



WOOLLY THE CUDDLY SHEEP

FREE KNITTING PATTERN

A seated plush sheep with smooth stockinette features and soft boucle fleece



SKILL LEVEL
Intermediate

METHOD
Mostly in the round

FINISHED HEIGHT
25-27 cm / 9.75-10.5 in

1. Pattern Overview

A compact roadmap before you begin

This pattern makes a softly rounded seated sheep with a textured fleece body and cap, a smooth knitted face and limbs, floppy double-layer ears, and simple embroidered details. The body, head, muzzle, wool cap, arms, legs and tail are worked in the round; the ear panels are worked flat and seamed in pairs. Small-circumference knitting, basic shaping, stuffing, seaming and simple embroidery are used throughout.

Contents

1	Pattern Overview	2
2	Finished Size	2
3	Materials and Tools	3
4	Gauge and Safety	3
5	Abbreviations and Method	4
6	Construction Overview	4
7	Body	5
8	Head	6
9	Muzzle and Wool Cap	7
10	Arms and Legs	8
11	Ears and Tail	9
12	Head Placement Map	10
13	Body Placement Map	11
14	Assembly	12-13
15	Stuffing and Troubleshooting	14
16	Final Checklist	15

2. Finished Size

Seated height	Approx. 25-27 cm / 9.75-10.5 in
Overall width, ear tip to ear tip	Approx. 20-22 cm / 7.75-8.75 in
Body width at fullest point	Approx. 12-13 cm / 4.75-5.25 in
Head width	Approx. 10-11 cm / 4-4.25 in
Arm length	Approx. 8.5-9 cm / 3.25-3.5 in
Leg length	Approx. 9-10 cm / 3.5-4 in
Ear size	Approx. 7-8 x 3.5-4.5 cm / 2.75-3 x 1.5-1.75 in
Tail diameter	Approx. 2.5-3 cm / 1-1.25 in

Finished size may vary depending on yarn, needle size, tension, stuffing and individual technique.

3. Materials and Tools

Choose dense, resilient fabrics that hold stuffing securely

Smooth cream yarn	Aran / worsted weight (#4), preferably cotton, cotton-acrylic or smooth acrylic. Approx. 100 g / 170-200 m / 185-220 yd.
Cream boucle or teddy yarn	Bulky weight (#5), soft but with a visible underlying stitch structure. Approx. 120 g / 110-150 m / 120-165 yd.
Black yarn or embroidery thread	Approx. 2-3 m / 2-3 yd for nose, mouth, eyebrows and hoof lines.
Smooth-yarn needles	4.0 mm / US 6 DPNs, or an 80 cm / 32 in circular needle for magic loop.
Boucle-yarn needles	4.5 mm / US 7 DPNs, or an 80 cm / 32 in circular needle for magic loop.
Eyes	2 x 12 mm safety eyes, or black yarn for embroidered eyes.
Stuffing	Approx. 120-160 g polyester fibre fill.
Notions	Locking or ring stitch markers, tapestry needle, pins, scissors and measuring tape.

4. Gauge and Tension

- Smooth stockinette in the round: 18 sts x 26 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in on 4.0 mm needles.
- Boucle stockinette in the round: 14 sts x 22 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in on 4.5 mm needles.
- For the flat ear panels, aim for the same smooth-yarn gauge measured in stockinette.
- Use the needle size that gives a firm fabric with no visible gaps when lightly stretched. Gauge is measured relaxed and before stuffing.
- Boucle can hide stitch legs. Count the underlying knitted stitches rather than the projecting loops, and place temporary markers every 8 sts while shaping if helpful.

SAFETY

Safety eyes and other small or rigid components may not be suitable for projects intended for children under three years. Embroidered eyes can be used instead.

