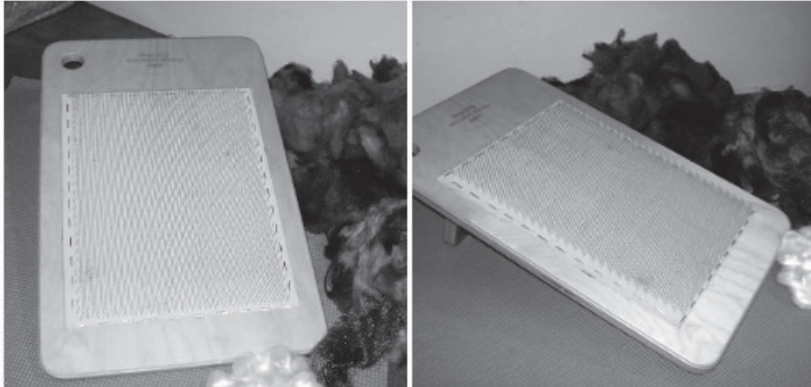




Fancy Kitty Fiber Artist's Blending Palette



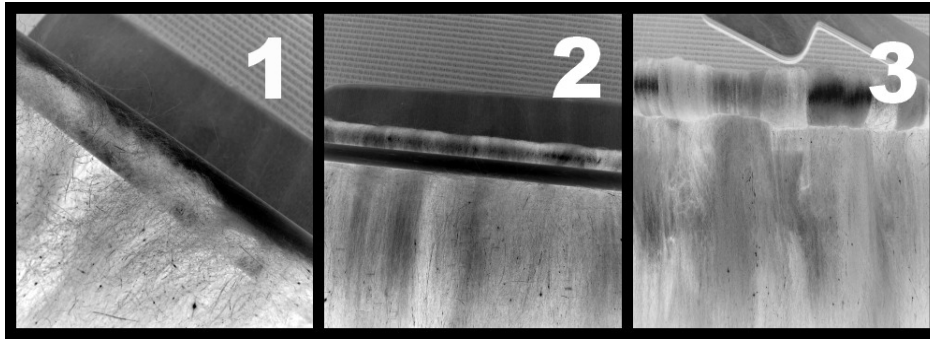
Our blending palette is made of beautiful sturdy laminated Baltic Birch and is 18" x 11" wide. Each board features an 8" wide x 12" long piece of carding cloth in your choice of either 72 tpi for smooth rolags or 54 tpi for art/textured rolags. The keel provided with the board allows you to use the board in your lap or on a table top for more convenience. We have also included two 3/8" dowel rods and a 4" burnishing brush to help get you started!

Getting Started

To begin you will need to attach your keel to the board. Simply put the screw with washers provided through the pre-drilled hole in the bend of the keel and into the hole provided on the back of the board. Tighten down the keel so the board is mobile but is not moving freely on it's own.

Using the Palette in your lap

1. place keel between knees to hold board in place and pivot board to a comfortable position for lashing on fiber.
2. Starting at the top of the board, gently run fiber over the carding cloth in a wiping sort of motion allowing it to catch in the teeth. Repeat this motion with the fibers of your choice until there are no bare spots creating a thin layer of fiber on the board.
3. At this point you will want to burnish the fiber gently starting at the top and working your way down pushing the fiber into the teeth of the cloth to allow for the next layer.
4. Repeat steps 2 & 3 until you have a few layers of fiber on the board
5. Once you have finished loading the fiber, turn the board so it is parallel with your legs and the bottom of the board is pointing away from you.
6. Carefully fluff up the fiber on the end of the board lifting a small amount of it out of the teeth but not off of the cloth
7. lay one dowel rod behind the fiber and one in front of or on the fiber. Roll the dowel rod that is behind the fiber forward and over the other dowel rod catching the ends of the fiber and securing them in place. Roll the dowel a small amount to secure all fibers. (figures 1 & 2)



8. To begin drafting the rolags, place one hand on either side of the dowels and gently lift up a little and draft the fibers off the board by pushing the dowels away from you very slowly thinning out the fiber in the space between the cloth and the dowel (aka the drafting area...shown in figure 3). Once drafted, roll the dowels toward you rolling up the drafted fiber without breaking it. Repeat this “draft and roll” motion once or twice more. On the last “draft and roll” pull the fiber away from the board detaching it completely. Removing one dowel rod at a time from your rolag is suggested. Repeat this up the board until all fiber is removed.

Table Top Method

You will need a rubber mat a little longer than your board to keep it from slipping on the table!

1. tighten keel so it does not swivel
2. place upright on table with mat underneath keel and bottom edge of board
3. place fibers on board as previously directed
4. when fiber is ready to be removed lay the board flat on the table with mat underneath and keel butted up against outside edge of table...keel will be facing you, end of board away from you
5. roll fiber off the board as previously directed with your legs directly against the board to help hold it in place when drafting your rolags

Tips

- ~~the carding cloth teeth are sharp, watch out for your hands and fingers when loading the board!
- ~~if the board is very packed with fiber it will be harder to draft due to thick spots in the “drafting area”
- ~~the tighter you roll your rolags the more difficult they will be to draft when spinning, find the happy medium!
- ~~when taking fiber off the board always work from the bottom up
- ~~when adding whole locks or other items for texture it is best to gently pat these into the cloth with a brush to maintain their texture/lock structure rather than burnishing
- ~~after use, clean board and store out of the reach of children and pets!!
- ~~to spin rolags begin by drafting from one end

Your blending board may also be used to make mini batts and hand pulled roving!! See our website or Ravelry group for videos.

Fancy Kitty website/store: <http://www.fancykitty.com>

Fancy Kitty Etsy shop: <http://www.fancykitty.etsy.com>

Fancy Kitty Lovers Ravelry group: <http://www.ravelry.com/groups/fancy-kitty-lovers>

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