

## FELTING TRANSITIONAL DREADS

By

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I spent approximately three to four nights after work doing the dreads, and then a couple of hours attaching them to my very short hair. There is approximately 50 dreads attached, most of them are transitionals from white to red, and some of them are just plain red.

before/after



I thought I'd make a bit more detailed post about how I do my dreads - maybe you can give me hints or so to do them better! :)

So, I've noticed that I enjoy the most working together with back combing and using a felting needle.

A felting needle is a needle that has tiny hooks on it, my pic doesn't really show them that well but you can imagine they're there ;)



I have a big piece of foam, and I place the dread on that one. Then I'll just start poking the needle through the dread. You can use several needles as a bunch if you like, but for the small thin dreads that I've been making one needle is ok.



The tiny hooks of the felting needle pick some fibers from the dread and pull them all they way through so that they'll get a bit attached to the foam underneath, so you gotta keep on pulling it out and turning the dread to make it even.



And then just twist, repeat, and so on! The only minus side to this is that the dread will become stiffer than with just back combing and somehow scratchy, because the

fibers are pointing straight out from the dread, I guess. I really like this method when I want to make transitional dreads, because I haven't found a good way to make the different coloured fibers stay together.



So, these cute fluffy dreads need to be sealed tightly. For that I have my penguin steamer (yes, it's a penguin steamer - I don't think you could have more distant things tied into one product:~) I just try to keep the dread tight and twisted, and steam it from one end to the other. This takes some time, and my hand was aching afterwards 'cause the steamer is quite stiff and I have to keep on pumping it every now and then to keep the steam coming.



half way through/before/after



And, after some braiding, voilà! I don't seem to be able to make them very smooth and alike, but I just have to make the best of it :)



I have adopted an easy way to carry dreads, it's quite similar to the [dreaded mullet](#) that [theinnocence](#) introduced some days ago.





You first make a parting in the middle of your ear, dividing the dreads to both sides of the head. Then divide these two sections into three, so that you have a section pair on your temples, behind your ears and in the neck. now, take the first sections closest to your forehead, and make a simple [overhand knot](#), pulling the dreads from the temples on a knot behind your head. Then, take the second section pair from behind your ears and pull them up, leaving the first knot in between. Make a similar overhand knot on top of your head, so that this second knot is resting on top of the first one. And then pull the last sections similarly up and make a knot that sits on top of the previous knots. This is really simple thing to do, but really hard to write down, I'm sorry I couldn't provide any detailed images just yet.

So that's it! Let me know if you have some hints or tips or something to make my work with transitionals easier :)