5. Abbreviations and Method

Standard knitting terminology

Abbreviation	Meaning
BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CO	cast on
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together; decreases 1 st
kfb	knit into the front and back of the same stitch; increases 1 st
p	purl
rnd/rnds	round / rounds
RS	right side
ssk	slip 1 knitwise twice, return both stitches to the left needle, knit them together through the back loops; decreases 1 st
st/sts	stitch / stitches
WS	wrong side

Method and Orientation

- All circular pieces are knitted in stockinette with the RS facing outward; do not turn between rounds.
- Place a BOR marker at the join and move it up each round. Keep the head and body BOR at centre back. Keep limb BORs toward the back or inner side.
- When stitch positions are given, count from the BOR in the knitting direction. On a 56-st round, centre front lies between sts 28 and 29, and the side lines lie between sts 14/15 and 42/43.
- Right and left are described from the finished sheep's point of view unless stated otherwise.
- For every cast-on centre, use the beginning tail to snug any small central gap after the first few rounds.

6. Construction Overview

Piece	Method	Stuffing / closure	Assembly note
Body - make 1	Boucle, in the round	Stuff firmly; gather closed	Main seated form
Head - make 1	Smooth yarn, in the round	Place eyes before decreases; stuff firmly; gather closed	Sewn to top of body
Muzzle - make 1	Smooth yarn, in the round	Lightly stuffed; gather closed	Sewn to lower front of head
Wool cap - make 1	Boucle, in the round	Unstuffed; bind off loosely	Pinned first; ears attach beneath edge
Arms - make 2	Smooth yarn, in the round	Lower 2/3 lightly stuffed; top kept soft	Top edge flattened for attachment
Legs - make 2	Smooth yarn, in the round	Feet firm; upper leg moderate to soft	Top edge flattened; hoof lines added before sewing
Ear panels - make 4	Smooth yarn, flat	Unstuffed; seam 2 panels per ear; base left open	Ear base sewn beneath cap edge
Tail - make 1	Boucle, in the round	Lightly stuffed; gather closed	Sewn to centre back

7. Body

Boucle yarn - work in the round from the base upward

CO 8 sts with the 4.5 mm needles. Join to work in the round, taking care not to twist. Place BOR at centre back.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in each st around.	16
Rnd 2	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
Rnd 3	K around.	24
Rnd 4	(K2, kfb) 8 times.	32
Rnd 5	K around.	32
Rnd 6	(K3, kfb) 8 times.	40
Rnd 7	K around.	40
Rnd 8	(K4, kfb) 8 times.	48
Rnd 9	K around.	48
Rnd 10	(K5, kfb) 8 times.	56
Rnds 11-26	K around.	56
Rnd 27	(K5, k2tog) 8 times.	48
Rnd 28	K around.	48
Rnd 29	(K4, k2tog) 8 times.	40
Rnd 30	K around.	40
Rnd 31	(K3, k2tog) 8 times.	32
Rnd 32	K around.	32
Rnd 33	(K2, k2tog) 8 times.	24

STUFFING

After Rnd 33, stuff the lower body and sides firmly without stretching the boucle fabric. Keep the underside slightly flatter and leave the top 2-3 cm / about 1 in a little more flexible for the head join.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
Rnd 34	K around. Add final stuffing as needed.	24
Rnd 35	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16
Rnd 36	K2tog around.	8

Cut yarn, leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail. Thread the tail through the remaining 8 sts, draw closed and secure. Use the CO tail to close any tiny gap at the base, then bury the tail inside the body.

SHAPE CHECK

The finished body should be rounded through the belly, slightly flatter underneath, and narrower at the upper chest. Redistribute stuffing before moving on if the base rolls excessively.

8. Head

Smooth cream yarn - work from crown to lower head

CO 8 sts with the 4.0 mm needles. Join to work in the round. Place BOR at centre back.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in each st around.	16
Rnd 2	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
Rnd 3	K around.	24
Rnd 4	(K2, kfb) 8 times.	32
Rnd 5	K around.	32
Rnd 6	(K3, kfb) 8 times.	40
Rnd 7	K around.	40
Rnd 8	(K4, kfb) 8 times.	48
Rnd 9	K around.	48
Rnd 10	(K5, kfb) 8 times.	56
Rnds 11-24	K around.	56

