



## Three Bags Full ... (and a closet, too!)

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While on vacation we stopped at the Tamarack Arts Center in West Virginia. One artist made these incredible, elaborately carved sheep and covered them with sheepskins to make very realistic looking sheep. Here is a mini version—not very artistic, but cute none the less.

### Great little sheepskin sheep

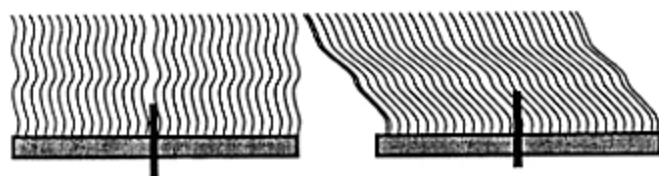


Got a sheepskin laying about collecting dust or perhaps part of it has been destroyed for some reason? First, I would suggest making sheepskin slippers using the cut out pattern for felt slippers featured in *The Shepherd—February 1996*. After that I would use the leftover scraps to make these quick and easy little sheep. The size can be adjusted to suit your scraps. Larger sheep are just great standing around in a flock. Little ones could be used for pins or ornaments. I made mine freestanding so I used clothespins for the legs. If you are making Christmas ornaments that don't need to stand you could sew or glue felt tubes for the legs.

#### Materials you will need

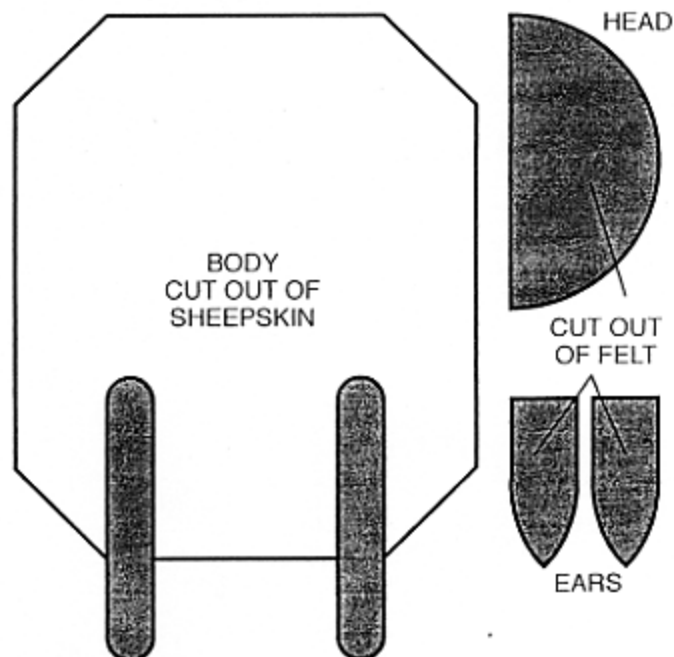
- Sheepskin Scraps
- Sharp Scissors
- Wool Felt (preferably)
- Clothespins or Wood Craft Sticks
- Hot Glue Gun
- Permanent Markers or Paint
- Hanging Card (for ornaments)
- Pin Backs (for jewelry)

The pattern for the sheep with legs is just a rectangle with the corners removed. You can easily trace the pattern on the back side of your sheepskin, enlarging or reducing it to fit the scrap. Cut the skin by carefully slipping the scissors through the wool between the locks and cutting it from the back side. If you do this carefully, you can avoid cutting through locks. There should be very little to no wool falling off after cutting.



Cutting between the locks

Cutting through the locks

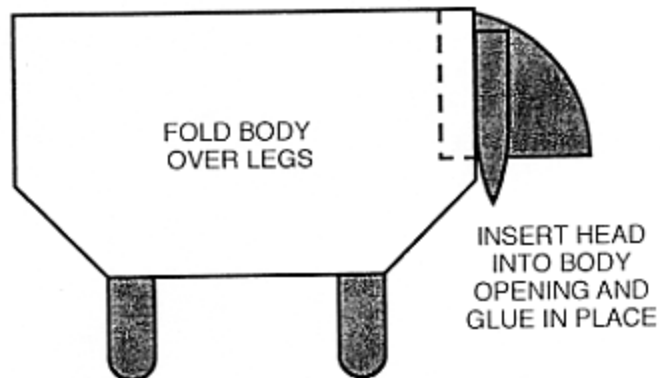


BODY  
CUT OUT OF  
SHEEPSKIN

HEAD

CUT OUT  
OF FELT

EARS



FOLD BODY  
OVER LEGS

INSERT HEAD  
INTO BODY  
OPENING AND  
GLUE IN PLACE

#### Assembling your sheep

Color your legs with a marker or paint. I dip my legs in a bottle of India ink to get black legs. Color coordinate the legs to match the face and ears—purple, pink and blue-faced sheep are just as cute as black-faced sheep. Cut out the body from your sheepskin. Position and glue the legs onto one side. I did the legs two different ways. On the larger model I glued two pinch-type clothespins with the tines down to represent the legs. On the smaller model I used four mini straight clothespins with the heads down for the legs. I glued little folded pieces of cardboard out of sight to keep the legs somewhat apart for more stability. After the legs are in position, glue the back end closed. fold the felt in half for the head and glue along the outer edge on the inside of the face to keep it closed. Put a bead of glue along the back edge of the head and insert it into the front opening. Pinch opening to attach body to head. Put a dot of glue at the top edge of the ears and fold ears in half. Put another dot of glue on the inside top edge of the ear and position ear on the side of the head. Be careful not to burn yourself with the hot glue.

For jewelry, make a mini version with sheepskin only on one side. Position head and legs and cover all your work with felt. Glue on pin. For a Christmas ornament, use a sharp needle and sew in a hanger before folding and glueing. That's it!

Until next time...Pat