

# Sheep

(you may need to adjust rows or number of stitches according to the type yarn you are using and the size of your stitch) **ALL knitting will be done with the tension spring in use.**



It is easiest if you remove needles from the cylinder that you will not be using and replace them as you go along. Begin with 4 needles across the front of the cylinder. Use set-up bonnet or rag to get started on scrap yarn for 3-4 rows. Begin on black yarn. (This is if you are making black-faced sheep. Otherwise use whatever color is appropriate for the breed you want to represent.)

Beginning with the legs:

Insert leg yarn through yarn carrier. Pull about 8" through to the inside. Wrap rightmost needle clockwise, leftmost needle counter clockwise, 2nd needle from right clockwise and pull the tail downward inside the cylinder, holding onto it with your scrap yarn. This is so you won't have to run the yarn through the end of the knitting at that end, as it will have a "selvege" already. Knit forward or counterclockwise 12 rounds making sure your end stitches catch. (You are forming four stitch I-cord.) Leave a 6" tail for sewing. Run end yarn through final four stitches.

Repeat three more times for other three legs. Do not remove last leg; leave tail and attach scrap yarn.

On scrap increase to 6 stitches by pulling next-door stitch from previous row up over newly added needle at each edge. Thus, you will have 8 stitches on needles for the face. Knit a couple rows on scrap to get stitches settled, then attach whatever yarn you will use for the face.

Nose & face: knit five rows; on sixth row add stitch at each end by pulling over a loop of yarn from the neighboring webbing which will form a Y at each edge (hereafter referred to as YI). If

this is a blackfaced sheep, cut yarn leaving 8-12" for sewing and forming ears. If head will be a solid color, continue without cutting yarn. Another way to increase is to move stitch from last needle outward to new needle and increase on the blank needle; use either method.

Head: Attach white yarn leaving a long enough tail for sewing closed. YI at each end of every row until you have 20 stitches in work (more if you want a plump sheep). When adding, you will need a weight of some type at each end in order to make the first and last stitch knit. Continue for length of body--20 rows or so, depending how long you want the body. (this will depend on your stitch size, so fudge it either way)

Body/butt: to form the seat end, move the last stitch at each end of the row over to the next needle (Double Decrease), removing the 2 empty needles. Continue until there are 8 stitches remaining. Leave an 8" tail for closing and knit six rows on scrap yarn.

Separate last leg by running yarn through end stitches. Leave yarn at one end and work in the tail at other end by weaving it down a wale. (If you want to shape them later, insert a wire or pipe cleaner as you sew closed.)

Run the beginning black yarn piece through the end stitches and pull tightly to form nose; sew from nose to white yarn and terminate that piece of yarn if you have a blackfaced sheep (six rows on other colored faces). The remaining black piece will eventually go up through the inside and be used to form the ears. You can pull the remainder of the yarn through the top of the head and make ears at this time if you left a long enough yarn. Use a crochet hook and chain 6 stitches folding it over to form each ear. Continue to sew about 1/2" down the neck. If the sheep is all one color, just sew from nose to neck. Do NOT terminate that piece of yarn. You will use it later to go around the neck and pull inward to shape the head. You may stuff the head at this time.

At the butt end, go through the end row of 8 stitches and pull tight. Make a small tail at this time the same way the ears were made. Continue sewing the seam down the butt and belly, leaving enough open to allow stuffing. Stuff body, then finish the seam. Use yarn at end of legs to sew them to the body. Use the yarn left at the neck to go around the neck and snug it in to make a neck shape. Add a separate piece of yarn to form ear details if you didn't do them

earlier. Add other features of your own choice such as sewn or button eyes, mouth, neck bell, hanging loop, tail, safety pin (to use your sheep as a pin), etc.

Of course, be sure to knit an all black one occasionally! Also, use appropriate coloring for different breeds of sheep, not just Suffolk. Go ahead and knit a whole flock. Metamorphasize into other critters too--horns for a goat, for example. They're adorable for Christmas ornaments, table decorations, gift toppers, toys, sock machine mascots, pin, etc.