

# PURL SOHO

## Bobble Sheep Pillow in Super Soft Merino

[purlsoho.com/create/2013/03/03/lauras-loop-bobble-sheep-pillow](http://purlsoho.com/create/2013/03/03/lauras-loop-bobble-sheep-pillow)

March 3, 2013 | Laura's Loop

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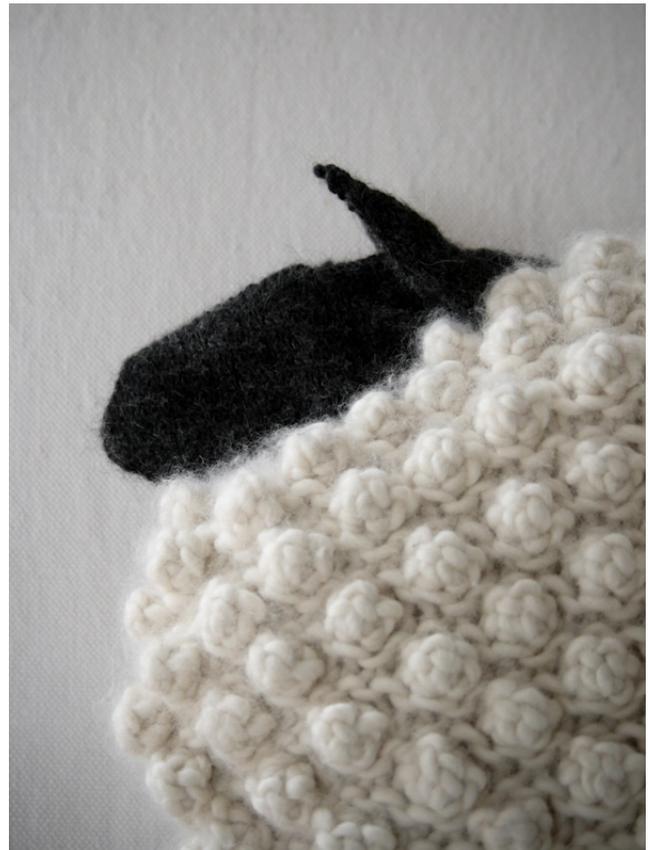
I guess it isn't surprising that a knitter has an affinity for sheep. Obviously, some sort of kinship must exist with the animal whose wool provides daily enjoyment (and employment!). So as predictable as it may be, I will say it anyway... I love sheep. They are funny creatures with a neurotic voice and a body perfect for graphic adaptation.

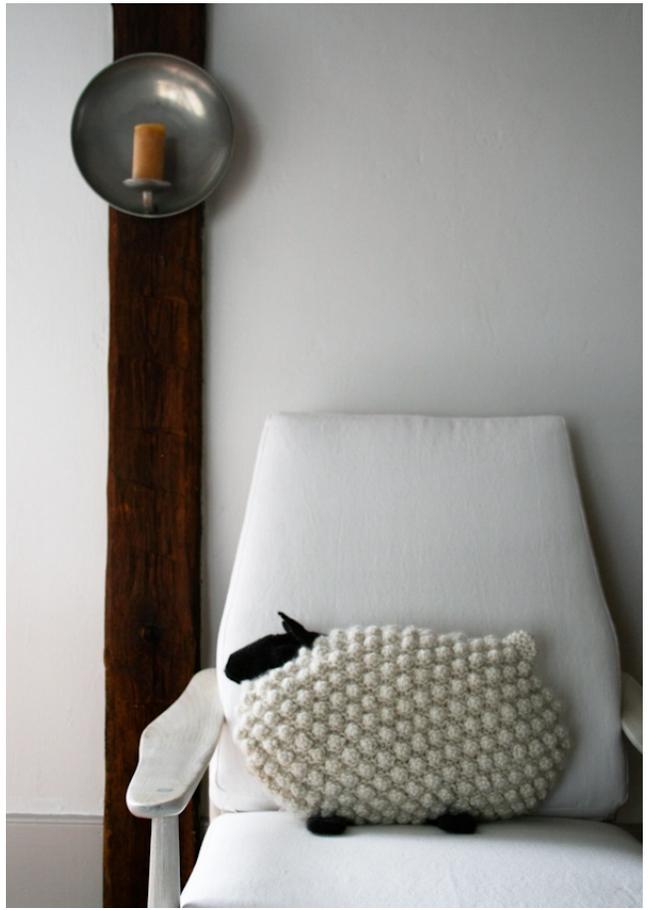
I love their bulbous bellies and knobbly knees, their googly eyes and pointy ears. I love how they amble about in groups, looking like earth-bound clouds. And it goes without saying, I love what they gift us... don't worry, I'm not about to type "mutton." I mean, of course, their wool!

