Patchwork ball

a free sewing tutorial created by iHanna, www.ihanna.nu/blog.

Make a set of patchwork balls to play with! Great for kids, cats, jugglers or crafters that want to try the meditation of hand sewing.

What you'll need:
Glossy magazine (paper for pattern)
Sewing thread & sewing needle
Small pieces of fabric (12 different)
Scissors
Patience & time

When I started making these I couldn't stop!

Have a ball!

Handsewing is a kind of meditation - it is calming & fun!

1. Cut 12 pattern pieces

In paper-piecing as this method is called you have a pattern piece inside each fabric patch when you sew! It's the paper that forms the patch!

First you need to cut out 12 pieces of the pattern that is shown below. I draw them on a glossy magazine cover which is quite sturdy. Any paper that is not to thick will do! You have to be able to sew through.

2. Tack it together man!

You then cut out 12 pieces of different fabric, with a 2-2,5 cm (less than 1 inch) extra on each side because that is what you'll need when you fold the fabric around each paper piece. Now just hold the paper and fabric together and tack it together, folding each side so that it looks nice from the front and has enough seam allowance on each side.

3. Turn, remove and then stuff!

I hope its going swell so far? Like a dance, right? Now turn your ball around and remove all the paper pieces by cutting away the loose stitches that you tacked. You don't need them any more and if they look okay you can re-use them when you make your next ball!

Turn it back again and stuff it rather hard so that it makes a nice bouncy ball. If you are making a baby toy you can add a bell inside the middle for sound.

If you're making a toy for your cat add some cat-nip!

Then sew that last seam and you're finished! Wasn't that fun?

Time to play ball!

How to sew the "flower" together!
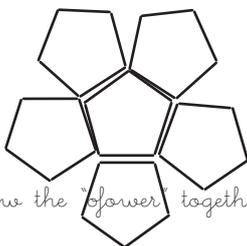
3. Time to sew that ball

When you have 12 paper pieces covered with fabric you sew all of these together too. You start with one piece that goes in the middle, and then sew the bottom edge of five other pieces to that. Make sure your stitches are on the back -/paper side. You make 2 "flowers" as shown on the photo. Next sew the flower together into a "bowl" and last sew these two bowls together leaving only one seam un-sewn.

First patch tucked!

Used paper-piece

4. Have fun with it!
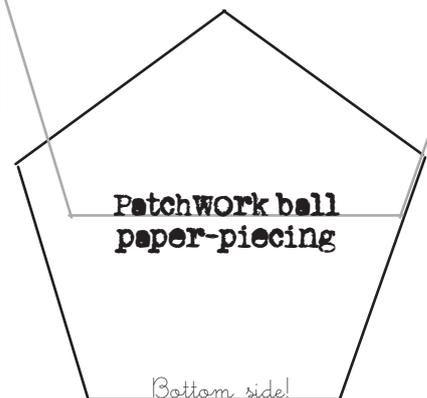
Enlarge pattern for bigger ball!

Patchwork ball
paper-piecing

Bottom side!