EYE PLACEMENT

Before working the decreases, place the eye stems between Head Rnds 18 and 19. With BOR at centre back, place one stem in the gap between sts 23/24 and the other between sts 33/34. The stems sit symmetrically across centre front. Check that they are level before securing the washers inside. If using embroidered eyes, leave the fabric unpierced and add them during face finishing.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
Rnd 25	(K5, k2tog) 8 times.	48
Rnd 26	K around.	48
Rnd 27	(K4, k2tog) 8 times.	40
Rnd 28	K around.	40
Rnd 29	(K3, k2tog) 8 times.	32
Rnd 30	K around. Begin stuffing the crown, sides and cheeks.	32
Rnd 31	(K2, k2tog) 8 times.	24
Rnd 32	K around. Add stuffing; keep the lower front smooth rather than hard-packed.	24
Rnd 33	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16
Rnd 34	K2tog around.	8

Finish stuffing through the opening so the head is evenly rounded and the eye line stays level. Cut yarn, thread through the remaining 8 sts, draw closed and secure. Bury the tail. Snug the crown CO tail if needed.

HEAD SHAPE

Aim for a softly oval head with a full forehead and cheeks. Do not overpack the lower front; the muzzle will sit there later and should not be forced outward by hard stuffing.

9. Muzzle and Wool Cap

Two small pieces that define the face and fleece

Muzzle - smooth cream yarn, make 1

CO 8 sts with 4.0 mm needles. Join in the round. Keep BOR on the underside/back of the muzzle.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in each st around.	16
Rnd 2	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
Rnds 3-7	K around.	24
Rnd 8	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16
Rnd 9	K2tog around.	8

Before closing, add a small amount of stuffing. The muzzle should stay softly rounded and slightly compressible. Cut yarn, draw through the remaining 8 sts and close. Leave a 35 cm / 14 in sewing tail. Gently shape the piece into an oval approximately 4-4.5 cm / 1.5-1.75 in wide.

Wool Cap - boucle yarn, make 1

CO 8 sts with 4.5 mm needles. Join in the round. The BOR will sit at the back of the cap.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in each st around.	16
Rnd 2	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
Rnd 3	K around.	24
Rnd 4	(K2, kfb) 8 times.	32
Rnd 5	K around.	32
Rnd 6	(K3, kfb) 8 times.	40
Rnds 7-13	K around.	40

BO all 40 sts loosely. Do not stuff. Leave a 50 cm / 20 in tail for sewing. The cap should stretch gently over the crown without flattening the head.

BOUCLE HANDLING

If the boucle loops hide the next stitch, spread the fabric with your fingers and locate the underlying knitted loop. Keep the working yarn behind the projecting fleece rather than pulling the loops through the stitch path.

10. Arms and Legs

Smooth cream yarn - knit matching pairs

Arms - make 2

CO 8 sts with 4.0 mm needles. Join in the round. Keep BOR toward the back/inner side of each arm.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in each st around.	16
Rnds 2-18	K around.	16
Rnd 19	(K2, k2tog) 4 times.	12
Rnds 20-22	K around.	12

Stuff the lower two-thirds lightly to moderately, leaving the upper 2 cm / 0.75 in soft. BO all 12 sts loosely and leave a 35 cm / 14 in sewing tail. Flatten the top so the front and back layers lie together, forming 6 matched pairs.

Legs - make 2

CO 8 sts with 4.0 mm needles. Join in the round. Keep BOR on the underside/back of each leg.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in each st around.	16
Rnd 2	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
Rnds 3-7	K around.	24
Rnd 8	(K4, k2tog) 4 times.	20
Rnds 9-16	K around.	20
Rnd 17	(K3, k2tog) 4 times.	16
Rnds 18-24	K around.	16

Stuff the foot end firmly enough to hold its rounded shape. Stuff the upper leg moderately and keep the top 2 cm / 0.75 in soft. BO all 16 sts loosely, leave a 40 cm / 16 in tail, and flatten the top into 8 matched pairs.

HOOF LINES

Before attaching the legs, use black yarn to embroider a shallow curved line around the front third of each foot, about 1-1.2 cm / 3/8-1/2 in behind the toe. Use 4-5 small backstitches and mirror the curve on both feet. Add one short centre division stitch only if you want a slightly more defined hoof.

