

Kids' Craft



(Observer photos by Sharon Boehlefeld)

Create Your Own Angel Choir

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Angels are a big part of Christmas and, with this easy craft, children can make themselves a whole choir.

A few steps might take up to four hands (yes, adults will have to help along the way), but there is no sewing in this bean bag angel project. You could sew the bean bags if you're handy with a needle, but it's not necessary.

And you can skip the glue gun because a little drying-patience and ordinary glue will do the trick.

You'll just need to gauge how much help your youngest crafters will need.

Trace and cut a circle

The first step is to trace a circle onto the fabric you'll use for the bean bag body.

The angels here are made from circles that were about 8" across.

You can use a plate or a plastic cover — the red one came from a popcorn bucket from last Christmas.

If you use a permanent marker, be sure to wash the rim of the plate with hot soapy water right away to get the marker off.

Carefully cut the circles out of the fabric, then pour beans into the middle of the circle.



Supplies

Dried beans (1/4 to 1/2 cup)	White cardboard
Pipe cleaners	Glue
Sequins	Something round to trace
Fabric scraps	(8" to 10" across)
Extra-thick yarn	Marker
Wooden beads	



Trace circles onto the fabric you're using for angel bodies.

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Depending on how big your circle is, you'll need from 1/4 to 3/4 cup of beans for each angel.



Pour beans into the center of the circle. Make a halo with a sparkly pipe cleaner and thread it through the beads.

Assemble halo and angel body

After doing it the opposite way, it became clear that the next step is to make the angel body, not decorate the face.

First, take a sparkly pipe cleaner and bend it gently in half. Make a loop at the top for the halo, twist the pipe cleaner like a garbage bag twist-tie to keep the halo in place.

Push the long ends of the pipe cleaner through the holes in a medium-sized and a small wooden bead.

Bend the bottom of the pipe cleaner "legs" into "feet." that will help keep things balanced for the next step.

Tie bean bag

Gather up the circle of fabric, squeeze it together between the head and body beads, and use another sparkly pipe cleaner as a twist tie to close the bean bag. This could be a

three- or four-hand step.

The top of the circle above the pipe cleaner makes a collar for the angel's dress.

If you prefer, here's where an adult or older child might loosely baste the edge of the circle, then gather the thread to tie the top of the angel body.

Stand the angel on the table. From front to back, wrap a skin-tone pipe cleaner around the fabric between the head and body beads. You'll be able to feel them. Twist the ends in the back and bend them back to the front for arms.

You'll shape and trim them later.



Gather up the fabric circle and use a sparkly pipe cleaner like a twist-tie to close the bean bag. Then wrap a skin tone pipe cleaner above the sparkly one to make arms.

Attach wings

Take a piece of light-weight fabric — we used sparkly netting — that's about 6" wide and 18" long. Starting at one end, fold the fabric as if you

were making a paper fan.

It's okay if the "folds" aren't very tight. Try to make them about the same size, though.

Squeeze the "fan" together in the middle and, using the sparkly pipe cleaner as a twist-tie again, attach the wings to the back of the angel body. Fold the extra pipe cleaner down, as if it were a sash or belt.



After gathering the "wing" fabric like a paper fan, use the sparkly pipe cleaner to fasten it to the body.

Add face and hair

Dab some glue onto tiny sequins and press them gently onto the front of the face bead. Use any color you want for eyes.

Find a slightly larger pink or red sequin for the angel's mouth. Dab some glue on it and press onto the bead under the eyes.

Carefully spread a thin circle of glue around the opening of the face bead. Try not to get glue onto the halo pipe cleaner.