Nativity set: shepherd and sheep

US terms



Finished size

The shepherd about 5¼ in (13.5 cm) tall, each sheep about 3 1/8 in (7.9 cm) long, the donkey about 4¼ in (11 cm) long

Skill

Intermediate

37 pieces worked in rounds and rows and sewn together.

Yarn

Medium (4), 8 colors

Hook

3.5 mm (US E-4)

Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet, in a spiral.

You will need

Yarn A: oat, shepherd robe, shepherd arm and the details	**about 55 yd (50 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: rust, several of the pieces	**about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: gray, several of the pieces	**about 125 yd (114 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: warm tan, shepherd head, shepherd arm and the details	**about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: brown, several of the pieces	**about 55 yd (50 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: ivory, fleece and donkey head	**about 85 yd (78 m), an estimate**
Yarn G: caramel, crook	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn H: rose, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins, scissors and black plastic eyes with washers, two each of 6 mm and 8 mm.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

The pieces



Shepherd robe



Shepherd head
to the shepherd robe



Shepherd arm x 2
to the shepherd robe



Shepherd hair



Head cloth cap

Shepherd front hair

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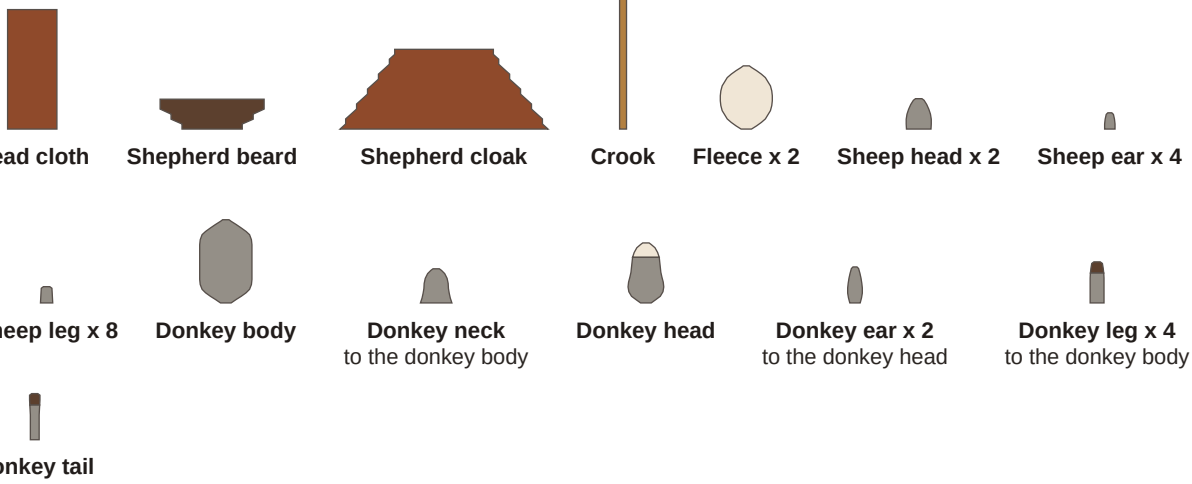

Head cloth | **Shepherd beard** | **Shepherd cloak** | **Crook** | **Fleece x 2** | **Sheep head x 2** | **Sheep ear x 4**

Sheep leg x 8 | **Donkey body** | **Donkey neck** to the donkey body | **Donkey head** | **Donkey ear x 2** to the donkey head | **Donkey leg x 4** to the donkey body

Donkey tail

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together, through the front loops only: how is under “Before you start” (UK dc2tog, double crochet 2 stitches together)
ch	chain stitch
MR	magic ring
RS	right side
Rnd	round
st	stitch
BLO	back loop only

Special stitches

bobble: [yarn over, insert hook in the stitch, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops] 4 times in the same stitch, yarn over, pull through all 5 loops (United Kingdom: a bobble of 4 trebles). Push it out to the right side. It leaves 1 st for the next row or round.

Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet, in a spiral.

To check it, work a flat circle: 6 sc in a magic ring, then 6 more sc in each round (12, 18, 24, 30, 36). After round 6 it should measure about 2¼ in (5.5 cm) across. The stitches should be tight enough that the stuffing does not show.

Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

Before you start

- Every piece that has rounds is worked in a continuous spiral with the right side facing you: do not join and do not turn. Put the marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up. Square brackets hold a repeat; work it as many times as the line says. The number in parentheses is the count at the end of the round.

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- The two sheep are worked alike. Choose any skin tone you like for the shepherd.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work round 1 into the loop and pull the tail to close it. Or chain 2 and work round 1 into the first chain.
- Color change: where a line begins "With B," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in B. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- Center line: places on a piece are given by round and by stitches from a center line. It is half way round from where the rounds begin. Mark it with a pin or a scrap of yarn as listed here, run it straight from round 1 to the last round by eye, and count out from it along the round, in stitches and half stitches.
- Shepherd head: the center line runs between stitches 18 and 19 of round 7 (36 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the top.
- Donkey head: the center line runs between stitches 11 and 12 of round 10 (22 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.
- Fleece: the center line runs between stitches 15 and 16 of round 6 (30 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.
- Sheep head: the center line runs through the middle of stitch 8 of round 5 (15 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.
- Donkey body: the center line runs between stitches 15 and 16 of round 5 (30 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.
- Shepherd robe: the center line runs between stitches 21 and 22 of round 7 (42 sts). It faces the front.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the figures. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- Running stitches go in and out along a line.
- In every step of putting it together: where a piece meets or overlaps another, sew through both. Where no tail is left or a tail is too short, sew with a new length of the yarn of the piece you are putting on.
- To work sc2tog, put the hook under the front loop only of each of the next 2 stitches, yarn over, pull through both loops, yarn over, pull through 2 loops.
- For a child under three, or a pet, embroider the eyes instead: satin stitch dots of the same size in E (brown).
- The two eye sizes in the lines below are in this order: the sheep and the donkey, the shepherd. In Standard they are 6 and 8 mm.
- The rounds and stitches are the same for every size; the yarn and the hook make the difference. Lengths in the words (tails, ovals, details) are for Standard, the size written here: for another size multiply them by the number in its line.
- Small: fine (2, sport) yarn, 2.25 mm (B-1) hook, 27 sc and 30 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): the shepherd about 4 in (10 cm) tall, each sheep about 2 3/8 in (6 cm) long, the donkey about 3 1/8 in (7.9 cm) long; eyes 4, 6 mm; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn.
- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): the shepherd about 7½ in (19 cm) tall, each sheep about 4½ in (11.5 cm) long, the donkey about 6¼ in (16 cm) long; eyes 9, 11 mm; multiply lengths by 1.4; about 1.4 times the yarn.
- Jumbo: super bulky (6, plush or velvet) yarn, 6.5 mm (K-10½) hook, 11 sc and 12.1 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): the shepherd about 9½ in (24 cm) tall, each sheep about 5¾ in (14.5 cm) long, the donkey about 7¾ in (19.5 cm) long; eyes 11, 15 mm; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a round is done. In UK terms sc is double crochet.

Shepherd robe

Yarns in order of use: A, oat; B, rust.

Round 1 is the middle of the base.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 21 and 22 of round 7. It faces the front.

☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in BLO of each st around	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 9 to 10**	With B, sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**

A box for each round, 9 to 10: tick them off as you go.

☐ 9 ☐ 10

☐ **Rnd 11**	With A, **[**sc in next 12 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(39 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in each st around	**(39 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 3 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 10 sts**] 3 times**	**(33 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	Sc in each st around	**(33 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc in next 9 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	Sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	**(27 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	Sc in each st around	**(27 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts**] 3 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 22**	Sc in each st around	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(21 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 18 in (46 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Shepherd head

Yarn D, warm tan.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 18 and 19 of round 7. It faces the front, round 1 at the top.

☐ **Rnds 8 to 11**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**

A box for each round, 8 to 11: tick them off as you go.

☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11

☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Fix the eyes now: black plastic eyes, one to each side of the center line. Shepherd: the 8 mm eyes, on the shepherd head between rounds 9 and 10, 3 stitches from the center line (6 stitches apart). Donkey: two of the 6 mm eyes, on the donkey head on round 8, 3 stitches from the center line (6 stitches apart). Sheep: two of the 6 mm eyes on each sheep head, on round 4, 2½ stitches from the center line (5 stitches apart). Then stuff firmly, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

Shepherd arm: make 2

Yarns in order of use: D, warm tan; A, oat.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**, 2 sc in next st	**(8 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in each st around	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	With A, sc in each st around	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 6 to 11**	Sc in each st around	**(9 sc)**

A box for each round, 6 to 11: tick them off as you go.

