Baby Lord with Sheep—A Christmas Triptych Project

Contributed by Beth Fuller Appleton

Supplies:

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sharp scissors, possibly a craft knife
fairly heavy cardboard for the templates and the project
heavy black paper
gold foil
gold stars, large and small
white pencil or chalk
dark pencil or ball-point pen
glue
tape
cotton balls
felt (amounts needed vary – see templates for guides):
   dark blue (background)
   dark green (hillsides)
   medium green (tree tops, bush)
   dark brown (tree trunks, manger & legs)
   gray (rocks)
   medium brown or gold (hay)
   black (sheep's legs, heads and tails)
   white (Babe's swaddling clothes, sheep's ears)
   peach or pink (Babe's face)
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Cutting Instructions:

The total amount of felt needed depends on how many projects you are making. To make the templates I found it easiest to glue the paper outlines onto heavy cardboard, and then cut them out. This way they are fairly sturdy.

Assembly Instructions:

- 1. Put the templates onto the felt and traced around them with chalk or a white pencil on the dark colors, and ball point pen or pencil on the light colors.
- 2. Glue the dark blue pieces of felt to heavy cardboard and trim around the edges be sure the outline of the arch, which has been lightly penciled on felt, is showing on the front.
- 3. Cut out and arrange the various remaining pieces of felt against the blue background BUT DO NOT GLUE YET. Use the samples as a guide. Some pieces will overlap the arch outline slightly; this is done on purpose to ensure a neat look when the project is completed. Put aside the gold stars for the moment.
- 4. Start with the LEFT window. First glue down the dark green "hillside" piece (it will overlap the arch outline slightly). It should be flush with the bottom edge. (The dotted lines on the pictures indicate areas of overlap) next glue the bush, and the palm-tree trunk, again using the picture as a guide. Glue the 2 rocks next overlapping the tree truck and bush. Then glue the treetop, overlapping the trunk slightly.

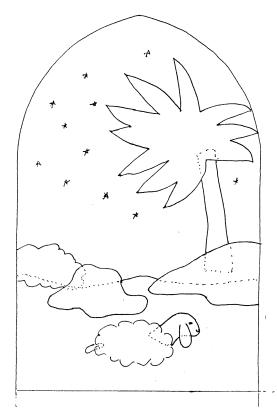
Assembly Instructions, continued:

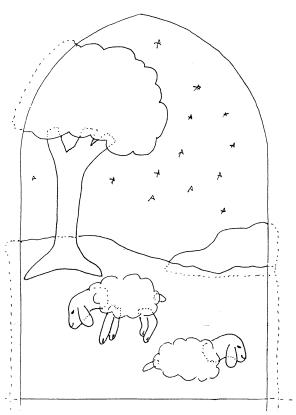
- 5. Place the cotton ball where you want the sheep but do not glue it down yet. (You can cut it in half if it is too fluffy) Glue the sheep's head and tail first tucking them under the cotton ball. Then glue down the cotton ball. Last glue down the ear. NOTE: when placing the sheep make sure to allow for the bottom part of the arch, which will be glued on.
- 6. Now do the CENTER window. First glue down the gold foil "halo" the bottom should be flush with the bottom edge. Next arrange the manger and legs using the sample as a guide and glue. The legs should be lightly tucked under the manger. Next glue the bottom piece of "hay" slightly overlapping the manger legs. Next glue the Babe's face and swaddling clothes. Last glue the "hay" to overlap both the Babe and the manger.
- 7. Now the RIGHT window. First glue the rock using the sample as a guide, be sure the green hillside piece will overlap it properly. Next glue the hillside piece down, it will overlap slightly on the edges and will be flush with the bottom. Next glue the tree trunk. Then the tree top, overlapping the tree trunk and the edge slightly. Next place the cotton balls for the two sheep in the area you want them and follow the sheep instructions in step 4.
- 8. Take out gold stars. Glue the 2 large stars, one on top of the other to create a 10-pointed star, in the center of the center window. Glue the small stars where you want them on all three windows, using about 30 stars. When placing the stars be aware of where the arch will go.
- 9. Next glue black paper arch pieces, carefully matching them up with the edges of the blue felt. Trim excess blue felt if necessary.
- 10. To make your triptych stand, tape the three parts together on the back with masking tape.

