

Sea Shore Smash: Instructions on how to make beanbags

Materials:

Fabric: 20 inches of yellow fabric (we made 6 beanbags total with this amount with a little extra left over incase we messed up). The fabric we used was purchased at JoAnne Fabrics for \$2. The fabric is muslin, very flexible, and should hold up to the wear and tear of a robotics competition.

Thread: Any old thread will do, we used yellow and white 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.

Rice: These are what we used to stuff the beanbags. Rice is cheaper then Polyurethane Pellets and have similar qualities. One 5lb bag of Roundy’s long grain rice will cost about \$3. You can find it at Pick in Save. 1 bag of rice makes about 6 beanbags.

1 Measuring Cup: Two cups of pellets will fill one beanbag.

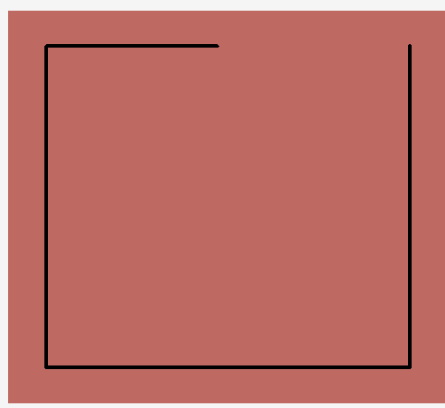
Directions:

Step one – Lay out your fabric on a flat surface and start making 7in. by 7in. squares. I highly recommend making a stencil first from thin cardboard, worked as a great stencil. I also used a pencil while tracing the squares.

Step two – Cut out your 7in. squares. Remember that it takes 2 squares of fabric to make 1 beanbag.

Step three – Prepare for sewing! Take two 7in. 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 to get in the corners when turning the beanbag inside out.

Step five – Pour/direct 2 cups of pellets into the beanbag. Using a funnel helps, but sometimes the rice get stuck inside. 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!!!