

Woodwright's Plans For Shepherd Display

BY BOB SAWYER

I remember, as a child, visiting New York City in December. We spent an entire day and evening strolling around, gazing at the fascinating holiday window displays in the big department stores. A truly memorable experience.

Out here in the more wide-open spaces, holiday decorations tours are done by car rather than on foot. And it seems, as the years go by, that more and more people are decorating their houses and yards.

Simple strings of colored lights are still a treat to me, but every town seems to have a few magicians who go all out, with thousands of blinking lights, neon holiday messages, lifesize mechanical Santas, and more. I must admit, it's great fun to drive around gawking at these extravaganzas.

My own contribution to the holiday decorating spirit is a bit more subtle. I still get plenty of compliments on my simple display of a shepherd and his flock of sheep.

The display is very easy to make. The shepherd's wooden form is jointed with bolts, so it can be posed in different ways. It is draped loosely with fabric robes. The sheep forms are made of pine, dowels and wire mesh, covered with white fur fabric.

Out detailed plans include full-size patterns, a materials list, and illustrated, step-by-step instructions. The display can be lighted with a single spot.

You might also enjoy making our antiqued wooden door wreath, featuring wood applique leaves and fruits. It's a very simple project that will last for many holiday seasons.

To order the plans, specify Project No. 2272 for the shepherd and sheep display; or No. 2211 for the antiqued wreath. Send \$4.95 for either plan, or save a dollar and order both for only \$8.90.

Mail to: The Woodwright, Dept.

(zip code of newspaper), P.O. Box 1000, Bixby, Oklahoma 74008-1000. Add \$2.95 for a catalog, which includes \$16 worth of discount coupons.

To make the shepherd, I used an 8- and a 6-foot length of 1x12 pine, a 5-inch length of 2x4, a 5-foot length of closet rod, bolts, and fabric for the clothing.

To make each sheep, I used a 12-inch length of 2x12, a 5-foot length of 2x6, a 20-inch length of 2x2, an 8-foot closet rod, a 16 x 44-inch piece of wire cloth, a 7 x 10-inch piece of black vinyl, and a 45 x 54-inch piece of white fur fabric.

For the sheep's hindquarters, cut two semicircles from the 2x6 lumber and a 13-inch length of 2x2. Glue them together edge to edge to create a 13-inch circle. Drill two sockets into the edge of the circle, to accommodate the closet-rod hind legs.

The forequarters are made in a similar manner, with a head piece sandwiched between the two semicircular pieces. The head is cut from the 2x12 in a V-shape (some call it a ewe shape!).

To assemble the body, drill sockets into the assembled hind- and forequarters, to accommodate three connecting rods. Cut the connectors from the closet rod.

Glue the parts together, and staple the wire mesh around the edges of the circular hind- and forequarters. The mesh will help support the fur fabric covering.

The fabric is wrapped and draped around the body, and the edges are sewn together by hand along the underside. Fold it at the back to form a tail, and fold under around the face portion of the head. Use glue where necessary. Cut the ears from vinyl and glue on.

Use a dark wood stain on the sheep's face and legs. I tied a wide ribbon around the neck, and hung a

bell from the ribbon on one of the sheep.

To make the shepherd, cut two identical 11 x 40-inch oval body pieces, and separate oval pieces for the forearms, upper arms and legs. Cut a head, hands and feet in the proper shapes.

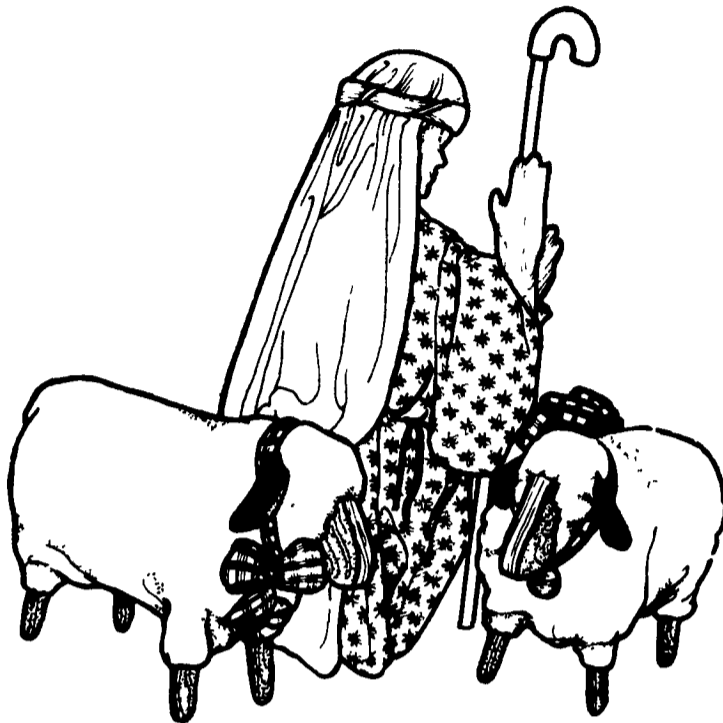
Drill bolt holes for the connec-

tions and assemble the body. I used wing nuts so I could more easily reposition the form.

For the robe, cut a slit in the center of a 2-yard length of fabric. Slip it over the shepherd's head, drape it over the body, and tie a rope belt around the waist.

The hood is another length of fabric draped over the head and secured with a rope headband. The closet rod is his staff, topped by a crook cut from 2-inch pine.

These humble figures add a quiet charm to the sparkle and glitter of the bustling holiday season.



Charming and tasteful holiday lawn display is made of wood and fabric in the home workshop.



Kristin, pictured with grand champion, Garfunkle, shows baby beef and lambs at FFA competitions. Garfunkle is on a shearing stand which Kristin made in her shop class at Garden Spot High School.

FFA Teaches

(Continued from Page B20) new place," Kristin explained. "Then you wash them and get them used to all the things you'll have to do, like set them up and lead them on the halter."

The calves are shown several times and sold about one year after Kristin buys them. She goes through a similar process with her sheep.

Kristin has a good eye for steers and sheep as well as a way with them. She has won many trophies and awards. "Every year I've won some kind of championship at the Pennsylvania Farm Show," she said. In her first year of showing

sheep at the Farm Show, Kristin has the reserve grand champion overall. She also hasn't lost a lamb showmanship competition.

Kristin attributes part of her success to FFA, but she added, "The biggest thing FFA teaches me is leadership and confidence. That it's given me 1,020 percent. Since I've been in high school I've been able to talk in public.

"FFA showed me just how to lead a group of people and to be the one to stand up and voice my opinion. There's a saying that goes something like, there's a lot of followers, but only a few leaders. I want to be one of the leaders."



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