CROCHET SHEEP: A BEAUTIFUL WOOLLY LAMB, 4.5 INCHES TALL

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 4.5 inches (11.5 cm) tall sitting, or 6 inches (15 cm) tall standing, using worsted-weight (#4) yarn and a 4.0 mm hook. Sizes are approximate and will vary a little with your yarn and tension.

SKILL LEVEL

Advanced Beginner. You need a magic ring, single crochet, increases, decreases, chain stitches and slip stitches, and you need to sew the pieces together. The head needs careful shaping around the face, so it helps to have made one amigurumi toy before.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. A small 4.5 inch sheep with sewn-on limbs and an embroidered nose is a relaxed evening's work for most crocheters, a little longer the first time.

MATERIALS

- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, WeCrochet Brava Worsted in white, 44 yards (about 40 m): body, top of head, ears and tail
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, WeCrochet Brava Worsted in cream, 24 yards (about 22 m): face, legs and arms
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, WeCrochet Brava Worsted in black, 20 yards (about 18 m): hooves
- 4.0 mm (G) crochet hook
- 9 mm safety eyes, 1 pair
- Polyester stuffing, a small amount
- Yarn needle (tapestry needle)
- Stitch markers
- Black yarn for the embroidered nose
- Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

MR: magic ring. ch: chain. sc: single crochet. inc: increase (2 sc in the same stitch). dec: decrease (single crochet 2 stitches together, SC2tog; invisible decrease is recommended). sl st:

slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es). Rnd: round. BLO: back loop only. FO: fasten off.

NOTES

Work in continuous rounds. Do not join rounds and do not turn, unless the pattern says so. Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up as you finish the round. The number in brackets at the end of each round is the stitch count you should have, so count your stitches at the end of every increase and decrease round. This pattern uses US crochet terms throughout. If you are used to UK terms, remember that a US single crochet is a UK double crochet, so do not convert the stitches in this pattern. Use invisible decreases for a cleaner finish. Gauge is not necessary for this pattern: use a hook smaller than the size recommended for your yarn so the stuffing does not show through the stitches. Stuff the body, head, legs and arms as you work, a little at a time, so each piece is completely filled. Do not add stuffing to the tail.

BODY

Work with color A (white) and the 4.0 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3: [inc, sc] x 6 (18)

Rnd 4: [inc, sc, sc] x 6 (24)

Rnd 5: [inc, sc, sc, sc] x 6 (30)

Rnd 6-11: sc in each st around (30), 6 rounds

Rnd 12: [dec, sc, sc, sc] x 6 (24)

Rnd 13-15: sc in each st around (24), 3 rounds

Rnd 16: [dec, sc, sc] x 6 (18)

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off. Fill with stuffing.

HEAD

Work Rounds 1-10 with color B (cream), then change to color A (white) for Rounds 11-20. Use the 4.0 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3: [inc, sc] x 6 (18)

Rnd 4-6: sc in each st around (18), 3 rounds

Rnd 7: [inc, sc, sc] x 3, sc in each of the next 9 sts (21)

Rnd 8: [inc, sc, sc, sc] x 3, sc in each of the next 9 sts (24)

Rnd 9: [inc, sc, sc, sc, sc] x 3, sc in each of the next 9 sts (27)

Rnd 10: [inc, sc, sc, sc, sc, sc] x 3, sc in each of the next 9 sts (30). Add a stitch marker to the last worked stitch of this round. The 9 stitches between the two markers sit flat and show the

bottom of the head. If using safety eyes, insert them between Rnd 8 and Rnd 9, with 7 stitches between them. You can now remove the second stitch marker.

Change to color A (white).

Rnd 11: [inc, sc, sc, sc, sc] x 6 (36)

Rnd 12-14: sc in each st around (36), 3 rounds

Rnd 15: [dec, sc, sc, sc, sc] x 6 (30)

Rnd 16: [dec, sc, sc, sc] x 6 (24)

Rnd 17: sc in each st around (24)

Rnd 18: [dec, sc, sc] x 6 (18)

Rnd 19: [dec, sc] x 6 (12)

Fill the head with stuffing.

Rnd 20: dec x 6 (6)

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand. Weave the yarn in and out of the remaining stitches, pull tight to close, tie off and weave in the ends.

EARS (make 2)

Work with color A (white) and the 4.0 mm hook. Do not stuff the ears.

Rnd 1: 4 sc in MR (4)

Rnd 2: [inc, sc] x 2 (6)

Rnd 3: [inc, sc] x 3 (9)

Rnd 4: [inc, sc, sc] x 3 (12)

Rnd 5-8: sc in each st around (12), 4 rounds

Rnd 9: [dec, sc, sc] x 3 (9)

Rnd 10: Fold the ear closed, leaving 1 unworked st at the beginning of the fold. Working through both sides, 1 sc in each st across, leaving 2 unworked sts at the end of the fold (3 sts). Insert the hook through the remaining 2 unworked sts, pinch the bottom of the ear to bring each end together, and working through both sides, join the ear with 1 sc.

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off.

LEGS (make 2)

Work Rounds 1-7 with color C (black), then change to color B (cream) for Rounds 8-14. Use the 4.0 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3: [inc, sc] x 6 (18)

Rnd 4: [inc, sc, sc] x 6 (24)

Rnd 5: working in BLO, sc in each st around (24). This round makes a neat ridge inside the black hoof, a couple of rounds below the change to cream.