11. Ears and Tail

Flat double-layer ears plus a small boucle tail

Ear Panels - make 4 in smooth cream yarn

Work flat with 4.0 mm needles. The CO edge is the ear base. Stockinette rows alternate knit on RS rows and purl on WS rows.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
CO	CO 6 sts.	6
Row 1 (RS)	Kfb, k4, kfb.	8
Row 2 (WS)	P across.	8
Row 3	Kfb, k6, kfb.	10
Row 4	P across.	10
Rows 5-14	Work in stockinette, keeping 10 sts.	10
Row 15	Ssk, k6, k2tog.	8
Row 16	P across.	8
Row 17	Ssk, k4, k2tog.	6
Row 18	P across.	6
Row 19	Ssk, k2, k2tog.	4
Row 20	P across.	4

BO the remaining 4 sts knitwise on the next RS row. Make 4 panels total. For each ear, place 2 panels WS together with RS facing outward. Mattress stitch from one side of the CO edge, around the side and tip, and down the opposite side. Leave the 6-st CO base open. Do not stuff. Flatten the ear and gently curve the tip downward.

Tail - boucle yarn, make 1

CO 6 sts with 4.5 mm needles and join in the round.

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	Kfb in each st around.	12
Rnds 2-4	K around.	12
Rnd 5	K2tog around.	6

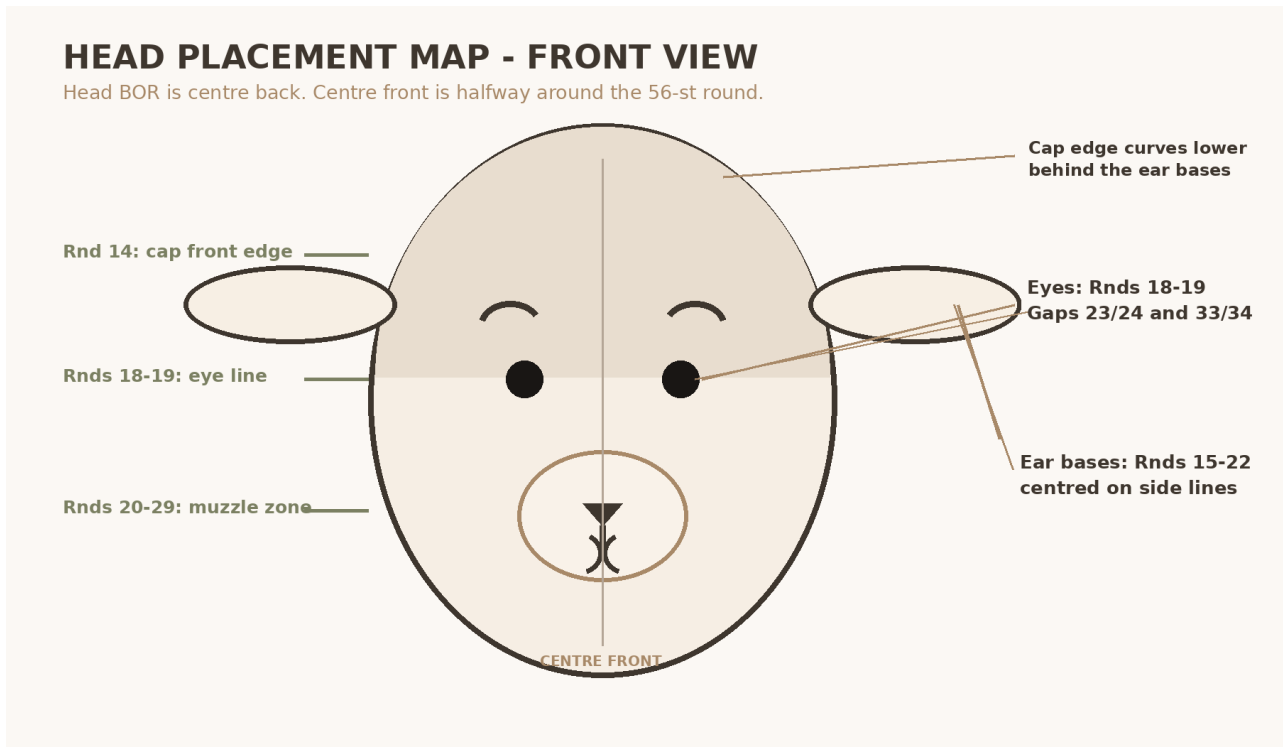
Add a tiny amount of stuffing before the opening becomes too small. Cut yarn, draw through the remaining 6 sts and close. Leave a 30 cm / 12 in sewing tail.

