

# prim fabric sheep

designed by Betty Bowers



## materials

- Betty Bowers Down Home fabric sheep, three (or a 5" square each of muslin, cotton batting, and black and cream homespun fabric\*)
- DecoArt Americana Acrylics in Antique Gold, Black Green, Black Plum, Burnt Sienna, Country Red, Deep Burgundy, Fawn, Golden Straw, Hauser Light Green, Hauser Medium Green, Lamp Black, Raw Sienna, Raw Umber, Warm White
- Royal & Langnickel Paintbrushes in Series SG150 Nos. 6 and 10 Shader, Series SG160 1/4" and 1/2" Angular, Series SG595 No. 0 Liner, Series 1112 3/8" Stencil, Series 2735 1/4" Wisp
- Loew-Cornell Fabric Dye Flat Brush in 4F and 8F
- 19-gauge wire, basic painting supplies, fine-grit sandpaper, heat transfer pencil, instant coffee and hot water, iron and ironing surface, measuring cup, needle nose pliers, Plaid Mod Podge, rag strips for bows (optional), sewing machine and basic sewing supplies, tracing paper, wire cutters

*\*This will make one sheep; adjust accordingly to make three.*

## Instructions

### Some painting tips:

When basecoating, I paint at least two coats, sanding lightly in between coats.

For shading and highlighting, I use an Angular brush. Shading and highlighting (floating) is achieved by applying a darker-lighter value of color over the basecoat color. To begin, dip brush into clean water, then gently blot excess water on paper towel. Dip longest bristles into shading/ highlighting color. Place flat side of brush down on palette and brush with a sweeping motion to evenly blend water and paint until there is a gradual transition from full-strength paint on one edge of brush to clear water on the other. Apply paint to area to be shaded or highlighted. **Note:** You want brush to be damp, but not dripping. Rinse and reload brush often. You may use a mop brush after you have floated highlight color to help pick up any imperfections and help soften floats. Begin in water area and work in towards paint color, lightly stippling any imperfections and excess water. (A water line may sometimes appear, which you don't want—this will help take care of that.)

To make paint flow easily from brush, wet brush and blend with paint, then apply details, such as strokes, dots, primitive stitching, and cross-hatching. Use a liner or small round brush. (I use a scumbler to stipple snow and sometimes some highlighted areas.)

Unless otherwise indicated, use the paintbrush best suited to the area being painted.

1. If you are using purchased sheep, skip to step 2. If you are making your own sheep, trace outline of sheep onto muslin. Layer fabric this way: muslin on top, cotton batting in middle, and homespun on bottom. Pin in place. Sew with 1/4" seam allowance on inside of traced line. Cut out on traced line.

2. For all sheep, basecoat head, tail, legs, and ears with Lamp Black. Dot eyes with Warm White.

3. Basecoat all leaves with Hauser Medium Green, shade with Black Green, then highlight with Hauser Light Green.

### Apple and Blackbird Sheep

1. Basecoat apple Country Red, shade with Black Plum, then highlight with Country Red. Using Wisp brush, pull down highlight lines first with Antique Gold, then with Warm White. Paint stem Raw Umber, then highlight with Warm White.

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2. Shade on left outside of apple and across bottom with Raw Umber.
3. Basecoat bird Lamp Black. Highlight wing and across beak and back with Warm White. Paint legs Lamp Black.
4. Dot eye with Warm White. Paint stem Raw Umber, then highlight with just a little Warm White.

## Pear Sheep

1. Basecoat pineapple with Golden Straw, then shade bottom left with Raw Sienna. Pick up just a little Hauser Medium Green and wash in lower left and up to middle. Highlight top right with Warm White. Shade around left outer side and across bottom with Raw Umber. Paint stem Raw Umber, then highlight with Warm White.
2. Basecoat sheep Fawn. Shade with Raw Sienna, then stipple with Warm White. Paint face, ear, tail, and legs with Lamp Black. Paint heart Deep Burgundy. Dot eye with Warm White.

## Pineapple and Saltbox House Sheep

1. Basecoat pineapple Antique Gold. Shade with Burnt Sienna, then highlight with Warm White. Let pineapple dry, then add stripes. Shade stripes with Burnt Sienna in one direction and let dry, then repeat in other direction. (If paint is wet, it will pull out the shading.) Paint dots with Raw Umber.
2. Basecoat house Deep Burgundy. While paint is wet, pick up Country Red and highlight right side.
3. Shade under roof with Black Plum. Paint roof, door, and windows Lamp Black. Wash ground with Raw Umber.

## Finishing

1. Let all paint completely dry. Mix 1/4 cup instant coffee and 1/8 cup hot water, then add 1/2 cup Mod Podge. Mix well, making sure all coffee is dissolved. Dip sheep into mixture and wring out with hands. Smooth out wrinkles, and lay flat to dry.
2. Cut pieces of wire to desired length and poke through tops of sheep and twist to create hangers.
3. If desired, add a rag bow to each ornament. ♣