Rnd 6: sc in each st around (24)

Rnd 7: [dec, sc, sc] x 6 (18)

Change to color B (cream).

Rnd 8-10: sc in each st around (18), 3 rounds

Rnd 11: [dec, sc, sc, sc, sc, sc, sc, sc] x 2 (16)

Rnd 12-13: sc in each st around (16), 2 rounds

Fill with stuffing.

Rnd 14: Fold the leg closed. Working through both sides, 1 sc in each st across, leaving 1 unworked st on each side (7 sts).

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off.

ARMS (make 2)

Work Rounds 1-6 with color C (black), then change to color B (cream) for Rounds 7-12. Use the 4.0 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3: [inc, sc] x 6 (18)

Rnd 4: working in BLO, sc in each st around (18). This round makes a neat ridge inside the black hoof, a couple of rounds below the change to cream.

Rnd 5: sc in each st around (18)

Rnd 6: [dec, sc] x 6 (12)

Change to color B (cream).

Rnd 7-11: sc in each st around (12), 5 rounds

Fill with stuffing.

Rnd 12: Fold the arm closed. Working through both sides, 1 sc in each st across, leaving 1 unworked st on each side (5 sts).

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off.

TAIL

Work with color A (white) and the 4.0 mm hook. Do not stuff the tail.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: sc in each st around (6)

Rnd 3: [inc, sc] x 3 (9)

Rnd 4: sc in each st around (9)

Rnd 5: Fold the tail closed. Working through both sides, 1 sc in each st across, leaving 1 unworked st at the beginning of the fold (4 sts).

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off.

NOSE

Using black yarn, embroider a nose on the front of the head in the shape of a V, with the point of the V in the middle of the magic ring. Then embroider a line down from the point of the V.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the eyes. Insert the 9 mm safety eyes between Rnd 8 and Rnd 9 of the head, with 7 stitches between them, before you finish stuffing the head. Press the washers on firmly from the inside. Do not attach the backings until you are happy with the eye position.

2. Attach the ears. Sew the ears to the top of the head, with about 9 stitches between each, at Rnd 13-14.

3. Attach the head to the body. Sew the head to the body so that the snout is facing straight out, attaching the body to approximately Rnd 10-15 of the bottom of the head.

4. Embroider the nose. Following the nose instructions above, embroider the V and the line down from its point in black yarn on the front of the head.

5. Attach the legs. Sew the legs between Rnd 5-6 of the body, with the inside of each leg touching in the middle.

6. Attach the arms. Sew the arms over Rnd 11-15 on each side of the body. At the top of the arms, leave approximately 11 stitches between each arm across the front of the body. At the bottom of the arms, leave approximately 16 stitches between each arm across the front of the body.

7. Attach the tail. Sew the tail over Rnd 4-5 of the back of the body.

8. Finish. Weave in all loose ends with the yarn needle, hiding them inside the body or the head so they do not show.

SAFETY NOTE

Safety eyes are not suitable for children under 3 years old, because small parts can come loose and be a choking hazard. For a sheep a small child will play with, embroider the eyes with black yarn instead: stitch two small vertical ovals in the same position, between Rnd 8 and Rnd 9, 7 stitches apart. Check every part is secure before giving the sheep to a child, and do not add beads or buttons, which can also come loose.

TIPS FOR A NEAT SHEEP

- Count at the end of every increase and decrease round. The body grows by 6 stitches on its increase rounds and shrinks by 6 on its decrease rounds. If your count is off by 6, you have missed or added one repeat; if it is off by 1 or 2, check the round you just worked before going on.
- Stuff in small pinches. Little bits at a time give a smooth, even shape with no lumps. Pull the stuffing apart into thin layers before you add it, and push it into the sides of the body rather than dropping in one big piece.
- Pin before you sew. Pin the head, ears, arms and legs in place first and step back to check the sheep looks even from the front. Lopsided limbs are the most common problem with

sewn amigurumi, and pins prevent them.

- Trust your marker on the face rounds. Rounds 7-10 of the head mix increases with plain stitches, and the marker you add in Rnd 10 shows you where the flat bottom of the head sits. Keep it in until the eyes are placed.
- Feel for stitches in fuzzy yarn. If you make the fluffy version, the stitches are hard to see. Feel for the next stitch opening with your fingers instead of looking for it, and hold a strand of smooth worsted yarn alongside the fuzzy yarn if you need more definition.

VARIATIONS

- Classic white sheep: work the whole sheep in white worsted yarn, face and all, and keep the black hooves. A white sheep with black hooves looks clean and timeless.
- Grey sheep: work the body in soft grey worsted yarn instead of white and keep the cream face and black hooves. The designer's own photos show a grey sheep next to the white one.
- Fluffy sheep in fuzzy yarn: work the body in a fuzzy baby yarn instead of smooth worsted for the closest look to real wool. The designer made Sherman this way herself. Feel for the stitches with your fingers, and count carefully.
- Plush sheep: swap the worsted yarn for a bulky chenille yarn and use a larger hook, keeping your stitches tight enough that the stuffing does not show. Increase the safety eye size too, from 9 mm to 12 mm or 15 mm, to keep the face in proportion. The finished sheep will be bigger, and no exact size is given for this version.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Nicole Chase: Sherman the Sheep, https://www.thenicolechase.com/patterns/sherman-the-sheep

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