EAR PAIR CHECK

Lay the completed ears side by side before assembly. Their base widths, total lengths and tip curves should match. Small differences can usually be corrected by reshaping the mattress seam with your fingers.

12. Head Placement Map

Pin all face and head pieces before permanent sewing



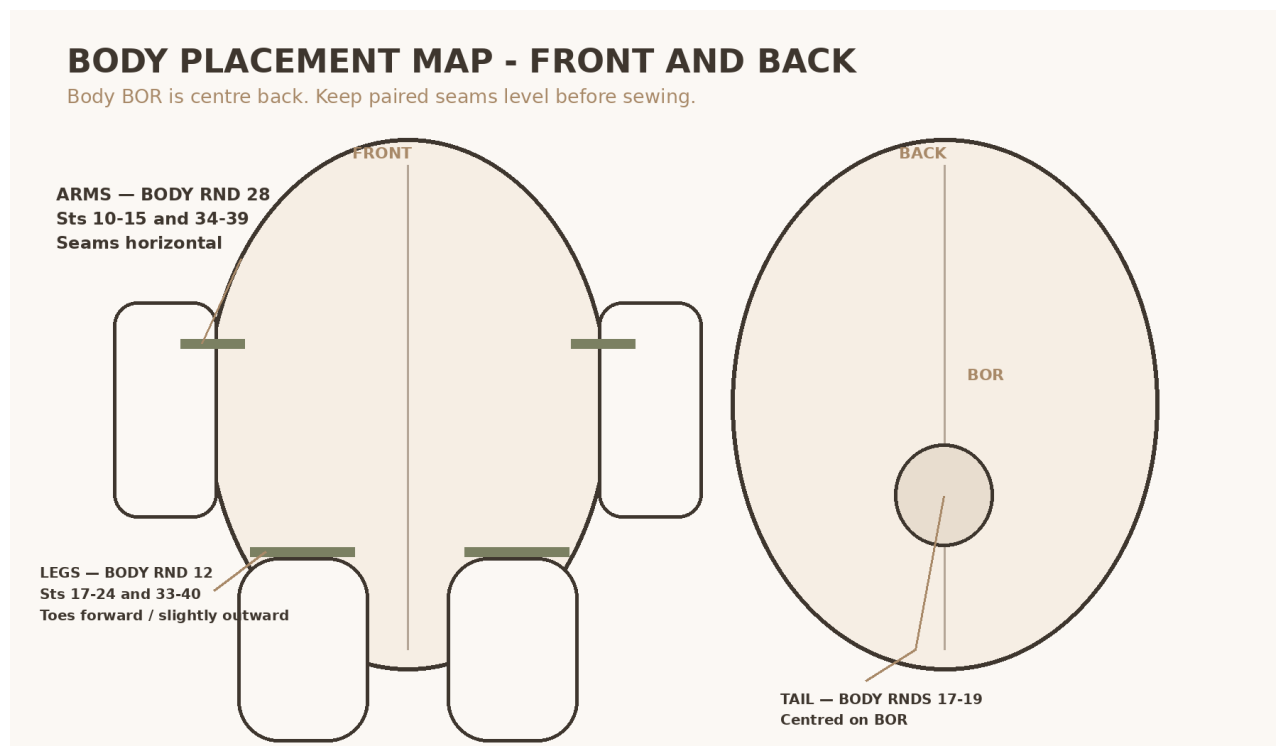
- Eyes: between Head Rnds 18 and 19 at the gaps 23/24 and 33/34 on the 56-st section.
- Muzzle: centre it on the front over approximately Head Rnds 20-29, with its vertical centre aligned to centre front between sts 28/29.
- Eyebrows: place them over Head Rnds 15-16, about 2-3 sts wide, mirrored above the eyes.
- **Ears:** each open 6-st base spans approximately Head Rnds 15-22, centred on the side lines between sts 14/15 and 42/43. Keep the base flat, then angle the ears outward with a gentle downward tilt.
- Wool cap: pin the front edge around Head Rnd 14 above the eyebrows. Curve the edge lower behind the ears, reaching approximately Head Rnds 21-23 toward the back.

