

Squirrel

Squirrels pair curiosity and cuteness to perfection: this chap's bushy tail and inquisitive look complete his lively expression. Give him a pal or two to keep him company up in the trees by making the Bluebird or Raccoon.



1. Following steps 2–6 for Making Pompoms by Hand on pages 19–21, make a 2½-inch (6.4 cm) fat, egg-shaped pompom from gray yarn for the head. I used approximately ⅓ skein of Patons medium-weight Classic Wool, which is approximately 69 yards (63 m).

2. On the narrow end of the egg shape, locate where you want the nose to be. Make a small part into the pile of the yarn, place a small drop of glue in the part, and insert the pink seed bead. Gently pinch the fibers around the glue and the bead to secure it. Let dry.

3. Using the inverted triangle layout (see Positioning the Nose and Eyes on page 22), decide where you want the eyes to be. Make a part in the yarn, carefully squeeze in a pea-size drop of glue for each eye, and gently insert the wire end of each glass eye into the pompom. Let the glue dry.

4. Using the template on page 121, cut two ears out of the wool felt, rub the inside of each ear with a bit of pink chalk, and blend it in with your finger. Squeeze a dollop of glue onto the bottom flat part of each ear shape and pinch the lower edge together, with pink inside, to give it dimension. Repeat this for the second ear. Use clothespins or hemostats to hold the ear bases together as they dry.

5. After the ears have dried, make a small part on top of the head over each eye, squeeze a bit of glue into the pile, and insert the ears. Pinch the fibers around the ears to secure them and let dry.

6. Make another slightly larger pompom from gray yarn and trim it into a pear-shaped pompom for the body, about 4 inches (10.2 cm) tall. I used approximately ½ skein of medium-weight Patons Classic Wool, which is approximately 105 yards (96 m). The narrow top will be the Squirrel's neck, and the heavier, rounded end will be the bottom of the Squirrel sitting upright. To create the illusion of the Squirrel's haunches and tummy, trim out a V shape from the front center bottom of the belly area.

7. Glue the pipe cleaner into the top half of the pompom body. Simply make a horizontal part deep into the wool at the top, squeeze in a dime-size dollop of glue, and place the pipe cleaner snugly down into it; pinch the fibers of the wool yarn around the pipe cleaner to secure it. This will become the frame for the arms of the Squirrel, which you will needle felt. (See Creating Appendages on page 24.) Let the glue dry.

YOU WILL NEED

Basic Pompom Toolbox
(page 12)

100% wool yarn: gray

100% wool felt: gray

100% wool roving: gray

100% wool roving yarn: gray

Pink seed bead

2 black glass eyes,
10 or 12 mm

Template:
ears (page 121)

Pink chalk

6-inch (15.2 cm)
gray pipe cleaner

Needle felting supplies
(page 16)

Ribbons

Piece of a tree branch, limb,
or trunk, 3 inches (7.6 cm)
in diameter, for the base

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

5½ inches (14 cm) tall
(without the wooden base)