A dear friend pointed out that it may be a bit snake-eating-its-own-tail, but anyway, I had to make one... I had to make a sheep, made out of sheep.

With the softest, loftiest, creamiest yarn I could find and the most dramatic, nobbiest texture I could create, I knit up this squishable, squeezable, nursery-rhyme version of every knitter's best pal. Bursting with bobbles, this sheep practically implores you to cuddle.

Incredibly soft to the touch, Purl Soho's Super Soft Merino could not have been more appropriate for this project, right down to its color name, Heirloom White. Your own Bobble Sheep Pillow is sure to be loved by many generations to come! -Laura









### **Update: New Yarn + Size**

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February 29, 2016

Being the sheep fanatics that we are, we couldn't resist making more Bobble Sheep, this time in our incredibly soft jumbo weight Gentle Giant merino. For the list of materials, as well as tips on modifying the pattern, visit our [Bobble Sheep Pillow in Gentle Giant post](#).



### **UPDATE: NOW IN PARTRIDGE**

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MARCH 2022

We've added a new lamb-sized sheep to our flock... the [Bobble Sheep in Partridge!](#) For such a huggable project, soft and squishy [Partridge](#) is an excellent choice. A worsted-weight single ply of incredibly sumptuous 100% merino wool, Partridge is thinner than either of our

previous versions and knits up a more diminutive sheep. Pick up a [Bobble Sheep Pillow Bundle](#) in Partridge and add a new baby lamb to your happy pillow-flock!

Designed by Purl Soho designer, [Laura Ferguson](#).

Share your progress and connect with the community by tagging your pics with [#PurlSoho](#), [#PurlSohoBusyHands](#), [#PurlSohoBobbleSheepPillow](#), [#PurlSohoSuperSoftMerino](#) and [#PurlSohoSeasonAlpaca](#). We can't wait to see what you make!



## Materials

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Get all the yarn you'll need to make your own Bobble Sheep Pillow with the [Bobble Sheep Pillow Bundle](#). It includes...

- Main Yarn: 4 skeins of Purl Soho's [Super Soft Merino](#), 100% merino wool. Each skein is 87 yards/ 100 grams; approximately 348 yards required. We used the color Heirloom White, Toasted Charcoal or Soft Black.
- Contrast Yarn: 1 skein of Purl Soho's [Season Alpaca](#), 100% super baby alpaca. Each skein is 218 yards/ 100 grams; approximately 110 yards required. We used the color River Rock. (Please Note: Our original Bobble Sheep featured Blue Sky Fiber's Sport Weight Alpaca, which is no longer available.)



You'll also need...

- US 11 (8 mm), 16 or 24-inch [circular needles](#)
- Set of US 11 [double pointed needles](#)
- Set of US 3 (3.25 mm) [double pointed needles](#)
- 1 bag of Fairfield's Poly-fil Stuffing

- Scrap yarn (bulky weight) and crochet hook to match (for provisional cast on)



## Gauge

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12 stitches = 4 inches in garter stitch with Main Yarn on larger needle

28 stitches = 4 inches in stockinette with Contrast Yarn on smaller needle

## Size

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19 inches wide (from chest to rear) x 14 inches tall (from top of back to bottom of belly)

## Notes

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k3tog [knit 3 together]: This is a right-slanting double decrease. Insert right needle into next three stitches as if to knit, knit all three stitches together as if they were one stitch. [2 stitches decreased]

MB [Make Bobble]: Knit into the next stitch, leaving it on the left needle, [(yarn over, knit 1) into same stitch] two times. Turn work so wrong side is facing you, k5; turn work so right side is facing you, k2tog; return stitch to left needle, slip remaining three stitches of bobble over the k2tog stitch, knit that stitch, returning it to the right needle. For a full-photo tutorial on how to make this particular bobble, please click [here](#).

sk2p [slip 1, k2tog, pss0]: This is a left-slanting double decrease. Slip 1 purlwise, knit 2 together, pass the slipped stitch over the knit stitch and off the needle. [2 stitches decreased]

## Pattern

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### Body

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### Begin at the Belly

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With the crochet hook and scrap yarn use a [Provisional Cast On](#) method to cast 46 stitches onto the larger double pointed needles.