PINNING ORDER

Pin the muzzle and cap first. Keep the cap loose at both ear-base areas. Attach the ears beneath the cap edge, then finish sewing the cap. This keeps the ear bases cleanly tucked into the fleece.

13. Body Placement Map

Seam direction controls the final limb orientation



- Legs: on Body Rnd 12, pin one flattened top seam across approximately sts 17-24 and the other across sts 33-40. Keep both seams horizontal. The feet point forward and slightly outward.
- Arms: Body Rnd 28 has 48 sts. Pin the flattened arm seams horizontally along Rnd 28, approximately across sts 10-15 and sts 34-39. The arms should hang downward beside the belly.
- Tail: centre the tail at the back over Body Rnds 17-19, straddling the BOR.
- Head: align head and body BORs at centre back. Centre the lower head directly over the upper body before sewing.

TWO-LAYER ATTACHMENT

For every flattened arm or leg top, each sewing stitch must capture both layers of the flattened edge before entering the body surface. This prevents the limb from twisting and keeps the attachment line stable.

14. Assembly

Work in order so overlapping pieces remain accessible

1

Complete the face base

If using safety eyes, they are already secured inside the head. Pin the muzzle over Head Rnds 20-29, centred on centre front. Use the muzzle sewing tail and small ladder stitches around the rear contact edge. Add or remove a pinch of stuffing before closing the last 2 cm / 0.75 in of the seam. Keep the muzzle softly rounded.

2

Embroider nose, mouth and eyebrows

With black yarn, make a compact nose centred on the upper half of the muzzle: work 3-4 short satin stitches across about 8-10 mm / 3/8 in, then bring one stitch straight down about 8 mm / 3/8 in. Form two short curved mouth lines from that point. Embroider mirrored curved eyebrows over Head Rnds 15-16. If using embroidered eyes, add them now at the same eye positions given in Section 12.

3

Pin the wool cap

Place the cap over the crown with its BOR aligned to centre back. Pin the front edge near Head Rnd 14, then curve the edge downward at the sides and back. Check from front, both sides and top. Leave a 3-4 cm / 1.25-1.5 in section loose at each ear-base area.

4

Attach the ears and finish the cap

Insert each open ear base beneath the loose cap edge. Position each base over Head Rnds 15-22 at the side line. Whip stitch through both ear-base layers and into the head surface, distributing the 6-st base evenly over the full attachment span. Keep the ear base flat and do not pull the stitches tight enough to pucker the head. After both ears match, finish sewing the cap edge with small whip stitches, catching the bound-off edge and one strand of the head fabric.

FACE CHECK

Before attaching the head to the body, check the face from straight ahead and from both sides. The eye line should be level, the muzzle centred, eyebrows visible below the cap edge, and both ears matched in height and angle.

14. Assembly - Continued

Use the placement map for every paired attachment

5	Join head to body Align the head and body BORs at centre back. Pin the head directly over the narrowed upper body. Check the sheep from front, back and both sides; the head should sit upright without leaning. Use a strong length of smooth cream yarn and ladder stitch around the full contact circle, passing alternately through a head edge loop and a body surface loop. Make a second pass around the back half if extra support is needed.
6	Attach the legs Pin the flattened leg tops horizontally along Body Rnd 12 at the mirrored positions in Section 13. Make sure the toes face forward and slightly outward. Sew each leg by passing through both layers of the flattened top edge, then into the body surface, repeating across the entire seam. Check both feet from the front and top before securing the thread.
7	Attach the arms Pin the flattened 6-pair arm seams horizontally along Body Rnd 28, centred on the side lines. The arms should hang down rather than project forward. Sew through both arm layers and into the body surface across the full seam. Mirror the second arm at the same height and angle.
8	Attach the tail Pin the tail over Body Rnds 17-19 at centre back, straddling BOR. Use small ladder or whip stitches around the base. Keep the tail rounded and do not flatten it against the body.
9	Final finish Remove all temporary markers and pins. Adjust stuffing through any seam that has not yet been fully closed, then finish the seam. Secure every yarn tail, run it through the stuffed interior for at least 3-4 cm / 1.25-1.5 in, and trim only after the yarn has disappeared back into the fabric.

