



Best Beach Ball Lesson Plan

Step-by-step guide to offering this project as a class

Suitable for a 6 hour class.

The Best Beach Ball teaches more advanced skills of working with curves and set-in or y-seams.

Make a Sample:

The Beach Ball can be made in an afternoon. Make a sample or two to market the class. This is definitely a project that people will want to make once they see the item.

Get Organized: Order notions and review schedule provided in Marketing Plan. Adjust as needed for your students and schedule.

Day of Class:

- Welcome students to class. Either individually as they arrive or in the group setting, poll students to determine experience level.
- Highlight that this class features some techniques that are often considered challenging, but there are lots of tips to make the project very achievable.
- Start by covering fabric selection. The project can be made from just one fabric. Consider alternating the Piece A Template between 2 colors or go totally scrappy and make each piece a different fabric. Anything goes!
- The Beach Ball is pieced with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Start the class by ensuring each student knows how to set up an accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on their machine. Use seam tape as a guide. presser foot.
- Review how to trace pattern pieces on to freezer paper. Since the shapes are curved, ironing freezer paper to the fabric and then carefully cutting out the shape with a rotary cutter is an accurate way to cut out the pieces. Students can also use scissors.
- A $\frac{1}{4}$ " alignment mark is very helpful to achieve a smooth ball. Show students how to use a pen to mark the alignment dot by poking a hole through the freezer paper template.
- The curves of the ball are very gentle. Pin the first 2 Piece As together and slowly stitch the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam from dot to dot. Backstitch at the beginning and end to reinforce the seam. Press the seams open.

- Continue adding Piece As until the body of the ball is together, forming a tube with hexagonal openings on each end. The tube is turned inside-out for the next steps.
- Demonstrate how to add the first hexagon using the dot-to-dot sewing method for y-seams/set-in seams.
- Prepare the other hexagon unit as directed in the pattern.
- Stitch the layered hexagon to the tube using dot-to-dot sewing.
- Turn the ball right sides out through the slit in the top hexagon unit.
- Inflate a balloon to the desired fullness.
- Have fun!