6 7 8 9 10 11

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff lightly up to the open edge.	

Shepherd hair

Yarn E, brown.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 7 to 8**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**

A box for each round, 7 to 8: tick them off as you go.

7 8

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 28 in (71 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Head cloth cap

Yarn B, rust.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 17 sts**] 2 times**	**(38 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 30 in (76 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

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Shepherd front hair

Yarn E, brown.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 19 stitches wide. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With E, ch 20.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(19 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(19 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off and weave in the end.	

Head cloth

Yarn B, rust.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 9 stitches wide. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 10.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 24**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 24: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24

☐ **End** Fasten off and weave in the end.

Shepherd beard

Yarn E, brown.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 19 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With E, ch 20.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(19 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 9 times**, sc in next st	**(19 sts)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog 2 times, sc in next 11 sts, sc2tog 2 times	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 7 times**, sc in next st	**(15 sts)**
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog 2 times, sc in next 7 sts, sc2tog 2 times	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next st	**(11 sts)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off and weave in the end.	

Shepherd cloak

Yarn B, rust.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 18 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 19.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**	**(20 sc)**

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☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(20 sc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(22 sc)**
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next 11 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(26 sc)**
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	**(28 sc)**
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(28 sc)**
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts**] 2 times**	**(32 sc)**
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(32 sc)**
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next 15 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(34 sc)**
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 2 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Row 15**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Row 16**	Ch 1, turn, **[**sc in next 17 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(38 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off and weave in the end.	

Crook

Yarn G, caramel.

Stuff lightly every few rounds as you go, so that the tube still bends.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 2 to 36**	Sc in each st around	**(4 sc)**

A box for each round, 2 to 36: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27 ☐ 28 ☐ 29 ☐ 30 ☐ 31 ☐ 32 ☐ 33 ☐ 34 ☐ 35 ☐ 36

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 4 stitches and pull it tight to close the lower end. Keep the rest of the tail for sewing.	

Fleece: make 2

Yarn F, ivory.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 12 times**	**(24 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 15 and 16 of round 6. This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.

☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 15 times**	**(30 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 15 times**	**(30 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	Sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 15 times**	**(30 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 12 times**	**(24 sts)**

Stuff firmly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

Sheep head: make 2

Yarn C, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in each st around	**(15 sc)**

Fix the eyes now: black plastic eyes, one to each side of the center line. Shepherd: the 8 mm eyes, on the shepherd head between rounds 9 and 10, 3 stitches from the center line (6 stitches apart). Donkey: two of the 6 mm eyes, on the donkey head on round 8, 3 stitches from the center line (6 stitches apart). Sheep: two of the 6 mm eyes on each sheep head, on round 4, 2½ stitches from the center line (5 stitches apart).

☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts	**(14 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

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Sheep ear: make 4

Yarn C, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 3 stitches.	

Sheep leg: make 8

Yarn C, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 4**	Sc in each st around	**(7 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 4: tick them off as you go.

☐ 3 ☐ 4

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Donkey body

Yarn C, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 15 and 16 of round 5. This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.

☐ **Rnds 6 to 16**	Sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**

A box for each round, 6 to 16: tick them off as you go.

☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16

☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Stuff firmly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

Donkey neck

Yarn C, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 6**	Sc in each st around	**(14 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 6: tick them off as you go.

☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 18 in (46 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Donkey head

Yarns in order of use: F, ivory; C, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 14 sts	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 5 to 6**	With C, sc in each st around	**(16 sc)**

A box for each round, 5 to 6: tick them off as you go.

☐ 5 ☐ 6

☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in next 15 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(17 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 2 times**	**(20 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(22 sc)**

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 11 and 12 of round 10. This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.

☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in each st around	**(22 sc)**

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Fix the eyes now: black plastic eyes, one to each side of the center line. Shepherd: the 8 mm eyes, on the shepherd head between rounds 9 and 10, 3 stitches from the center line (6 stitches apart). Donkey: two of the 6 mm eyes, on the donkey head on round 8, 3 stitches from the center line (6 stitches apart). Sheep: two of the 6 mm eyes on each sheep head, on round 4, 2½ stitches from the center line (5 stitches apart). Then stuff firmly, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

Donkey ear: make 2

Yarn C, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in each st around	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 3 stitches.	

Donkey leg: make 4

Yarns in order of use: E, brown; C, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in each st around	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 9**	With C, sc in each st around	**(8 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 9: tick them off as you go.

☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff lightly up to the open edge.	

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Donkey tail

Yarns in order of use: E, brown; C, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 2 to 3**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**

A box for each round, 2 to 3: tick them off as you go.

2 3

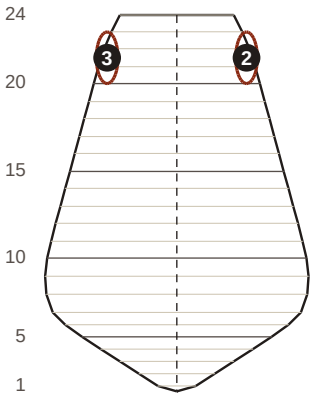
☐ **Rnd 4**	With C, sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 5 to 10**	Sc in each st around	**(5 sc)**

A box for each round, 5 to 10: tick them off as you go.

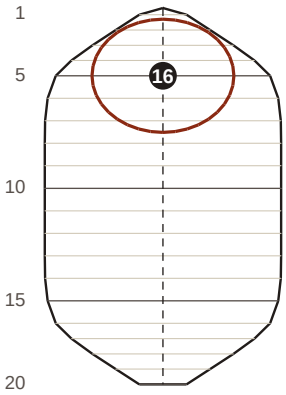
5 6 7 8 9 10

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.

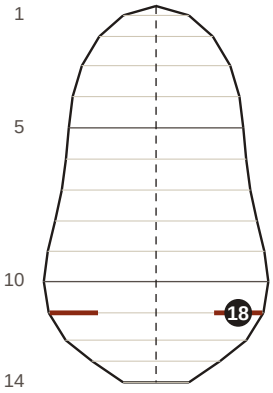
Assembly



Shepherd robe: 2 shepherd arm, 3 shepherd arm



Donkey body: 16 donkey neck



Donkey head: 18 donkey ears

A number is the step below that puts it on; a letter is put on under Finishing. Each line is a round, counted as the rounds are worked. The upright broken line is the center line. A place with a broken edge is on the far side.

1. Lay the shepherd cloak round the back of the shepherd robe, right side out, its foundation chain along round 23 of the robe: the middle of the chain is on the line opposite the center line of the robe, and its two ends are about 3 stitches from the center line, one on each side. With a new length of the yarn of row 1, sew the chain to the robe, and catch the two lower corners of the cloak to the robe with two stitches each.

2. Pin one shepherd arm to the shepherd robe: the middle of the open edge lies between rounds 21 and 22, 4½ stitches to the right of the center line. The edge (9 sts) covers about rounds 20 to 23 of the shepherd robe. It points to the right and down, turns forward by about round 6 of the shepherd arm and to the left by the tip. Bend it as you pin it, and hold each bend with a few running stitches, drawn up a little, on the side it turns toward. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft. It lies over the front edge of the cloak: sew through the cloak and the robe.

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3. Pin one shepherd arm to the shepherd robe: the middle of the open edge lies between rounds 21 and 22, 4½ stitches to the left of the center line. The edge (9 sts) covers about rounds 20 to 23 of the shepherd robe. It points straight out to the left, level, so that the whole arm stays at the height of its place on the robe, then bends forward and round to the right, so that rounds 1 to 7 of the arm make a half circle that is open to the right, with a space about ¼ in (6 mm) across inside it for the crook. Bend it as you pin it, and hold the curve with a few running stitches along its inner side, drawn up as far as they will go. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft. It lies over the front edge of the cloak: sew through the cloak and the robe.

