

BERNINA⁺

Confetti Vest

Created by Jo Leichte



Confetti Vest

Featuring: Decorative Punch Tool

Needle-felting has become popular with yarn and fiber enthusiasts, who use a single barbed needle to tangle and felt fibers by hand. You can achieve the same effect, embellishing a purchased wool vest in a fraction of the time using your BERNINA[®] sewing machine!

Please read through all instructions before beginning. Always test fibers and fabrics before working on garment!

Supplies

- BERNINA[®] Decorative Punch Tool
 - Note: This tool is designed for use with these models only:*
 - **activa** 125/130/135/140/145
 - **virtuosa** 150/153/155/160
 - **aurora** 430/440 & **artista** 165/170
- Purchased wool vest
- Assorted Funky Fibers (approximately 20 yards)
- BERNINA[®] Steam Iron or Ironing System

Garment & Fiber Selection

- ❖ Select a knit and/or felted garment, such as a dense sweater knit or boiled wool. This is a great project for rejuvenating sweaters that have been relegated to the back of the closet!
- ❖ Look for yarns and trims with long fibers that will twist and tangle with the garment fibers.



- ❖ For a subtle effect, use a monochromatic color scheme; for more drama, use contrasting colors. The Confetti Vest uses a combination of tone-on-tone and contrasting fibers, ribbons and yarns.
- ❖ Choose a variety of textures, including matte, shiny, sparkling, rough, and smooth fibers.
- ❖ Test each fiber on a fabric similar to the garment before making final selections. To felt and attach to the garment, fibers must be long enough to tangle in the garment yarns.

Planning the Design

- ❖ After selecting fibers, yarns, and trims, experiment with different combinations and arrangements on the garment, recording your favorites.

TIP: A digital camera is a great sketching tool! Photograph layouts and color combinations; you'll have a record of each design and be able to compare arrangements and recreate your favorite designs.

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- ❖ For the Confetti Vest, various Funky Fibers were cut into 1½" to 2½" lengths, except for one long piece used to embellish the collar.

TIP: Place fibers into small bags to keep them separate and contained.

- ❖ To create a "random" arrangement while keeping colors and textures balanced throughout the garment, the pieces with the most contrast—teal, yellow, orange—were placed first, followed by a variety of red trims.

Directions—Body Text

- ❖ Set up Decorative Punch Tool according to directions included with the device. Also see the Check List box on this page.



- ❖ Place fabric/fiber under "foot". Activate "punch" using foot control. To produce a "confetti" effect, punch only the center of each piece of yarn; depending on the fiber, some pieces will require only 3-4 punches, while others will need 15-20. Always test each fiber type before adding it to the project garment.



Note: Unlike freemotion stitching, if you "go out of the lines" using the Decorative Punch Tool it's not a disaster—at least, not on boiled or felted wool). Always do a test first to see how much punching your fabric/fiber combination needs and/or can handle.



- ❖ Add trim around outer edge of collar, placing fiber in the "ditch" of the binding and guiding fabric so that the needle punches the fibers into the welt of the seam.
- ❖ If needed, go over fibers a second and third time. Be careful not to overwork fabric. With wool, a bit of stretching can be steam-blocked from the fabric. Again, always test your fiber/fabric combination. The temperatures needed

Decorative Punch Tool Check List

Remove...

- needle
- needle thumb screw
- presser foot
- stitch plate
- bobbin case
- bobbin hook

Attach...

- punch tool stitch plate (1)
- punch tool presser foot (2)
- punch tool needle holder (3)
- punch tool needle holder screw (4)

Set Up...

- feed dog down
- straight stitch selected
- bobbin area door open



to steam/block a fabric might be too hot for some delicate and/or synthetic yarns and trims. Use a press cloth and/or press from the wrong side of the garment.

- ❖ If desired, add a decorative zipper pull to your Confetti Vest, or, if your garment has buttons instead of a zipper, replace them with interesting novelty buttons.