Distribute the stitches on three double pointed needles, place a marker and join for working in the round, being careful to not twist the stitches. Join Main Yarn and...

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2: [P21, place a marker that is a different color than the end-of-the-round marker, k2] two times.

Round 3: Knit.

Round 4: [Purl to next marker, slip marker (sm), k2] two times.

## Increase to Shape the Body

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NOTE: Change to circular needles when necessary.

Increasing every round...

Round 5: [M1L, k2, \*make bobble (MB, see Notes), k3, repeat from \* to 3 stitches before next marker, MB, k2, m1R, sm, k2] two times. [4 stitches increased]

Round 6: [M1L, purl to next marker, m1R, sm, k2] two times. [4 stitches increased]

Repeat Rounds 5 and 6 three more times. [78 stitches]

Increasing every other round...

Round 7: [K2, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 3 stitches before next marker, MB, k2, sm, k2] two times.

Round 8: [M1L, purl to next marker, m1R, sm, k2] two times. [4 stitches increased]

Round 9: [K1, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 2 stitches before next marker, MB, k1, sm, k2] two times.

Round 10: Repeat Round 8.

Round 11: [\*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 1 stitch before next marker, MB, sm, k2] two times.

Round 12: Repeat Round 8.

Round 13: [K3, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 4 stitches before next marker, MB, k3, sm, k2] two times.

Round 14: Repeat Round 8. [94 stitches]

## Work Evenly

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Round 15: [K2, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 3 stitches before next marker, MB, k2, sm, k2] two times.

Round 16: [Purl to next marker, sm, k2] two times.

Round 17: [\*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 1 stitch before next marker, MB, sm, k2] two times.

Round 18: Repeat Round 16.

Repeat Rounds 15-18 two more times.

## Decrease for Neck and Tail

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NOTE: Change to double pointed needles when necessary.

Round 19: K2, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 3 stitches before next marker, sk2p (see Notes), sm, k2, k3tog (see Notes), \*\*k3, MB, repeat from \*\* to 2 stitches before next marker, k2, sm, k2. [90 stitches, 4 stitches decreased at head]

Round 20: K2tog, purl to 3 stitches before next marker, sk2p, sm, k2, k3tog, purl to 2 stitches before next marker, ssk, sm, k2. [6 stitches decreased: 2 at tail, 4 at head]

Round 21: K3, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 5 stitches before next marker, MB, k1, sk2p, sm, k2, k3tog, k1, \*\*MB, k3, repeat from \*\* to 4 stitches before next marker, MB, k3, sm, k2. [80 stitches, 4 stitches decreased at head]

Round 22: Repeat Round 20. [74 stitches]

Round 23: \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 3 stitches before next marker, MB, k2, sm, k4, \*\*MB, k3, repeat from \*\* to 1 stitch before next marker, MB, sm, k2.

Round 24: [K2tog, purl to 2 stitches before next marker, ssk, sm, k2] two times. [4 stitches decreased: 2 at tail, 2 at head]

Round 25: K1, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to next marker, sm, k5, \*\*MB, k3, repeat from \*\* to 2 stitches before next marker, MB, k1, sm, k2.

Round 26: Repeat Round 24. [66 stitches]

Round 27: K2tog, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 1 stitch before next marker, MB, sm, k2, \*\*MB, k3, repeat from \*\* to 3 stitches before next marker, MB, ssk, sm, k2. [64 stitches, 2 stitches decreased at tail]

Round 28: Repeat Round 24. [60 stitches]

Round 29: K2tog, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 2 stitches before next marker, MB, k1, sm, \*\*k3, MB, repeat from \*\* to 2 stitches before next marker, ssk, sm, k2. [58 stitches, 2 stitches decreased at tail]

Round 30: Repeat Round 24. [54 stitches]

Round 31: K2tog, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to 3 stitches before next marker, MB, k2, sm, k4, \*\*MB, k3, repeat from \*\* to 3 stitches before next marker, MB, ssk, sm, k2. [52 stitches, 2 stitches decreased at tail]

Round 32: Repeat Round 24. [48 stitches]

Round 33: K2tog, \*MB, k3, repeat from \* to next marker, sm, k5, \*\*MB, k3, repeat from \*\* to 3 stitches before next marker, MB, ssk, sm, k2. [46 stitches, 2 stitches decreased at tail]

Remove beginning-of-round marker and slip the last stitch of the last round onto the left needle.

