

Heart to Heart

"May no gift be too small to give, nor too simple to receive, which is wrapped in thoughtfulness and tied with love." - L.O. Baird

The best gifts for Valentine's Day are the hand-made ones and those given from the heart. It doesn't matter if a small child scribbles an "I love you Mommy" in crayon or someone special cooks a weeknight dinner. You always remember and cherish the personal gifts.

This year I'm making felted wool hearts for the special people in my life. The women will get one with an added touch of bling!

I've been looking for 100% wool sweaters every time I stop at Goodwill. At \$3.99 each, I have collected piles of them in every color.

First, I washed the 100% wool sweater with the water set at the hottest temperature. Then, to get the sweater to shrink and felt, I dried them at the hottest temperature. Make sure to use only 100% wool. The fabric will not felt the same if there is even a small percentage of a synthetic fiber.

Cut out the hearts free hand or use a pattern pinned to the sweater if you want a perfect heart. I preferred a more irregular shape.

Next, I used embroidery thread and a blanket stitch to sew the two pieces together. Then, I added a bit of fiberfill to give the heart additional shape.

I added some free form stars. You can also sew on a ribbon at the top if you want to hang them.

Finally, I added some bling using some reclaimed rhinestone pins and buttons. I think I will use mine as party favors for a "girls only" Valentine's Day lunch!



Table Setting

Instead of the usual charger, I found old records at Goodwill. I love the really old ones because they are thicker and have interesting labels. Look for romantic love songs for your Valentine's Day dinner party. You know how much I love dishes, so I am always on the look-out for interesting plates in sets of eight, ten or 12. I've used these silver rimmed, black border plates for all sorts of occasions. Paired with my red hearts, they are perfect for February 14.

I needed a bit more color since I used a white table cloth, so I casually wrapped the stems of the wine glasses with left-over wire-edge ribbon from Christmas.

I also cut out single hearts and scattered them on the table as confetti. You can make your favorite dish or order take-out – it doesn't matter as long as it's served with love.

Happy Valentine's Day!

P.S. Later this month I will show you more things to make with your felted wool sweaters.