4. Set the shepherd head on the open edge of the shepherd robe (18 sts), center lines in line: the edge lies on round 15 of the shepherd head (18 sts). With the tail of the shepherd robe, sew every stitch of the edge to the shepherd head, and top up the stuffing in the neck before the last stitches so that the shepherd head does not wobble.

5. Pull the shepherd hair down over the shepherd head, tipped toward the back, so that its round 1 lies about two rounds behind round 1 of the head and its edge lies on about round 6 of the head in front and on about round 10 at the back. Sew the edge (36 sts) down all the way round.

6. Pull the head cloth cap down over the shepherd hair, tipped a little farther back than the hair, until its edge (38 sts) lies on round 6 of the hair in front, so that the last two rounds of the hair show there, and on round 8 of the hair at the back. Sew the edge down all the way round, through the hair and the head.

7. Lay the shepherd front hair across the front of the shepherd head, right side out, its foundation chain in a curve like an arch and its rows toward the face: the middle of the chain is on the center line, against the edge of the head cloth cap in front, so that the strip covers the rounds of the shepherd hair that show there, and its two ends are on about round 10 of the head, about 8 stitches from the center line, one on each side. The chain (19 stitches) is as long as this curve, so do not stretch it: pin its middle first, then its two ends, and if your chain is a little longer or shorter, let both ends lie up to half a stitch farther from or nearer to the center line. With a new length of its yarn, sew the chain down all the way along, through the shepherd hair where it lies on it and to the head below that, then sew the last row down with small stitches, easing it in a little, so that the strip lies flat.

8. Lay the head cloth round the back and the sides of the shepherd head, right side out, with one long edge (the ends of its rows) at the top, along the edge of the head cloth cap: the middle of that edge is at the back, on the line opposite the center line of the shepherd head, and the foundation chain and the last row hang straight down at the two sides of the face, each about 8 stitches from the center line. With a new length of its yarn, sew the top edge to the edge of the head cloth cap, through the hair and the head. The rest hangs free over the shoulders.

9. Lay the shepherd beard across the front of the shepherd head, right side out, its foundation chain in a curve like a smile: the middle of the chain is on round 13 of the head, on the center line, and its two ends are on round 10, about 8 stitches from the center line, one on each side, under the front edges of the head cloth. With a new length of its yarn, sew the chain and the ends of the first two rows on each side to the head. The rest hangs free in front. Where its two ends meet the front hair, lay them over the ends of the hair and sew through both.

10. Bend rounds 1 to 13 of the crook over into a hook and hold the bend with running stitches along its inner side, drawn up. Stand the crook upright in the half circle of the arm on the left, its closed lower end on the table and the hook to the left, so that the hand comes round in front of it at about round 22 or 23 of the crook, at the same height as the place where the arm is sewn to the robe. With a new length of D (warm tan), sew the hand to the crook where the two touch, in a circle of about 6 stitches, going round twice, and catch the inner side of the arm to the crook with three stitches of A (oat).

11. Lay the two fleeces on the table, round 1 of each to the front and the center line along the top.

12. Sew one sheep head to the front of each fleece: the middle of the open edge (14 sts) lies on round 3 of the fleece, on the center line, and the center line of the head is at the top, in line with the center line of the fleece. The lowest stitch of the edge lies on round 1 of the fleece and the highest on round 5. The head is straight, with no bend: it points forward and a little down, so that the middle of its round 1, the nose end, is about ¼ in (6 mm) lower than the middle of the open edge. Sew all the way round with its tail.

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13. Sew the four sheep ears to the two sheep heads, one to each side of each: the middle of the flat edge lies on round 6 of the head, 3½ stitches from the center line (7 stitches apart), and the edge runs from front to back. The ears point out to the side and a little down. Sew through both layers of the 3-stitch edge with the tail.

14. Sew the eight sheep legs to the fleeces, four to each. The two front legs: the middle of the open edge (7 sts) on round 6, one to each side, 11 stitches from the center line (8 stitches apart across the underside). The two back legs: on round 13, one to each side, 8½ stitches from the center line (7 stitches apart across the underside). They point straight down. Sew all the way round with the tails, and try each sheep on the table: all four feet should touch it.

