

Woolly Bowls & Vase

By Almie Louis

I AM OFTEN INSPIRED BY MY NATURAL SURROUNDINGS, AND IN THIS CASE, IT WAS THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE SEASON CHANGE THAT GOT MY CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING.

It is lovely to bring a little of the outdoors in and to make a living space as comfortable as possible. I made these woolly items during a beautiful autumn season and they depict the cosiness of woollen jumpers, wellies and colourful leaves.

Recycled item: old woolly jumper

You will also need:

Powertex (fabric hardener)

bowls of different sizes and a vase (as moulds)

clingfilm

bottles

fabric scissors

pins, needle and thread

bowl (to dip jumpers)

blunt knife

1. When you work with Powertex, make sure that you have running water close by and that your work surface is protected. Prepare the bowls and vase by covering them with clingfilm and resting them upside-down over bottles to raise them above the work surface.

2. Cut pieces large enough from the jumper to cover the bowls and vase (moulds). (Areas of decorative knitting are the most interesting; I used sections from around the arms and torso of an old jumper.)

3. Cover the moulds with the knitted pieces, gently stretching, pinning and eventually sewing any seams together for a snug fit.

4. Pour some Powertex into a bowl, Remove the woolly items from their moulds, dip them in Powertex and drape over their original moulds once

more. Use your fingers to stretch and smooth the fabric gently and to squeeze out any excess glue.

5. Leave to dry for about 8–10 hours. If you remove them from the moulds before they are completely dry, they will reshape.

6. Use a blunt knife to gently prise them off their moulds.

Caution: These bowls are not food safe.

