Mending a hole: Needle-felting

Mending a hole can take only minutes but can extend the lifetime of your garment for many years. Needling-felting is a quick and easy way to repair damage to your clothes. Once felted and washed, the fibres in the repair will fuse together to strengthen the bond in the repaired area.

What you need:

- Felting needle punch
- Felting wool
- Thick sponge
- Cutting mat
- Stencils

Hint: Needle-felting doesn’t need to be discrete – it can be very creative! You can create all kinds of shapes and pictures over the holes with a little imagination! Be bold!
Instructions

1. Pick up a holey swatch or garment. Place a piece of foam under the hole, making sure to work on top of a cutting mat.

2. Position a stencil over the hole. Or you can apply felt freely without a stencil.

3. Fill the stencil or the space over the hole using felting wool.

4. Take a felting needle punch from the sharp box. At the base of the needle are tiny, sharp burrs, which grab and interlock the wool fibres. Holding the needle vertically, repeatedly stamp it making sure to work on a cutting mat.

5. Continue stamping the felting wool until it is flat and even. Make sure to keep the needles upright and never at an angle to avoid breaking the needle or hurting yourself.

6. Turn the swatch or garment over and repeat stamping on the other side of the hole, working from the inside out.

7. Remove the stencil and tidy up stray edges using the felting needle punch. To smooth and set the patch at home, spritz with water and press with an iron on a wool setting or handwash with warm water and soap.