

# PRIVATE DESIGNERS

Highly trained, highly motivated and highly creative: such are the people behind the Brückner Group companies. And we would like to shine a spotlight on the men and women who also channel their energies into creative pursuits in their spare time.

“My love of flowers and blossoms also comes to the fore when I am working with felt.”

Silke Kaindl, Assistant Process Engineering Brückner Maschinenbau



## NOT AN EVERYDAY OBJECT: WOOLLEN JEWELLERY

“I have lots of hobbies: I work with felt in the spring and the autumn because in the summer it is simply unbearable to work with all that hot water,” laughs Silke Kaindl. The creatively minded Area Assistant at Brückner Maschinenbau loves her garden, the Upper Bavarian mountains, Lake Chiemsee and handicrafts.

The craft of felting has remained unchanged for thousands of years. Works of art can be created with the simplest of resources, but call for lots of patience, time and feeling. The wool fibres are stacked in fine layers and then fulled and shaped with hot water and soap until they form a stable fabric. “It’s a bit like when you wash a pullover at too high a temperature in the washing machine.”

In the felting process, which can take two to three hours, the wool shrinks by 30 to 40 percent. The workpieces are not sewn but, instead, are modelled by hand in one piece. “When they are dry, they retain their shape.”

Silke felts bags, cushions, scarves and jewellery. “My love of flowers and blossoms also comes to the fore when I am working with felt.” She is justly proud of her felt rosebuds, which can be worn on chains or brooches. The artist displays her felt works at local and regional arts and crafts markets as well as Christmas markets: “I work on new pieces all year round. My regular customers already look forward to them.”

**FELTING** makes wool into a stable fabric using hot water, soap and mechanical processing (fulling).

**NOT ALL TYPES** of unspun wool are suitable for felting – Silke Kaindl prefers to use fine merino sheep’s wool.

**SUSTAINABLE:** Silke buys Alpine wool or mountain sheep’s wool (for stable felt) at regional farmers’ markets; she sources her coloured merino wool from two suppliers who keep their animals in natural surroundings.

**DIVERSE:** Felt can be used to make bags, cushions, scarves and jewellery.



SILKE KAINDL

Lives in: Chieming (Germany)

Joined the Brückner Group: 1996

Loves: Cycling, nature, her garden and osmanthus flowers

