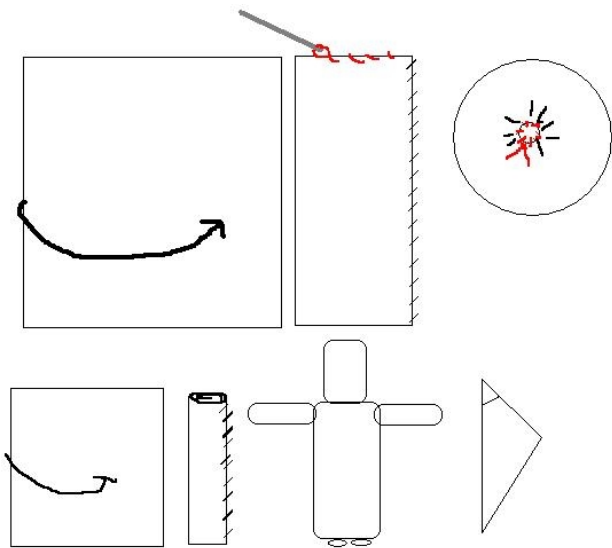


# A Christmas Nativity



This is a great project to make with the kids. If they are too young to do the weaving, they can still stuff and glue sequins on the king's crown or tie on the head pieces of the others. You could make the shepherd's 'crook' with long chenille stems. This is a set you don't have to worry will be broken when the children want to play with it.

The figures are all made the same way. I used the 7" and 3.5" squares to make these figures. But either one can work without the other. The body is a 7" square made into a tube. Cut a cardboard circle to fit into one end of the tube, stuff and gather the other end. The head is a 3.5" square made into a tube. You may want to use a finer yarn and double on the nails to get a nicer face for the figure. And the tube tends to be long, so I folded over before gathering on some to make the head shorter. The arms are 3.5" squares rolled and stitched without any stuffing and sewn into place. The feet are also one 3.5" square rolled and stitched then bent double and sewn onto the bottom of the doll. (See photo) The head pieces are two 3.5" squares sewn into a hood and, on the men tied with a headband. Mary's is just tucked and basted into place. Their sandals are yarn sewn to simulate straps, There are no soles. The king's beard is a bit of eyelash yarn, his crown is heavy foil. Joseph's 'vest' is two 3.5" squares sewn at shoulder and sides. The 'poncho' on the shepherd is one 7" square and I scrunched the yarn in the center to make a hole for his head. The baby is one 3.5" square in fine yarn, doubled on the nails with a draw string to make him a bit of a neck. Then he's wrapped in one 3.5" square for the swaddling clothes. His halo is a crocheted metallic thread, as is the angel's. The angel is left open on the bottom to simulate a gown. I ran the white yarn through the stuffing several times to hold it in place. Her hair is stitched in place. Mary's is a long yarn braid coiled on her head and stitched in place. The wings are folded 3.5" squares with the top point tucked in and sewn around then stitched to her back.



All these figures can be clothed and decorated to suit you. The shepherd, for instance would not have been so brightly dressed in the period, but I was working with yarn scraps.

The arms can be made of one rolled 7" square. Sew ends to shoulders and tie 'flesh' colored yarn in the center to represent folded hands. See Mary in photo. Heads can be made of folded and rolled 7" squares as well. They do well without feet. But these can be made the same way with 'sandals' stitched on.

Get out all those little scraps of fancy yarns and trims and just have fun!

And have a go at some animals while you're at it! I might add some of those next year...