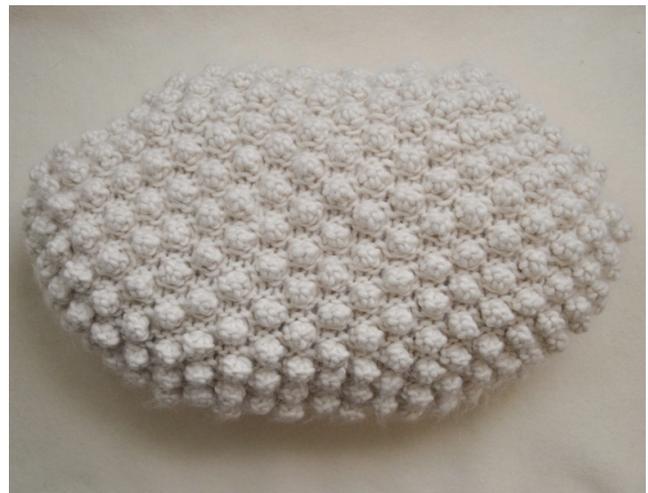
Cut yarn, leaving an approximately 30-inch tail.

Divide the stitches in half, sliding 23 stitches to each end of the circular needle or arranging them onto two double pointed needles.

Holding the needles parallel to each other, use Kitchener Stitch to graft together the two sides of the Bobble Sheep's back.

Weave in the ends.

NOTE: You will notice in the pictures that I next stuffed the Sheep and closed the Belly. However, I recommend making the Face, the Ears, and the Tail before you stuff the Sheep and graft its Belly. Live and learn!



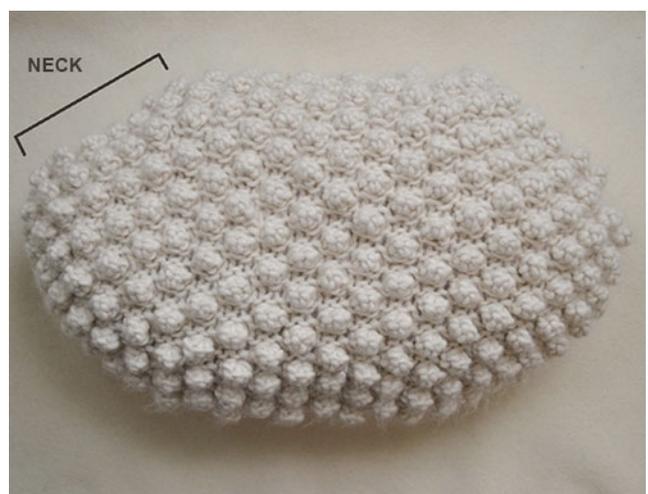
## Make Head + Ears

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Orienting the Sheep right side up, locate the Neck section, as shown above.

Using the Contrast Yarn and the smaller double pointed needles, pick up 92 stitches around the strip of stockinette stitches at the Neck.

To do this, start at the left bottom of the Neck, pick up 3 stitches in each of the next fifteen stitches along the left side of the Neck, two stitches along the top, rotate the Sheep and pick up 3 stitches in each of the fifteen stitches along the right side. (To pick up 3 stitches in one stitch, pick up and knit one stitch, yarn over, bring the needle back into the same stitch and knit to pick up another stitch.) [92 stitches]



Distribute the stitches on three double pointed needles, place a marker and join for working in the round.

Set-up Round: K16, [place a different color marker, k30] two times, place a different color marker, knit to end of round.

