

Bean Bag Nativity Set

by Jennifer Lund



Materials Needed

Fabric for each character (Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus, Angel, 3 Wise Men, 3 Shepherds)*
Thread to match fabric
Skin-colored felt
Fabric scraps for shawls (Joseph and 3 Shepherds), and Mary's veil
Necklaces for 3 Wise Men (old earrings, necklaces, beads, coins)
Crowns for 3 Wise Men (ribbon, decorative quilt binding, decorative edging, etc.)
Thin, white ribbon for Angel
Brown pipe cleaners for 3 Shepherds' staffs
Black fabric marker to draw eyes
Fabric Glue
Batting (Polyester Fiberfill)
Beans

*Fabric Suggestions:

Joseph: dark plaid, wool

Mary: soft blue; sheer white fabric for veil

Baby Jesus: white fleece

Angel: any white fabric

Wise Men: velvet, corduroy, satin (or any shiny fabric)

Shepherds: plaid or plain fabric

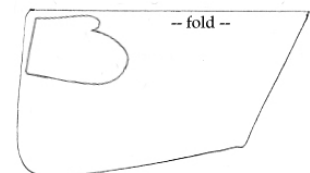
Instructions

1. Prepare fabric and felt.

For each bean bag character cut out the patterns from your choice of fabric: Body (2), Base (1), Arms (2 on fold). Cut out from skin-colored felt: Face (1), Hand (2).

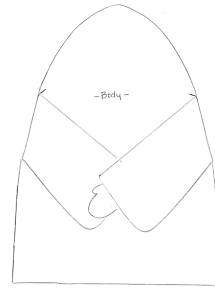
2. Make arms. (*The fold will be the top edge of the finished arm. The straight edge of the arm will go against the bean bag's body.*)

Fold arm fabric in half (along fold) with right sides together. Place felt hand along curved end facing inside (towards the straight edge). Make sure thumb is parallel to the fold. Sew along curved edge in-between dots. (Do not sew on straight edge.) Turn arm inside-out. Repeat for second arm.



3. Sew arms to body.

Use markings on the body pattern as guidelines for placing arms. Pin arms to the right side of one body piece with arms angled down towards middle of body (arms will overlap). Line up straight edge of arms with the edge of the body. Baste arms to body. *If you want a band around the waist (wise man or shepherd), glue or baste to this body piece.*



4. Sew body together.

Pin the second body piece to the “armed” body piece, right sides together. Sew along both curved edges, leaving an opening (about an inch-long) below one of the arms (for stuffing).

5. Sew body to base.

With right sides together, pin bottom edge of the body to the base. Sew.

6. Stuff body.

Turn body inside-out. Stuff top two-thirds of the body with batting. Fill bottom 1/3 of bean bag with beans. Hand-sew the opening shut.

7. Finish the bean bag.

Glue the felt face to the top of the bean bag. Draw eyes. Decorate:

Joseph: Hand-sew scarf to head. Leave scarf ends free.

Mary: Glue white veil around her head with edges hanging over shoulders towards her back.

Angel: Wrap ribbon around angel’s chest and head. Glue in the back.



Shepherds: Glue on head bands. Sew a blanket over an arm (optional). Bend pipe cleaner into a staff. Hand-sew to inside of arm.

Wise-Men: Sew on necklaces. Glue on crowns.



To Make Baby Jesus

1. Prepare fabric and felt.

Cut fabric for his bed: Bed (2), Layer 1 (1), Layer 2 (1). Cut felt piece for his face.

2. Make bed.

Place layer 1 onto one bed piece, using dotted lines as a guideline for placement. Place layer 2 over layer 1, lining up bottom edge with bottom edge of the bed. Place second bed piece on top of these layers, right sides together. Pin. Sew together, leaving about an inch open along the bottom edge (for turning and stuffing). Trim edges.

3. Stuff bed.

Turn bed inside-out. Stuff with batting. Hand-sew bottom edge closed.

4. Finish.

Draw eyes on Baby Jesus’ face. Glue face to bed with bottom edge of face touching top edges of the bed layers.