

# Cut, stitch and fill Charlotte Baldwin-Turner's snugly bean bag

Seating comes in a **plethora** of different guises, none more relaxed than the bean bag. Squidgy and pliable, it's an **ideal solution** to seating issues as you can easily stash it out of the way in a corner until it's needed. If you're handy with a sewing machine, you can make yourself a **plush bean bag** in under a day. Choose a chic, colourful fabric for your elegant creation, and once the pieces are joined, the **mastery** comes in filling the sack **without** spilling the beans! Our version is lined to keep the innards safely tucked away and the **handy zipper** allows you to remove the outer cover for cleaning.



## essentials

**Fabric:** cotton  
**2m cream cotton for lining**  
**2m chosen outer fabric**  
**51cm zip**  
**Thread in chosen colour**  
**Polystyrene balls**

**1** Cut out the following shapes from both fabrics: rectangle 60cm x 90cm and a half circle with an 87cm arch and a straight width of 51cm. Trim a rectangle, 18cm x 26cm, and then a circle with a 26cm circumference. Using just the lining fabric, cut another circle with a 51cm diameter and a circumference of 170cm.

**2** To create the lining, take the large rectangle piece and sew both 60cm edges together with a 1cm seam allowance. Sew the larger circle around the width of the bottom of the joined pieces, leaving a 20cm gap open. Calculate the placement of the four darts equally around the open end of the beanbag; each measures 12cm deep x 26cm wide. Nip the fabric across the width and sew up the marked darts. Finally, attach the smaller lining circle to the darted end of the bean bag.

**3** Taking your large main fabric rectangle, join both 60cm edges with a 1cm seam allowance. Sew the zip to the two straight sides of the half circles, close the zip and join this piece around the bottom of the prepared section. Mark the 12cm x 26cm darts equally

four times on the open end of the bean bag, then sew up.

**4** Place the two 18cm x 26cm rectangles (main fabric and lining) together, with the lining on the inside. With the right sides facing, sew along the length, then turn back through. Lay the handle centrally on the top circle and pin in place. Sew the smaller circle to the darted end of the bean bag, catching in the handle.

**5** Place the lining inside the outer beanbag and through the 20cm gap, pour the polystyrene balls until it is sufficiently filled. Sew up the opening and zip the bean bag closed to finish.

Visit [minervacrafts.com](http://minervacrafts.com) for a fabulous range of patterned fabrics

HOT TIP

To fill your bag, ask a friend to hold open the gap for you; create a funnel out of newspaper, and slowly pour the beans in small batches, do this over a bath or sink, so that any loose beans can be contained

*"The beans can be wayward little monsters and need containing, so to avoid leaks, be sure that all of your stitched seams on both the lining and main fabric are secure with double-stitched ends"*

**Charlotte Baldwin-Turner, Designer**

