

Flock of Sheep Rod Puppet Construction Instructions

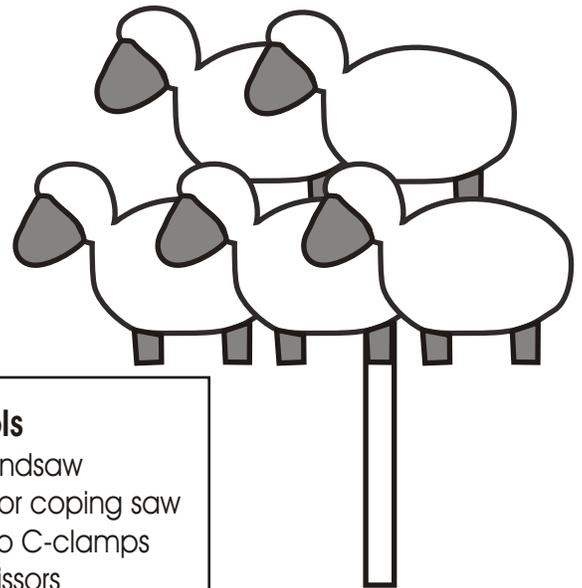
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Materials

- Screen door molding (1/4" x 3/4", 2' long)
- White foamcore - 1/4 inch thick
- White, fluffy, short nap fake fur or fleece
- White elastic - 1/2 inch
- Thin cardboard
- Black acrylic paint
- Fabric adhesive (Fabri-Tac)
- Wood glue
- Masking tape

Tools

- Bandsaw
or coping saw
- Two C-clamps
- Scissors
- Paint brush



Step 1 - Cutting out the sheep

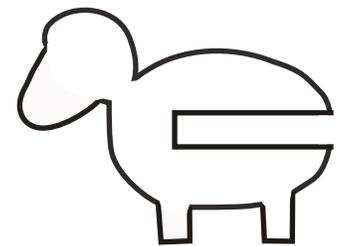
Using the sheep pattern, cut out nine sheep from the white foam core. This is easiest to do with a bandsaw, but a coping saw will also work. With a bandsaw, you can cut out several sheep at once by stacking several 8" X 6" blocks of foamcore together and taping them on the sides with masking tape. The pattern should be traced onto the top block. Cut a notch 3/4 inch wide from only one sheep as shown on the pattern. The notch will allow this lead sheep to be attached firmly to the support rod.

Step 2 - Painting the sheep

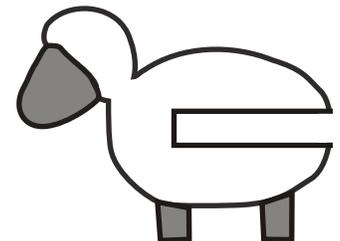
Only the nose and feet of each sheep need to be painted black. The feet should all be painted on both sides. When your sheep are complete, the lead sheep will be seen from both sides and there will be four sheep only seen facing right and four sheep only seen facing left. The noses can be painted on just the side that will be seen.

Step 3 - Constructing the Support Rod

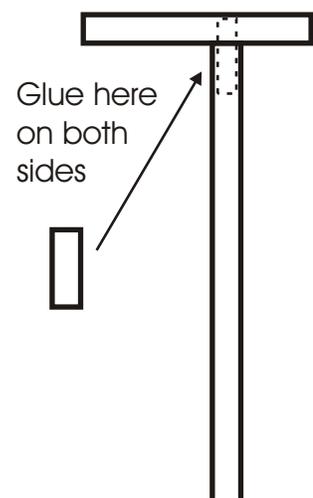
The support rod is made of 1/4" X 3/4" screen door molding, which is usually pine. Cut four pieces of molding 12", 6", 2" and 2" in length. The 6" piece sits on top of the 12" piece horizontally as shown. The 6" piece is not centered on the 12" piece. It will stick out 1 3/4" on one side and 3 1/2" on the other side. The 2" pieces are glued on either side with wood glue. The pieces should be clamped together until the glue dries.



Step 1 - Notched, Unpainted Lead Sheep



Step 2 - Painted Lead Sheep



Step 3 - Support Rod

Step 4 - Attaching the lead sheep

The lead sheep is the only sheep directly attached to the support rod. Slide the support rod into the notch and glue the edges. Cut two pieces of thin cardboard that will go across the notch and glue them to the support rod and the sheep on both sides.

