ROWAN
purelife™

Sheep Toys

by Janice Anderson

YARN
Rowan Purelife British Sheep Breeds DK
Leicester
A Blue Faced Leicester 780
        1   x 50gm
Oddment of yarn B (Brown Blue Faced Leicester 781) for embroidery
Suffolk
A Blue Faced Leicester 780
        1   x 50gm
B Brown Blue Faced Leicester 781
        1   x 50gm
Jacob
A Brown Blue Faced Leicester 781
        1   x 50gm
B Blue Faced Leicester 780
        1   x 50gm
C Mid Brown Blue Faced Leicester 782
        1   x 50gm
Small amount of yarn D (Blue Faced Leicester/Grey Suffolk 784) for curled horns

NEEDLES
1 pair 3¼mm (no 10) (US 3) needles

EXTRAS
Washable toy filling
Dried peas or beans
Piece of lightweight fabric approx 8 cm x 12 cm

TENSION
27 sts and 36 rows to 10 cm measured over st st using 3¼mm (US 3) needles.

FINISHED SIZE
Completed sheep sits approx 16 cm (6¼ins) tall.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS
M1R = insert left needle point under strand lying between needles from back to front thereby lifting this loop onto left needle, K into front of this loop (to twist it and avoid a hole forming); **M1L** = insert left needle point under strand lying between needles from front to back thereby lifting this loop onto left needle, K into back of this loop (to twist it and avoid a hole forming); **ssk** = (slip next st knitwise onto right needle) twice, insert left needle point into these 2 sts from front to back and K these 2 sts tog.

Leicester

BODY AND HEAD
Using 3¼mm (US 3) needles and yarn A cast on 52 sts.
Beg with a K row, work in st st throughout as folls:
Work 12 rows.
Row 13 (RS): K5, (K2tog, K8) 4 times, K2tog, K5. 47 sts.
Work 5 rows.
Row 19: K5, (K2tog, K7) 4 times, K2tog, K4. 42 sts.
Work 5 rows.
Row 25: K4, (K2tog, K6) 4 times, K2tog, K4. 37 sts.
Work 3 rows.
Row 29: K4, (K2tog, K5) 4 times, K2tog, K3. 32 sts.
Work 3 rows.
Row 33: K3, (K2tog, K4) 4 times, K2tog, K3. 27 sts.
Work 1 row.
Row 35: (K3, K2tog) 5 times, K2. 22 sts.
Work 1 row.
Row 37: (K2, K2tog) 5 times, K2. 17 sts.
Work 1 row.
Row 39: K2, (K2tog, K1) 5 times. 12 sts.
Work 5 rows.
Shape head
Row 45 (RS): Slip first 4 sts onto a holder (for first side of head), rejoin new length of yarn to next st and K4, slip rem 4 sts onto another holder (for second side of head).

Work on this centre set of 4 sts only for chin, and top and back of head.

Work 3 rows.

Row 49: K1, M1R, K2, M1L, K1. 6 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 51: K1, M1R, K2, M1L, K1. 8 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 53: K1, M1R, K4, M1L, K1. 10 sts.

Work 3 rows.

Row 57: K1, ssk, K4, K2tog, K1. 8 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 59: K1, ssk, K2, K2tog, K1. 6 sts.

Work 5 rows.

Place markers at both ends of last row.

Work 6 rows.

Row 71: K1, M1R, K4, M1L, K1. 8 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 73: K1, M1R, K6, M1L, K1. 10 sts.

Work 5 rows.

Row 79: K1, M1R, K8, M1L, K1. 12 sts.

Work 10 rows.

Row 90 (WS): Knit.

Work 4 rows.

Row 95: K1, ssk, K6, K2tog, K1. 10 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 97: K1, ssk, K4, K2tog, K1. 8 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 99: K1, ssk, K2, K2tog, K1. 6 sts.

Row 100: P1, P2tog, P2tog tbl, P1. 4 sts.

Row 101: K1, ssk, K1. 3 sts.

Row 102: Slip first st purlwise, P2tog, psso and fasten off.

Shape first side of head

Slip 4 sts from first holder onto left needle and, using yarn left with these sts, K4, then pick up and knit 11 sts along row-end edge to marker. 15 sts.

Beg with a P row, work in st st throughout as folls:

Work 5 rows.

Row 6 (RS): K11, wrap next st (by slipping next st on left needle onto right needle, taking yarn to opposite side of work between needles and then slipping same st back onto left needle – when working across wrapped sts work the wrapped st and the wrapping loop tog) and turn.

Row 7: P11.

Row 8: K10, wrap next st and turn.

Row 9: P10.

Row 10: K9, wrap next st and turn.

Row 11: P9.

Cast off all 15 sts.

Shape second side of head

Beg at marker along other side of centre section, rejoin yarn and pick up and knit 11 sts along row-end edge to sts left on second holder, then K these 4 sts. 15 sts.

Beg with a P row, work in st st throughout as folls:

Work 4 rows.

Row 5 (WS): P11, wrap next st and turn.

Row 6: K11.

Row 7: P10, wrap next st and turn.

Row 8: K10.

Row 9: P9, wrap next st and turn.

Row 10: K9.

Work 1 row across all 15 sts.

Cast off.

BASE

Place markers along cast-on edge of body 17 sts in from each end of row – 18 sts between markers.

With RS facing, using 3¼mm (US 3) needles and yarn A pick up and knit 18 sts between markers.

Beg with a P row, work in st st throughout as folls:

Work 1 row.

