



The eyes are the gate to the soul ! Nothing can give your bear character like the eyes. They can be sad, sleepy, perky and ready for fun.

Hope the ideas below help and show you how you can take your bear-making up a little step.

EYE WHITES



This is a very simple way of bring your bear's eyes to life.

Cut two small oval shapes, a little larger than the eye you are using. *We can always trim these if too large.*

We'll set the eyes on the white felt, off-centre, towards the top of the felt.



If you are using plastic safety eyes, you'll need to make a small hole here to take the stem. Glass eyes can be thread onto the felt with your needle.

Trim the felt a little as needed. The more felt showing under the eye, the sadder your bear will look (see the blue bear above :)

Continue fitting the eyes as usual. If the felt has moved once in place, you should be able to wriggle it back into place with the tip of a needle.

SHADING EYES



You can add colour and shading to your bear's using specialist markers (these usually come with a nib at each end). One for fine work, the other for broader blocks of colour. They add quite a strong colour so I recommend practicing with them first before working on your bear.

Starting out, you might find soft, artist quality colouring pencils easier. Water soluble pencils are also worth a look and are easy to blend with damp cloth.



Shading is an easy way to enhance your bear's features. The bear on the left has eye-whites in place and a little shading around the outer edge, taken over the top of the eye. Pencil or marker, always work lightly and gradually build up the colour. *We can always add, but not take it away !*

You can see that I've also plucked the fur from above the eye. This is not essential but I find it particularly helps darker coloured bears.

This bear has not had any fur plucked away, but being a lighter colour, you can see how the shading works well.



This bear's eyes are shaded in the same way but this time I've blended the shading to create a smoother edge around the eyes. To work the eye this way, I definitely recommend pencils, rather than the stronger markers :))

She also has some pink colouring blended as a blusher on her cheeks. Again, you really need to add the colour gradually with light strokes.