Step 5 - Fleecing the sheep

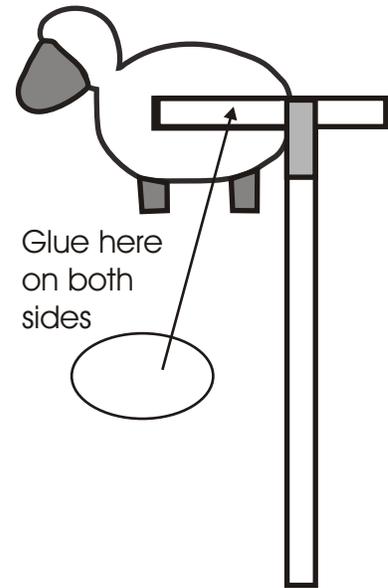
Using just the white part of the sheep pattern this time, cut out ten sheep pieces of fleece from the white fake fur or fleece. Five should be facing right and five facing left. Glue the fleece to both sides of the lead sheep on the support rod using the fabric adhesive. Glue fleece to just the front side of each of the other foamcore sheep.

Step 6 - Attaching the top sheep

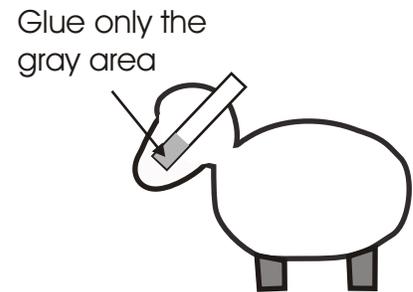
Now we are getting to the tricky part. We'll try to take it step by step. From here on out, everything will be attached with elastic and fabric glue. It can be helpful to temporarily attach the elastic in each step with masking tape first to see that the elastic is positioned correctly before gluing.

A) Cut a 3 inch piece of elastic. The elastic will be used to attach together the two top sheep (one left facing and one right facing) at the head. The ends of the elastic are glued on the inside of each head as shown. 3/4 inch of the elastic is glued to each head, so there is a 1 1/2 inch loop of elastic between the heads. This elastic loop will rest on the back of the lead sheep, when the top sheep are completely attached. It is not glued to the lead sheep.

B) Cut a 7 inch piece of elastic. Fold the elastic in half and glue the middle of the elastic to both sides of the support rod 1/2 inch from the end as shown, also glue the elastic to the elastic on the other side 1/4 inch above the support rod.

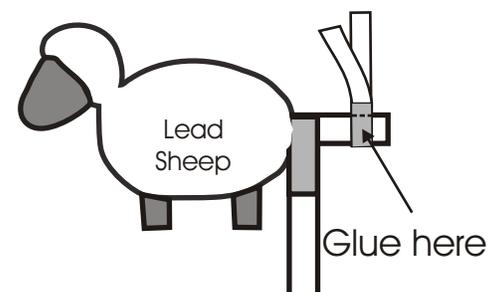


Step 4 - Attaching the lead sheep



Fold the elastic in half and glue the other end to the same spot on the other top sheep

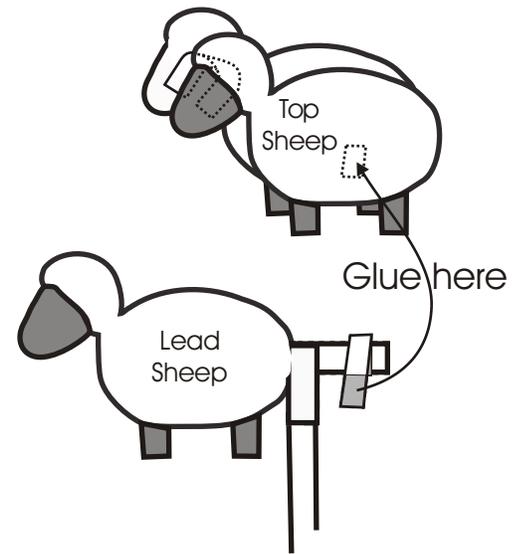
Step 6A - Attaching the top sheep



Step 6B - Attaching the top sheep

Step 6 - Attaching the top sheep (cont'd)

