



COUNTING SHEEP

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Felting as a means of fabrication of a textile product is practiced by many cultures, and often the creator starts with raw wool fibers to produce fabric. However, rather than using raw wool fibers, the purpose of this design was to create a felted wool coat using unwanted recycled wool sweaters.

Two sweaters purchased from second-hand stores, each in a pattern of sheep jumping over a fence set in a background of fuchsia, purple, and gray, caught my eye and became the basis of the inspiration around which the coat was designed. Additional sweaters in similar colors were then purchased at local second-hand stores and gathered from friends. Drawing from the stair-stepping pattern of the sheep jumping over the fence, pieces of the other sweaters were cut and laid out so that this pattern could be repeated throughout the coat. Additional emphasis of the pattern was achieved by using a curving stitch to sew various shades of purple ultrasuede between the pieces of wool fabric.

To felt, the sweaters were washed at least twice in hot water, then dried in a hot dryer. Using a basic pea-coat-length design created through the flat pattern method, sweaters were cut into large pieces and sewn together, inspired by the felted sweater design details and colors.

The coat features a stand-up collar, two side seam pockets, and a single outside pocket that carries the sheep motif. The front closure is made of ultrasuede loops and silver buttons. In addition, the coat is fully lined and the facings, binding, under-collar, and turned-up sleeves are made of ultrasuede.