Round 1: K1, m1L, knit to first marker, sm, k2tog, knit to 2 stitches before next marker, ssk, sm, k2tog, knit to 2 stitches before next marker, ssk, sm, knit to last stitch, m1R, k1. [2 stitches decreased]

Round 2: Knit to first marker, sm, k2tog, knit to two before third marker, ssk, sm, knit to end of round. [2 stitches decreased]

Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 five more times. [68 stitches]

Round 3: Knit to first marker, sm, k2tog, knit to 2 stitches before next marker, ssk, sm, k2tog, knit to 2 stitches before next marker, ssk, sm, knit to end of round. [4 stitches decreased]

Repeat Rounds 2 and 3. [58 stitches]

Repeat Round 2 one more time. [56 stitches]

Round 4: K2tog, knit to first marker, sm, k2tog, knit to 2 stitches before next marker, ssk, sm, k2tog, knit to 2 stitches before next marker, ssk, sm, knit to last 2 stitches, ssk. [6 stitches decreased]

Repeat Round 4, removing first and third marker. [44 stitches]

Round 5: K2tog, knit to 2 stitches before next marker, ssk, sm, k2tog, knit to last 2 stitches, ssk. [4 stitches decreased]

Repeat Round 5 two more times. [32 stitches]

Cut yarn leaving an approximately 16-inch tail.



Divide stitches in half, placing the first 16 stitches on the first double pointed needle and the second 16 stitches on the second double pointed needle. Use Kitchener Stitch to graft together the two sides of the Head.

Weave in the ends.



### **Make the Right Ear**

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Using the Contrast Yarn and the smaller double pointed needles, pick up 18 stitches for the Right Ear (the ear on the right, if looking at the sheep).

To do this, count four stitches down from the top right side of the Sheep's Head (just above a bobble). Pick up 3 stitches in this stitch and in the next two stitches above it (9 stitches so far). Then rotate the sheep and pick up 3 stitches in each of the stitches directly across from those you just picked up, working back towards the starting point. (18 stitches)

\*\*Place marker and join for working in the round.

Knit 4 rounds. At the end of the fourth round, remove marker and turn work. You will no longer knit in the round, but back and forth in rows, turning the work at the end of each row.

Row 1 (inside of ear): Purl.

Row 2 (outside of ear): Knit.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2.

Repeat Row 1.

Next Row: K1, ssk, knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1. [2 stitches decreased]

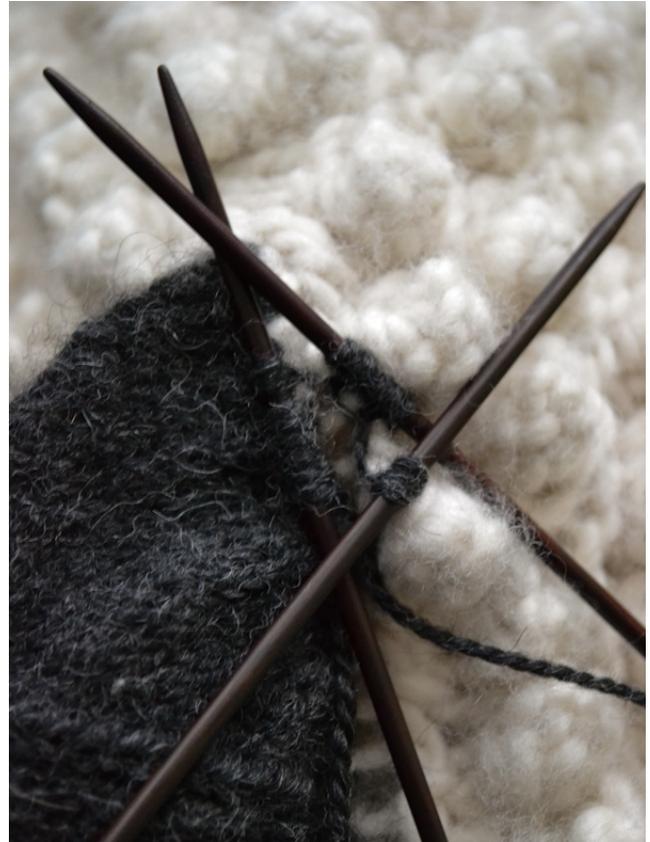
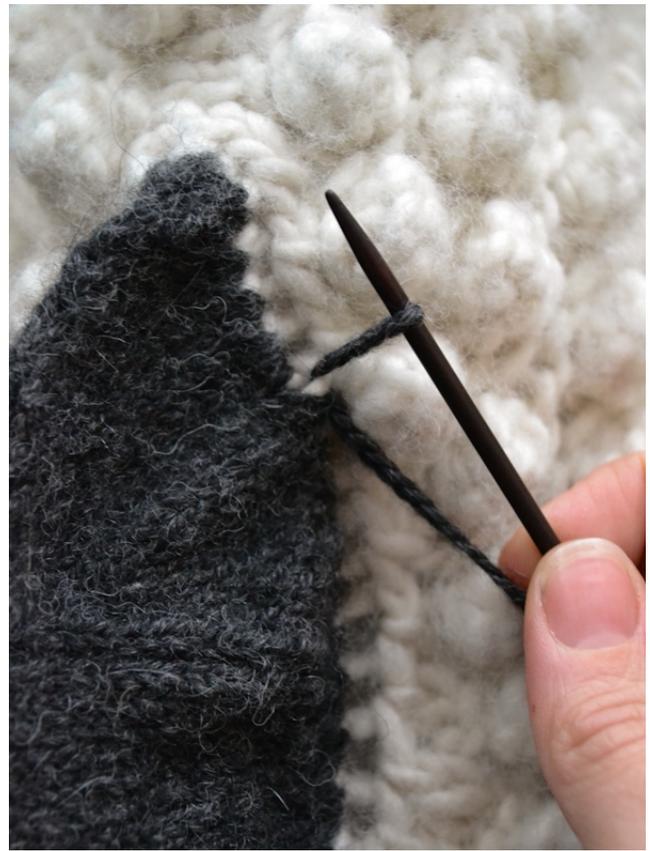
Next Row: Purl.