15. Lay the donkey body on the table, round 1 to the front and the center line along the top.

16. Pin the donkey neck to the donkey body: the middle of the open edge lies on round 5, on the center line. The edge (18 sts) covers about rounds 2 to 8 of the donkey body. It points up and a little forward. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

17. Set the donkey head on the closed end of the donkey neck, its center line along the top and its muzzle (round 1) forward and a little down: the neck meets the underside of the head over about rounds 7 to 12. Sew the two together in a circle of about 14 stitches, going round twice.

18. Sew the two donkey ears to the donkey head: the middle of each flat edge lies on round 11, one to each side, 3½ stitches from the center line (7 stitches apart), and the edge runs across, along the round: from 2 to 5 stitches from the center line, so that stitches 1 and 2 on each side are left free for the mane. The ears point up and a little out to the side. Sew through both layers of the 3-stitch edge with the tail.

19. Sew the four donkey legs to the donkey body. The two front legs: the middle of the open edge (8 sts) on round 5, one to each side, 9½ stitches from the center line (11 stitches apart across the underside). The two back legs: on round 15, one to each side, 11 stitches from the center line (8 stitches apart across the underside). The two front legs point forward and down until their feet (round 1) touch the table in front of the body; the two back legs point forward, a little out to the side, and lie along the table. Sew all the way round with the tails.

20. Flatten the open end of the donkey tail (5 sts) and sew it, through both layers, to the donkey body: the middle of the flat edge lies on round 19, on the center line, and the edge runs across, along the round. It points back, then hangs down on the donkey's own left side.

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Finishing

- Put in the plastic eyes when the words of a piece say so, or embroider eyes in the same places with the other details. Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle when the pieces round the place are sewn on; begin and end each strand inside the toy. Knot in the lengths of yarn at the same time. Satin stitch is straight stitches side by side until the shape is filled. Backstitch is a line of short stitches end to end: bring the needle up one stitch ahead, put it down at the end of the stitch before, and repeat.
- Eyes: black plastic eyes, one to each side of the center line. Shepherd: the 8 mm eyes, on the shepherd head between rounds 9 and 10, 3 stitches from the center line (6 stitches apart). Donkey: two of the 6 mm eyes, on the donkey head on round 8, 3 stitches from the center line (6 stitches apart). Sheep: two of the 6 mm eyes on each sheep head, on round 4, 2½ stitches from the center line (5 stitches apart).
- Cheeks, the shepherd: with H (rose), in satin stitch, an oval about 3/16 in (5 mm) wide and 1/8 in (3 mm) tall, its middle on the shepherd head between rounds 10 and 11, one to each side, 5 stitches from the center line (10 stitches apart).
- Mouth, the shepherd: with E (brown), in backstitch, a smile, one curve about 3/8 in (10 mm) wide that dips 1/8 in (3 mm) below its ends. Its two ends are on the shepherd head on round 11, one to each side of the center line.
- Sheep noses: with H (rose), in satin stitch, a small triangle with its point down, about 3/16 in (5 mm) wide and 1/8 in (3 mm) tall, on each sheep head, its middle on round 2, on the center line.
- Nostrils: with E (brown), two straight stitches side by side, each about 1/8 in (3 mm) long, on the donkey head on round 3, one pair to each side, 2 stitches from the center line (4 stitches apart).
- Mane: cut 80 lengths of E (brown), each 3¾ in (9.5 cm) long. At each place, use the needle to draw four lengths under the stitch, from side to side, until 1 7/8 in (4.8 cm) of each hangs out on one side. Tie the two sides together in a firm knot close to the fabric, pull the ends of the other side inside the toy and trim the ends left outside to ½ in (1.3 cm). They stand straight out. Where a piece covers a place, use the nearest free stitch. The places on the donkey head, counting stitches from the center line (stitch 1 is the one beside it): round 9: stitches 1 and 2 right and stitches 1 and 2 left; round 10: stitches 1 and 2 right and stitches 1 and 2 left; round 11: stitches 1 and 2 right and stitches 1 and 2 left; round 12: stitches 1 and 2 right and stitches 1 and 2 left; round 13: stitches 1 and 2 right and stitches 1 and 2 left.
- Weave every tail through the toy and trim it. For a toy that will be played with, go round each seam a second time with a new length of yarn. Check the seams and small parts from time to time.

In all: 37 pieces; 5,040 stitches.

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.

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