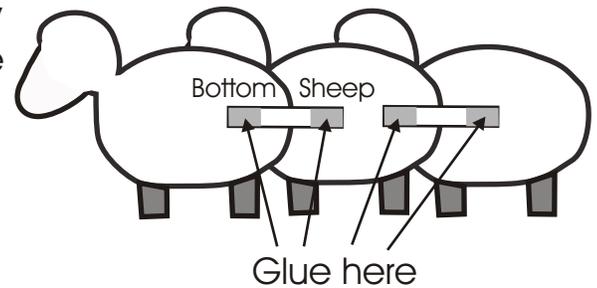
C) Take the elastic that was just glued to the support rod and fold it down on either side of the support rod. Position the two top sheep on either side of the elastic. The front legs of the sheep should line up with the vertical support rod. The elastic loop between the heads of the top sheep will rest on the back of the lead sheep. Glue the two ends of the elastic (3/4 inch) to the inside bellies of the two top sheep as shown.



Step 6C - Attaching the top sheep

Step 7 - Connecting the bottom sheep together

Cut four pieces of elastic each 3 inches long. Lay out the bottom sheep fleece side down. Glue the elastic to the sheep as shown.



Step 7 - Connecting the bottom sheep together

Step 8 - Suspending the bottom sheep

Cut six pieces of elastic each 3 inches long.

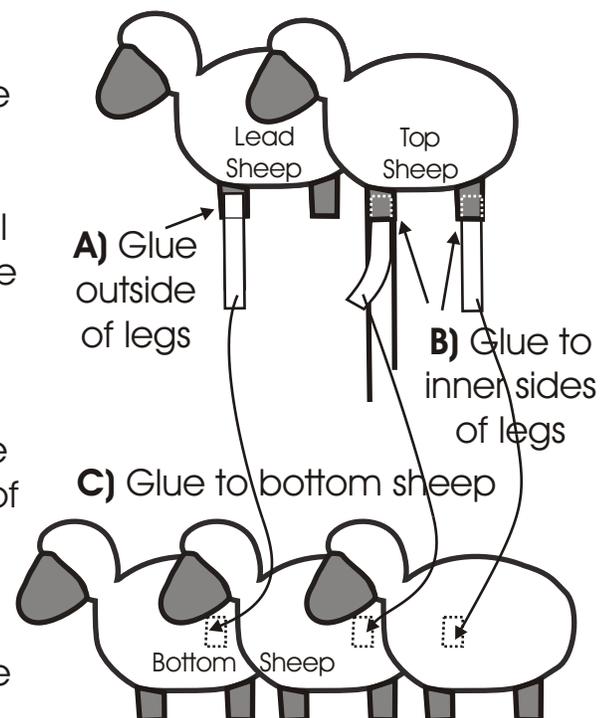
A) Glue a piece of elastic to both sides of the front leg of the lead sheep.

B) Glue a piece of elastic to the inner side of each leg of the other two top sheep.

C) Glue the bottom of each piece of elastic to one of the bottom sheep as shown. This step is particularly tricky to get the bottom sheep balanced, so that they all hang straight. It is helpful to attach the elastic with masking tape to adjust the placement before gluing.

