonna do the same exact thing you just did with your ribbons. I'm using blue thread so that you can see it. It doesn't really matter so much what you're using, just that the ribbons get secured. You're gonna cover the thread with floss. Let's verify this is enough. Okay, trim your ends. And you can continue your stitching. Isn't that tricky going around ribbons, but I like to try to cover up the thread that you just sewed the ribbons in with. For this portion, I'm only going up through the back of the crown and up. I'm not going all the way through the ribbons or through the front side, just to make this part look pretty because I already know it's secure with the thread. I'm starting to notice that the two pieces of wool that I'm sewing together are feeling a little uneven. At this point, I'm going to just finish my edge and check if I need to trim and align the two pieces, the front and back together. Secure my needle, take a peek. It gets really fluffy and thick, but I can see that the back is a little bit bigger. And I'm going to trim just a smidge. Again, reminding you that the flowers hang over. You don't wanna accidentally cut any petals. I'm just gonna gently trim so that I can align front and back together. Sometimes there's some wool fluffies. It is not important that it be perfect, but just closer together than, I feel like the 1/4 inch that was happening. So I'm gonna come around on both again. I wanna show you what happens when your floss runs out and

you need to secure a new piece. What I like to do is finish off, tie a knot as close to both pieces of felt as I can. I hold my finger in place and pull the floss. I unhook my pins and I tuck my piece of embroidery floss all the way in. Then I'm gonna come up through this same space again with my new piece of floss right where I ended. And you're gonna continue the stitch all the way to the very end, the corner, where we can pin and sew the other set of ribbons. Your crown is finished. I love the fact that this crown has these long, beautiful ribbons, but if you're someone who doesn't like tying something on or it might feel too heavy on your head, I have another option for you.

Elastic band variation

- An elastic band is a wonderful option for the back of a crown, especially for a child who can put the crown on and take it off all by themselves. I have some pieces of silk that I like to use. Some of these are just old saris or little bits and pieces that I've saved. It doesn't need to be fancy, just smooth to the touch. We're gonna make a silk tube, sew two pieces together or one piece folded in 1/2. Thread a piece of elastic to it, sew each side, and we'll be able to sew it into the crown, just like we did the ribbons. We need to determine the length of the elastic and the length of the silk. And that depends on the circumference of someone's head. Typically, the human head doesn't change that much, believe it or not, from child to adult. So I'm just gonna use the example of 20 inches. The backing of the crown or the wool part that we sewed together is 12 inches. I'm gonna assume that we need a piece of elastic band to stretch about eight inches, with room on each side to sew it into the crown. I like to usually double the length of the elastic I cut. That gives a lot of movement and scrunchiness, and it also looks really pretty because most of the times, silk and or satin is pretty sheeny. I'm using a 3/4 inch width elastic. I know that I need at least eight to 10 inches length. I also need to measure my silk, and so if I have a 3/4 inch width elastic, I need to double that in width. And then if I'm folding it over or if it's two layers, that would be three inches in width. Make sure that the right sides of your fabric are together on the inside, and that everything is aligned, and we're gonna make room for 1/4 inch seam allowance. Sometimes silk as you're sewing it starts to scrunch up, so I like to give a little gentle nudge and pull. Push and pull. (sewing machine whirring) Gonna snip the ends of your thread. Gonna inside out your tube. Once you have your tube fully inside out, we're gonna thread the elastic through to one side and secure it. Just gonna use a safety pin. Once you get to the other side, make sure not to pull it all the way through. That is the trick. And we're gonna sew one side. Make sure that your seam is aligned with the elastic, and you're gonna pull it out just a little bit. I like to leave extra room because it's gonna be on the inside of the crown. And I'm gonna pin it. Sometimes, I put an extra pin, just in case, and then I leave the same room on the other side. We'll see if we can pull it a little more once we get it. So I'm gonna take this side and I'm gonna put it through the machine. This, I am gonna go forward and back stitch. Back and forth, probably like two or three times. With elastic, it's getting really pulled, especially since it's not the size of the head and a little bit smaller. So I like a couple extra stitches. Trim your thread. And silk has a tendency to have a lot of extra little threads. You can just trim these a little bit. I like to make sure my seams are aligned, and then I can sew the other side. I'm gonna do the same thing. Go back and forth. Trim your thread. A lot of any extra threads that the silk will give or threads will be on the inside of the crown, so don't worry about it too much, but it's nice to have it nice and neat. Now you have the back of your band, and you're gonna sew this in the same way you sewed each side of the ribbons in the crown. Here are your finished beautiful rainbow felted crowns, both with the band, nice and silky, and the beautiful ribbons. Now you have a new floral headpiece to wear for your next celebration.