

Slightly Sheepish

By Gill Darlington

This design uses a lot of different colours of polymer clay (Fimo) which any clay worker is likely to have already but, if you are new to fimo buy a couple of strong colours like red, yellow and purple and mix some paler ones by adding some white. It is not essential that all the colours are exactly as the design here.

Materials Required:

Fimo Clay in Following Colours: Deep Blue, Deep Green, Medium Green, Light Green, White, Black, Orange, Purple, Lilac, Deep Red, Magenta, Deep Yellow, Lemon and Turquoise.

Rolling Pin.

Sharp Knife.

Ruler or Straight Edge.

Silver Fimo Powder and Silver Pen.

Spiral Paper Punch.

Scrap of Acetate.

UHU All Purpose Adhesive.

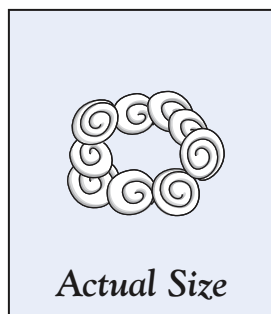
Card Mount: SF03U-69 Cryogen White.

To Make The Card:

Use about a ¼ block of deep blue and roll to approx. 2mm deep. Cut a rectangle of 5cm x 4cm and trim the bottom edge to a hill shape as shown in the assembly diagram. Bake this piece now as it is easier to fit the hill against a solid sky piece.

While the sky is baking wash your hands and make the components for the sheep. Use some white Fimo and roll it into a long thin sausage approx. 2mm in diameter. Cut this into 2cm lengths and coil into spirals, you will need nine spirals in all.

Place these spirals in a small, rough circle overlapping each one slightly, see diagram on the right. Set this ring aside and make two small balls for the eyes about 2mm in diameter, set these aside safely – they're easy to lose.



Use black to make the sheep's head and ears. Make an oval approx. 15mm x 10mm for the head and two teardrop shaped ears about 1cm long. Roll a sausage of black approx. 2.5cm long and 4mm diameter and bend into a 'u' shape for the legs. Set these aside.

Use approx. ¼ block of medium green and roll to a depth of approx. 2mm to match the sky. Lay the sky bottom edge lightly over the green and cut the green to fit the sky. Lift the sky to remove the green from underneath it and place the green onto an ovenproof surface, butt the sky up to the green so it fits like a jigsaw and trim the green so the whole sky/hill panel measures 65mm deep.

Roll out some light green to approx. 2mm deep and 5cm x 3cm. Cut the top edge to a nice hill shape using the assembly diagram as a guide to the shape.

Roll out some deep green to 2mm deep and 3cm x 3cm, lay the light green hill over the left

edge of the deep green and trim the deep green to fit the light green hill. Trim the top of the deep green to a nice hill shape again using the assembly diagram as a guide to the shape. Place these two hills onto the sky panel making sure they are nicely butted together. Trim the outside edges to the same size as the bottom green panel.

Assemble the sheep onto this panel beginning with the legs. Position the legs with the curve at the top about in the centre and approx 5mm up from the bottom edge as shown. Place the ring of white spirals (the sheep's body) over the legs and press into place. Press the head onto the body and the ears either side pressing lightly into place. Press the two white eyes into place and add a tiny black pupil to each – choose carefully where to place these as their position gives the sheep its expression. Cut a cross at the bottom of the face for a mouth.

Cut a star from some rolled white Fimo and dust with silver powder. Press into place on the sky. Bake this panel in the oven.

Roll pea sized pieces of Fimo into balls for the border design, flatten the ball and cut into a square of about 6mm. Don't worry if each square is slightly different as this gives the border a unique, 'friendly' look.

Make two rows of 10 squares and two rows of 7 squares, cut a straight edge along each strip,



Actual Size - Assembly Diagram



this flat edge will butt against the picture. If a strip is too long or too short it can be trimmed or stretched gently to fit.

Press the border against the picture. To ensure it is attached, use a ruler or similar flat edged tool and push against the border, this will give your picture nice straight edges.

Bake this in the oven. Note: Always check the packaging for baking times and temperature as they can vary between types. When cooled add the star rays using a silver pen.

Using the paper punch, make a spiral in the scrap of acetate. Discard the actual spiral and use the background piece as a stencil for the spiral border design. Lay this stencil on the card and make a light pencil dot in the centre, re-position the stencil and mark again continue making 9 marks in total. Once you have them nicely spaced replace the stencil over each mark and use the silver pen to trace the shape.

Above: The same design mounted onto a white panel covered in ivory Angel Hair on a silver card blank with holographic purple sticker wording (ZL524U-76).



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