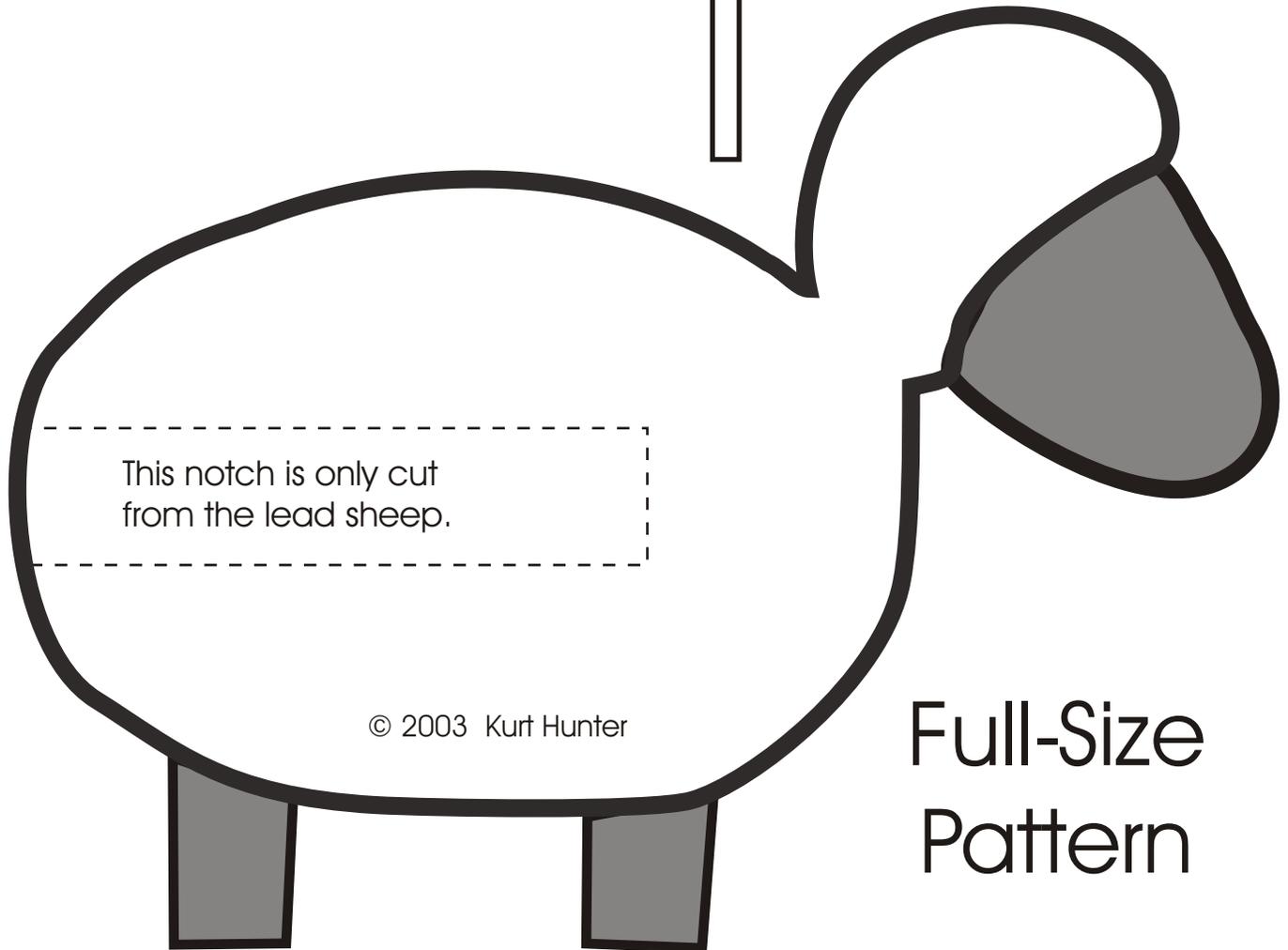
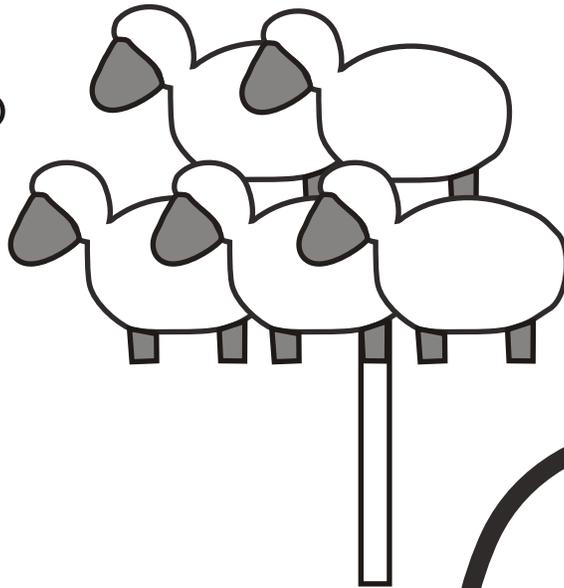
Step 9 - Finish the bottom sheep

Cut two pieces of elastic each 3 inches long. Glue the ends of one piece of elastic to the inner sides of the noses of the two front sheep that are on either side of the bottom row. Leave a loop of elastic, so that the noses are kept within a 1/2 inch of each other. Glue the other piece to the inner sides of the tails of the two back sheep on either side of the bottom row. Leave a loop of elastic, so that the tails are kept within 3/4 inch of each other.



Step 8 - Suspending the bottom sheep

Completed
Flock of Sheep
Rod Puppet



Full-Size
Pattern

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

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