Row 2 (RS): K1, ssk, K12, K2tog, K1. 16 sts.

Work 3 rows.

Row 6: K1, ssk, K10, K2tog, K1. 14 sts.

Work 3 rows.

Row 10: K1, ssk, K8, K2tog, K1. 12 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 12: K1, ssk, K6, K2tog, K1. 10 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 14: K1, ssk, K4, K2tog, K1. 8 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 16: K1, ssk, K2, K2tog, K1. 6 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 18: K1, ssk, K2tog, K1. 4 sts.

Work 1 row.

Cast off.

LEGS (make 4)

Using 3¼mm (US 3) needles and yarn A cast on 30 sts.

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K10, wrap next st and turn.

Row 4: P to end.

Rows 5 to 12: As rows 1 to 4, twice.

Rows 13 and 14: As rows 1 and 2.

Cast off.

EARS (make 2)

Using 3¼mm (US 3) needles and yarn A cast on 3 sts.

Beg with a P row, work in st st throughout as folls:

Work 1 row.

Row 2 (RS): K1, M1R, K1, M1L, K1. 5 sts.

Work 3 rows.

Row 6: Ssk, K1, K2tog. 3 sts.

Work 1 row.

Row 8: Sl 1, K2tog, psso and fasten off.

MAKING UP

Press as described on the information page.

Using mattress stitch for all seams, join sections as folls:

Join row-end edges of body section from cast-on edge to base of neck. Join centre section of head to side head pieces as folls: join row-end edges of centre section to cast-off edge of side sections, matching g st ridge of centre section to back end of side section. Now sew row-end edge of last (triangular) section of centre section to row-end edges of side sections, matching centre section fasten-off point to top of back seam.

Insert toy filling into head, neck and body so that toy remains quite soft. Make a little bag out of the fabric oddment that is roughly the same size as the knitted base piece. Fill this with the dried peas or beans and stitch bag closed. Matching fasten-off point of base to back seam, sew row-end edges of base to rem cast-on edges of body, inserting bag of peas (or beans) before closing seam.

Join cast-on and cast-off edges of legs with **wrong** sides facing to form a long thin tube. Turn RS out, so that seam is visible, and turn back wider end of tube to form foot as in photograph. Placing seam underneath sheep, sew a leg to each front corner of base. Placing seam at top, sew rem pair of legs to back seam at base of neck.

Sew cast-on edges of ears to top of head along g st ridge row as in photograph – attach ears so that purl side faces forward.

Using photograph as a guide and yarn B, embroider face onto head

– for eyes, embroidery 2 long straight stitches using yarn double, and for nose embroider 2 straight stitches to form a V shape using single strand of yarn.

Suffolk

BODY AND HEAD
Work as given for body and head of leicester to end of row 39.
Break off yarn A and join in yarn B.
Complete as given for leicester but using yarn B.

BASE
Work as given for base of leicester.

LEGS (make 4)
Work as given for legs of leicester but using yarn B.

EARS (make 2)
Using 3¼mm (US 3) needles and yarn B cast on 3 sts.
Beg with a P row, work in st st throughout as folls:
Work 1 row.
Row 2 (RS): K1, M1R, K1, M1L, K1. 5 sts.
Work 3 rows.
Row 6: K1, M1R, K3, M1L, K1. 7 sts.
Work 5 rows.
Row 12: Ssk, K3, K2tog. 5 sts.
Work 1 row.
Row 14: Ssk, K1, K2tog. 3 sts.
Work 1 row.
Row 16: Sl 1, K2tog, psso and fasten off.

MAKING UP
Work as given for leicester, using yarn A for face embroidery.

Jacob

BODY AND HEAD
Following chart and using the intarsia method as described on the information page, work as given for body and head of leicester to end of row 39.
Break off yarns A and B and join in yarn C.
Complete as given for leicester but using yarn C.

BASE
Work as given for base of leicester.

LEGS (make 4)
Work as given for legs of leicester but using yarn C.

EARS (make 2)
Work as given for ears of leicester but using yarn C.

CURLED HORNS (make 2)
Using 3¼mm (US 3) needles and yarn D cast on 25 sts.
Beg with a K row, work in st st throughout as folls:
Work 2 rows.
Row 3 (RS): K20, wrap next st and turn.
Row 4: Purl.
Row 5: K15, wrap next st and turn.
Row 6: Purl.
Row 7: K10, wrap next st and turn.
Row 8: Purl.
Row 9: K10, wrap next st and turn.
Row 10: Purl.
Work 2 rows across all sts.
Cast off.

STRAIGHT HORNS (make 2)
Using 3¼mm (US 3) needles and yarn B cast on 12 sts.
Beg with a K row, work in st st throughout as folls:
Work 2 rows.
Row 3 (RS): K9, wrap next st and turn.
Row 4: Purl.
Row 5: K6, wrap next st and turn.
Row 6: Purl.
Row 7: K3, wrap next st and turn.
Row 8: Purl.
Work 2 rows across all sts.
Cast off.

MAKING UP
Work as given for leicester.
Join cast-on and cast-off edges of curled horns to form a tiny cone shapes – pull yarn tight whilst sewing seam so that horn begins to curl as in photograph. Fasten off securely when horn has curled sufficiently. Sew this pair of horns to top of head directly behind ears.
Join cast-on and cast-off edges of straight horns to form a tiny cone shapes. Sew this pair of horns to top of head directly between curled horns.

key
☐ A
◉ B

ROWAN