Repeat last two rows 6 more times. [4 stitches]

Next Row: Ssk, k2tog. [2 stitches]

Bind off purlwise.

Weave in the ends.



**Make the Left Ear**

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Making the Left Ear (the ear on the left, if looking at the sheep) is very similar to making the Right Ear. The only difference is where you pick up the stitches.

Find the bobble across from the bobble you used as the starting point for the Right Ear. Pick up 3 stitches in each of the next 3 stitches above that bobble. Rotate the sheep and pick up 3 stitches in each of the next 3 stitches along the side of the Sheep's Head, working back towards the starting point. [18 stitches]

Repeat steps under Make the Right Ear starting at \*\*.

## Tail

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With Main Yarn and the larger double pointed needles, pick up 12 stitches as shown above. Here's how...

Facing the Sheep's rear, locate the left side of the left stitch that is 5 stitches down from the end of the Sheep's back. Starting there, pick up 5 stitches up the left side, 2 stitches along the ridge of the Sheep's back and 5 stitches down the right side the Sheep's rear. [12 stitches]

Working back and forth in rows...

Knit 4 rows.

Next Row: Bind off 1 stitch, knit to end. [1 stitch decreased]

Repeat last row 3 more times. [8 stitches]

Bind off.



## Legs

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NOTE: Before you make the Legs, stuff the Sheep loosely, then pick up the stitches from the Provisional Cast On, divide them in half and use the Kitchener Stitch to graft the Belly closed.

Using the Contrast Yarn and the smaller double pointed needles, pick up 26 stitches at one end of the Sheep's Belly, as shown above. Here's how...

Pick up 3 stitches in each of the 4 stitches along one side of the Belly [12 stitches], pick up 1 stitch along the center of the Belly, rotate the sheep and pick up 12 stitches along the other side of the Belly and one last stitch along the center. [26 stitches]

Distribute stitches on three double pointed needles, place a marker and join for working in the round.

Round 1: [K12, p1] two times.

Repeat Round 1 until Leg measures 4 inches from the pick-up round. NOTE: If you are making the Gentle Giant version, repeat Round 1 until Leg measures 5 inches.

Next Round: [K11, ssk] two times. [24 stitches]

Cut yarn, leaving a 10-inch tail.

Divide stitches in half, placing the first 12 stitches on one double pointed needle and the second 12 stitches on a second double pointed needle. Use Kitchener Stitch to graft together the two sides of the Leg.

Make a second Leg at the other end of the Sheep's Belly.

Weave in the ends and you are all finished with your Bobble Sheep!

Looking for more inspiration? Explore all of our [free knitting patterns](#) and [knitting tutorials](#), buy one of our many [knitting kits and yarn bundles](#), and shop for [beautiful yarn](#). We have over 35 gorgeous [natural fiber yarns](#) in 100's of magnificent colors, designed to bring integrity, beauty, and joy to your next knitting project and only available at Purl Soho!

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