

Frankie's Knitted Stuff

Sheep in Sheep's Clothing

The same pattern can be used to knit either a sheep (8cm / 3¼" from head to tail) or a lamb (6cm / 2½"). The sheep is worked in double knitting on 3mm needles and the lamb in 4 ply on 2mm. Their coats are removable so they could have several and change them to suit their (or their owner's) mood!



Materials

Small amount of either double knitting or 4 ply in cream for sheep
Small amount of either double knitting or 4 ply for coat
Toy stuffing
Length of brown 4 ply for features
Either 3mm / US size 2½ needles (sheep) or 2mm / US size 0 (lamb).

Method

Begin by making the sheep. The body and legs are knitted first and are worked all in one piece.

Using cream wool cast on 31 sts.

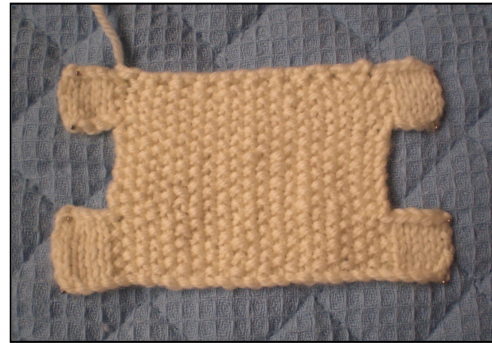
The 5 sts at each end of the needle are for the sheep's back legs and the centre 21 sts are its body. Keeping the leg sts in stocking stitch and the body sts in moss st (K1, P1 to end on every row) work 6 rows. Now cast off 5 sts at the start of the next 2 rows. That's the back legs done.

Work 14 more rows in moss st for the body and then cast on 5 sts at the start of the next 2 rows for the front legs.

Work 6 rows for the front legs as before, keeping the 5 sts at each end in stocking stitch and the 21 body sts in moss st. Cast off 5 sts at the start of the next 2 rows. Cast off the remaining sts in pattern, leaving a long end of yarn for sewing up.

Your knitting should now look something like this. The cast off edge at the top of the picture is the sheep's front with the wool still attached ready to begin the sewing up.

To turn this flat thing into a sheep's body fold it in half with the wrong sides together and oversew the front seam. Thread the yarn back down to the bottom of this seam and shape each of the front legs in turn as follows:



Roll the leg up tightly and oversew.

Bring the needle out at the foot end of the leg, put it back in near to where it came out and thread back up the middle of the leg.

Pull on yarn to curl the end of the leg for the foot and secure with a small stitch.

When both front legs are complete oversew the body seam and then shape the two back legs in the same way.
Stuff the body firmly and oversew the back seam to finish.

The Head and Other Bits

The head is worked in stocking stitch.

Cast on 5 sts.

Increase in the first st of every row (by knitting or purling into the front and back of the stitch) until you have 15 sts on your needle.

Work 2 rows without shaping.

Now decrease at the start of every row (SSK on knit rows and P2tog on purl) until you are back to 5 sts.

Cast off, gather the edge to form a rounded shape and sew to the body.

Using brown 4 ply embroider French knots for the eyes and a straight stitch for the mouth.

The ears are simply knitted by casting on 5 sts and then casting them off again. The tail is made in the same way but with 10 sts.
Sew the ears and tail on to complete your sheep.



Coat

Using whatever yarn you or your sheep fancy cast on 20 sts and knit 4 rows.

Next row: Purl to last 2 sts, K2

Next row: Knit

The pattern set with these two rows should be maintained while shaping the coat as follows:

P2tog at the start of the next and alternate rows until you have 15 sts.

Now work 3 rows in pattern without shaping.

Now increase in the first stitch of the next and alternate rows until you have 23 sts.

Work 3 more rows in pattern without shaping.

Knit 3 rows and cast off purlwise.

With the right side facing pick up and knit 30 sts between the garter stitch bands along the shaped neck edge. Cast off knitwise. Fold the coat in half, join the front seam and the garter st bands on the back seam.

Abbreviations

St	stitch
Sts	stitches
K	knit
P	purl
SSK	slip, slip, knit (see below)
P2tog	purl 2 together

slip, slip, knit slip 2 sts knitwise (or knitwise followed by purlwise) one at a time, insert tip of left needle into sts from above, put yarn round right needle and knit both sts together.



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