

## Balloon Ball Tutorial



### Materials:

- A fat quarter of fabric
- Pattern cutouts
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Rotary blade & cutting mat (it's okay if you don't have these)
- Seam ripper
- Pins & needles
- Sewing machine

Lay out your fabric. I highly suggest ironing it before use. Make sure it's inside out & folded in half. I like to put pins in the bottom edge so that my fabric doesn't move. Then start tracing the template with pencil. You will need to trace 4 ovalish shapes and one octagon to get the total 8 ovals and 2 octagons.

Once they're all traced, insert some pins inside the shapes to prepare for cutting





These shapes can be tricky to cut, so using scissors is probably easiest unless you're a pro at rotary blades. I almost had a few accidents, but I managed! It's rather redeeming to get a perfectly cut out shape.



Once you have all 5 cutouts, we're ready to roll!

In comes the sewing machine! Grab one of your ovals and sew down just one side. Start where the straight part stops, and don't forget to backstitch. As you can see, I caused myself a lot of grief by putting every single pin in backwards.

Keep the edge of the fabric right up on the edge of your foot for a nice clean seam.

Once you've done that one, do the same to the other 3 ovals.



Okay! Now that all 4 ovals have a seam down just one side, we can start piecing the main part of the ball together. Open up a pair of ovals and insert it into another pair, keeping the right sides of the fabric facing each other.

Pin them together and run a seam down the edge, just as you did with the pairs. Now you have half a ball! Set this half aside and repeat with the other two sections.



Now we're going to join the two sections. Keeping right sides together, line up the raw edges of the halves. Pin them together & sew the edge. It looks so cool at this stage!

Fit together the last two edges and seam them.



Ooh look a starfruit! Set your ball body aside for a moment...



...and grab an octagon. Make a line with your pencil on the wrong side, about an inch or so long. It doesn't have to be straight or exact, it's just going to act as a guide.



This part is going to be tricky. I have a rather simple sewing machine, so I don't know how this would be accomplished on other types, but the length of the stitch will be set at 0, or the shortest setting available, and the width (think zig-zag) is set at 3, about a medium.

Position the octagon under the foot so that the line is just to the right of the needle.

Slowly sew down the edge of the line. You may have to pull the fabric a bit to keep it moving.

When you reach the end of your line, stop, making sure the needle is still in the fabric. Lift up the foot.

Carefully turn the fabric with the needle still in it so that the end of your line is now at the top.

Overlap the first few stitches with the ones on the other side of the line, then try to veer away a tad and overlap again at the end of the line.





If your stitching went well, it should come out something like this.

Now we're going to make a hole. Insert your seam ripper into the middle of the two lines and rip up, trying not to run over any of those neat stitches.



Aren't you glad we're done with that mess now? Guess what, there's more!

Line up each tab of the ovals with a side of the octagon. I found out later that it's much easier to pin every other tab rather than all of them. Keep right sides together. The edge of the octagon should be positioned slightly underneath the visible stitches of the sides. Carefully sew around the octagon.





Repeat the same process for the other end of the ball with the other octagon.



The ball is complete! There are just a few more things to do. Snip any leftover threads that may be hanging around.





Using the hole we made earlier, reach through and pinch the bottom of the ball and pull through the hole.



Finally, we're at the fun part! Find yourself a balloon! Stick it in the hole, blow it up, tie it, and have fun!



