

Bean Bag Bash:

Instructions on how to make beanbags

Materials:

Fabric: 2 yards of blue fabric and 2 yards of red fabric (we made 60 beanbags total with this amount with a little extra left over incase we messed up). The fabric we used was purchased at Walmart for around \$10-\$15 (price for all 4 yards of fabric). The fabric is cotton, very flexible, and should hold up to the wear and tear of a robotics competition.

Thread: Any old thread will do, we used red and blue thread to match the color of the fabric.

Sewing Machine: This tool is a necessity in making these. It provides the fines stitching needed to keep the “beans” inside the beanbags. It’s also quite a bit quicker.

Polypropylene Pellets: These are what we used to stuff the beanbags. These pellets are commonly used in stuffed animals, such as “Beanie Babies.” One bag of these pellets will cost about \$5. You can find them at Micheals or a Joanne Fabrics. 1 bag of pellets makes about 10 beanbags.

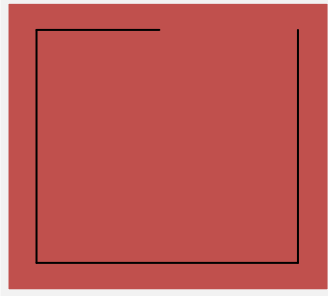
1/3 Measuring cup: Two 1/3 cups of pellets will fill one beanbag.

Directions:

Step one – Lay out your fabric on a flat surface and start making 5in. by 5in. squares. I highly recommend making a stencil first from thin cardboard, cardboard from a soda box (12pk.) worked as a great stencil for me. I also used a thin-point Sharpie while tracing the squares. I found that pen is very hard to see on dark blue fabric.

Step two – Cut out your 5in. squares. Remember that it takes 2 squares of fabric to make 1 beanbag.

Step three – Prepare for sewing! Take two 5in. squares of fabric and line them up so each corner is paired with another square’s corner (one on top of the other). Here’s the tricky part: sew **three and 1/2** sides of the squares together, leaving approximately 1/4 of an in. distance from the square’s side to where you are actually sewing. (See picture)



The distance from the black lines to the square's side should be around 1/4in. The lines represent where you should sew.

Step four – Turn the newly sewn beanbag inside out. I suggest using a pen (preferably one that clicks) to get in the corners when turning the beanbag inside out.

Step five – Pour/direct 2/3 cup of pellets into the beanbag. This is not an easy task. Using a funnel helps, but sometimes the pellets get stuck inside (or at least the one I used did that). I basically took a cup and slowly poured them into the bag. Experiment, do what's easiest for you.

Step six – Finally, sew the final 1/2 side of the beanbag together (you should have small flaps sticking out from when you turned the beanbag inside out, make sure to fold these in for a clean finish). You should now have one completed beanbag!!!