Sewing Guide

Method	Use for	Needle path
Ladder stitch	Head-to-body and muzzle joins	Take alternating small bites from each side of the join so the thread sinks between the pieces. Tighten gradually, not all at once.
Mattress stitch	Ear panel side seams	Work through the edge bars of both panels with RS outward. Pull snug enough to close the seam without rolling the ear.
Whip stitch	Wool cap edge and ear bases	Pass through the attachment edge, then through a small surface loop on the head. Keep stitches close and evenly spaced.
Flattened two-layer seam	Arms and legs	Every stitch passes through both flattened limb layers before entering the body. Keep the seam horizontal.

15. Stuffing and Troubleshooting

Small adjustments make a large difference to the finished shape

Stuffing Guide

Body	Firm through belly and sides; slightly flatter underneath; upper chest firm enough to support head.
Head	Firm and even, but not stretched. Keep lower front smooth so the muzzle can sit naturally.
Muzzle	Lightly stuffed and compressible.
Arms	Lower two-thirds lightly to moderately stuffed; upper 2 cm / 0.75 in soft.
Legs	Feet firm; upper legs moderate; attachment zone soft.
Ears / cap	No stuffing.
Tail	Very lightly stuffed so it stays rounded.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows through	Use a smaller needle or firmer tension. Check the smooth-yarn and boucle gauges separately; do not rely on only one fabric.
Sheep is much larger or smaller	Compare both gauges with Section 4. A change in boucle gauge alters the body more strongly than the smooth-yarn gauge.
Head leans	Re-pin the head with BORs aligned. Add support stuffing to the upper body if needed, then sew a second securing pass around the back half of the neck join.
Arms point forward	The shoulder seam is probably tilted or vertical. Reattach it horizontally along Body Rnd 28 so the arm hangs down.
Feet point sideways	Re-pin the leg seams horizontally along Body Rnd 12 and rotate the toes forward before sewing.
One ear sits higher	Compare the centre of each ear base at approximately Head Rnds 18-19 against the two side lines. Re-pin before tightening the cap edge.
Muzzle looks off-centre	Use centre front between Head sts 28/29 as the anchor. Re-pin the muzzle top and bottom on that line before sewing.
Cap feels too tight or too loose	Check boucle gauge. Redistribute the cap edge evenly around the crown; do not force a tight cap over the eyebrows.
Boucle stitches are hard to count	Feel for the underlying knitted loops and use markers every 8 sts through shaping rounds.
Body base is too rounded	Remove a small amount of stuffing from the lower centre and redistribute it toward the side walls and belly.
A seam has gaps	Add a second row of small ladder or whip stitches, taking shallower bites closer to the edge.
Paired limbs look uneven	Measure attachment heights from the same body round, then compare the sheep from front, back and top before securing tails.

16. Final Visual Checklist

Inspect the sheep from front, back, both sides and top

☐ Face is centred and the head sits straight over the body.	☐ Eyes are level and evenly spaced; embroidered eyes, if used, match in size and height.
☐ Eyebrows are mirrored and remain visible below the wool cap.	☐ Muzzle is level; nose and mouth are centred.
☐ Ears match in height, angle and outward droop.	☐ Wool cap is centred and the lower edge sits smoothly without puckers.
☐ Arms are attached at the same height and hang downward.	☐ Legs are attached at the same height; feet point forward and slightly outward.
☐ Hoof lines are mirrored and placed the same distance from each toe.	☐ Tail is centred at the back.
☐ Body sits in a balanced seated posture without rolling.	☐ No stuffing is visible through the fabric.
☐ No seam is open or loose.	☐ No marker, pin or unsecured yarn tail remains inside or on the surface.
☐ No exposed yarn end or bulky knot is visible.	

Finished Views



READY TO ENJOY

Once every seam is secure and the shape is balanced, gently smooth the boucle fleece with your fingertips and settle the limbs into their final seated position.