

Craft Your Game

Here you will find all our advice on how to make the most of crafting your game including all of its pieces and the special box we have designed for it.

We hope you enjoy it and if you have any questions or you just want to let us know what you think, please message, email or send a pigeon our way :)

Enjoy! :)

Game Pieces

Shepherd Mess contains quite a number of pieces of different kinds. We have boards, tiles, standees even small pebbles and they all fit very nicely into the custom box we have designed for the game.

To make the game pieces, start by printing out the 5 page file from the 'Game Pieces' section for Shepherd Mess on our website. You will get best results using plain printing paper. While photo paper produces better image results, the material is not suitable for crafting the game. If you happen to have access to good quality printing paper that is slightly thicker, use that, but any plain paper will do :)

Boards and Tiles

Boards



The game board is made up of 9 small boards, 4 squares each. When arranged, they make up a board 6x6 squares, 30x30cm.

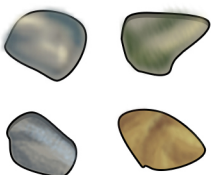
To make the boards, simply cut them out of pages 1,2 and 3 of the 'Game Pieces' document. For extra stability and durability, we recommend adding a card backing to each board. This is not compulsory, but if you have a couple of cereal boxes to spare, that's a very good use for them :)

Tiles



The game also contains 11 tiles - 5 'puddles' and 6 'muddy patches'.

These are very important for the game as they add versatility to the board. To make them, simply cut them out from the document. For extra durability, stability and ease of use, we recommend adding a card backing to these tiles as well. Use any piece of card, such as a cereal box or other packaging. For best results, glue the designs onto the box first, using spray mount or another type of dry glue to avoid creasing the paper. When the glue is dry, cut out the designs along with the card.



The last piece that we think is best made with a card backing are the 4 little stepping stones on page 4 of the 'Game Pieces' file. During the game they will be placed on top of the 'Muddy Patches'. A card backing will make the stepping stones much easier to use and harder to lose :)



Standees



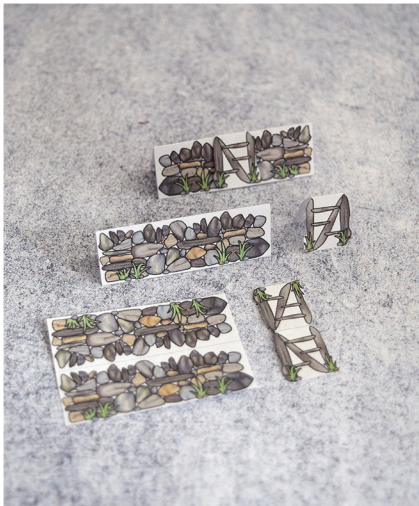
The game has a large number of standees, used as game pieces in the game. We have 40 sheep from 4 different herds, 8 sheepdogs to herd the sheep and one ram, who helps you earn points by expanding your flock :)

To make the standees, cut them out, following the outside outlines and fold in the middle to form a standee with a design both on the front and the back. These work very well within the game and are very easy to store as they stack up easily and fit into the box. Also, they are super cute :)

Stone Walls and Gates

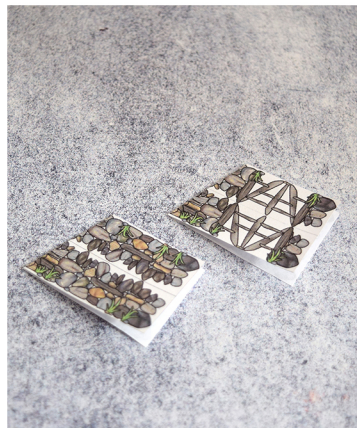
The game also includes a number of 3D landscape accessories, such as dry stone walls and gates

Straight Stone Wall



You will find 8 straight stone walls and 10 gates in the game assets. To make the stone walls, cut them out, following the outside outlines and fold in the middle.

To make the gates, cut out the gates, following the design's outline and fold in the middle. By cutting out the design following the gate outline, we make sure there will be no white spaces on the side of the gates and they will fit seamlessly into the design of the wall when placed on it as you can see on the photo.



Corner Walls

There are also 4 corner walls with large gate designs. These form the sheep pens that will house your sheep. Also, there are 3 corner walls without gates that are used during the game to help you guide your sheep. To make the corner walls, cut them out, following the outside outlines, then fold them using the images above to guide you.



Bridges



The last, but definitely most exciting piece we have for Shepherd Mess is the Bridge. The bridges help your sheep cross puddles and you will be making four of them.

First cut out the sides and one top part of each bridge. Use your nail or another curved object to press the little prongs on the side of the bridge in. Add some glue to the outside of the prongs and attach them to the top of the bridge as shown in the pictures.

Voilà! You have a bridge! Now make three more :)

Box

We have designed an adorable little box for Shepherd Mess to hold all the tiny pieces in one neat place. You will find the print file in the Box section for Shepherd Mess on our website. Print the file in colour for full effect or in black and white if you prefer. If you can use thicker print paper, that would give a better result, but plain paper will do just fine. Follow the instructions below to make your box.



Start by printing the file and cutting out the overall shape of the box. This box uses the full width of the A4 sheet you print. Make sure the printer is set to print at 100% size, rather than 'shrink to fit'. This way the box will be the appropriate size for the pieces. Your printer probably won't print to the edges, but that's not a problem at all. Simply extend the lines from the design to the edges, using a pencil or just cut and fold by eye. Cut out the overall shape by cutting along the dotted line on the bottom of the design.

Next cut along the four short dotted lines in the four corners of the design and fold along all the uninterrupted lines.



This next step is not compulsory. You can skip it if you like, but we are suggesting it because it will add some extra support and durability to your box. What we are doing is to insert four pieces of card into the sides of the box to make it sturdier. As this box is larger than the others in our collection, it has fewer layers of the paper itself and the card helps balance that. So, if you would like to do this step, here is what you need to do:



Use any card that is not too thick. Thin to medium card will do best, but even thick paper will work. It is best to use white card or paper as this will not affect the colour of the box.

Cut four strips of the card that are roughly 30x203mm. To make sure you have the right size, simply measure the inside of the side of the box. The strip of card needs to be a little smaller than the side itself, so it fits comfortably and doesn't alter the shape of the box.

Use spray mount or another type of dry glue to glue the pieces of card to the sides of the box itself. Make sure they fit comfortably within the folds of the design. Finally, fold over and glue the two long sides as shown on picture 3 above.

If you chose not to do this step, simply skip the card and just fold over and glue the paper on the two long sides.



Next, fold the little 'wings' on both long sides of the box and then fold the sides in as shown on the first picture above. Then, add some spray mount or glue to the remaining sides, fold them over the little 'wings' and press to glue well. That's it! One half of your box is ready :)



Repeat all the steps above with the other half of the box design and voilà! You have an adorable little box that fits all 103 pieces from Shepherd Mess.

We hope you enjoy both crafting and playing Shepherd Mess :)