Samples

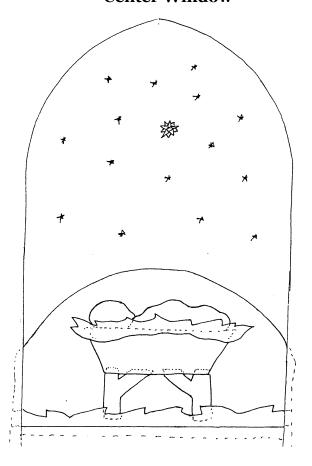
Left Window







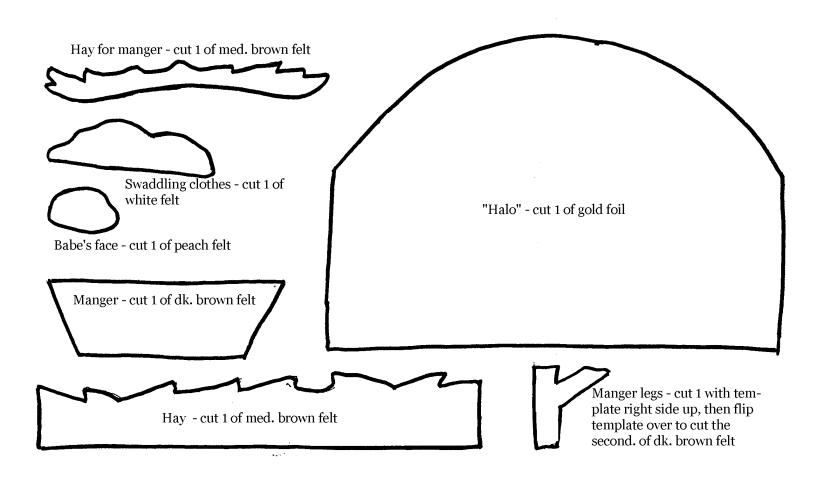
Center Window



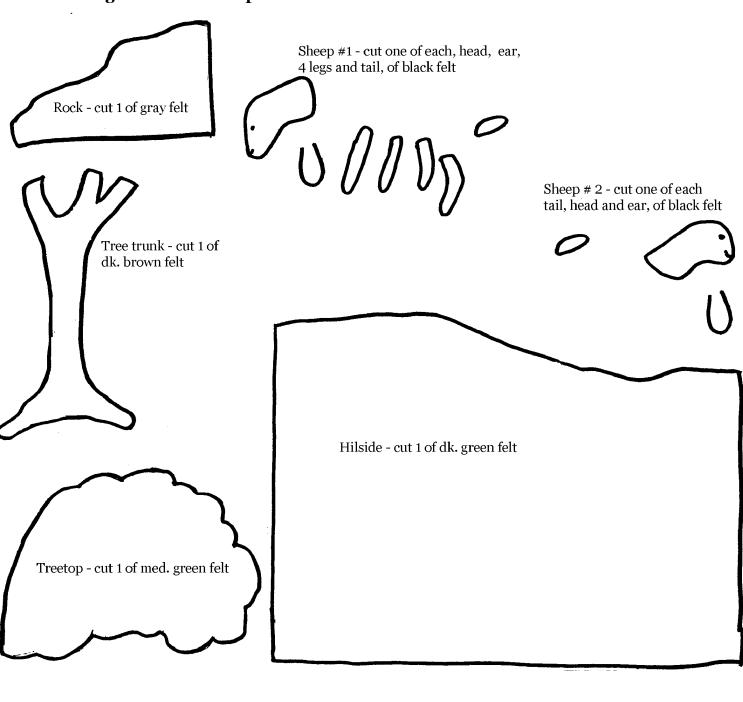
Left Window Templates



Center Window Templates



Right Window Templates



Arch Template – Trace onto 3 pieces of blue felt and cut 3 from heavy black paper.

