

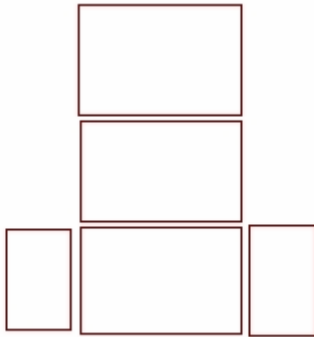
Sewing Mamas
Another free pattern download from
www.sewingmamas.com
Name of Pattern
donated by: my3babes

Please keep in mind this was typed out for a novice/beginner sewer with ONLY a sewing machine!! There are easier/faster ways to do this skirt.

Drafting your pattern.

I took 3 pieces of paper and taped them together *it is a heavier weight paper*. Then I taped half of another sheet on each side of the bottom piece. Hold it to where the paper is 11" horizontally.. and trails down. fold the papers from left to right to mark the center line of the paper. You can also cut the bottom off of a brown grocery paper sack and cut it open and use something like that or newspaper or something as well.

Papers together looks like this:

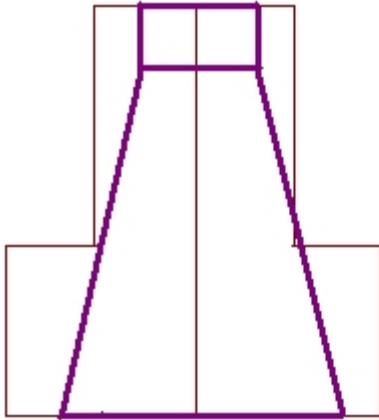


Take your HIP measurement DIVIDE by 6 and then add 1.5 inches! *I came up with 7" for mine* ROUND UP if you are working with decimals.. better safe then sorry!!

Mark HALF of that measurement on each side of the center line at the very top of the paper. So I marked 3.5" to each side of the mark. Then make a horizontal line 5" down from the top of the paper. Mark straight down from your horizontal mark on each side of the center to the 5" mark.. So on **my** paper I had a 7" by 5" RECTANGLE at the very top of the paper...

Then add 5 INCHES to your top measurement *7" plus 5" is 12" for me, you can do more

if you want a more twirly skirt.. for a really twirly mama skirt probably 7-8" Take half of that *for me 6"* and mark that on each side of the center fold at the VERY bottom of the paper. Take a ruler/yardstick and draw a diagonal line from the bottom right corner of the rectangle you created to the mark at the very bottom of the page. And vice versa for the bottom LEFT corner to the bottom left mark at the bottom of the page.. You should have a draft that looks something like this on the paper:



And this IRL:



CUT 6 of these from the material.. Make sure to cut the same direction on your fabric for every piece. I cut 1 and then flipped the pattern around and cut one right next to the marks from the other to get 4 out of the width of a yard..

Here are my 6 pieces:



We are going to do "french Seams" on the skirt so that we have no showing edges of the woven. Otherwise the first time you wash it the edges inside will fray and look bad

I used the needle in the center position and a 3.0 straight stitch length. Also on my foot half way between the center of the foot and the right edge is a line. On my foot that line is the 1/8" seam allowance you want the edge of your fabric to follow through this first step.

So take 2 of your gores and put them wrong sides together. Sew down the edge with a 1/8" seam. I also start to stitch and then reverse back over what I did and then go again just to secure the starting of the seam.



Here are the first 2 gores I sewed together and what it looks like:



Take one of the gores you just sewed and put another gore up to it with the **RIGHT** side **OUT** just like before and **SEW**. Do this until you get all 6 gores sewn together then sew the end gores together so then you have a "tube" of sewn fabric..



This is a great time to slip the skirt on and make sure it will go over your hips and fits fairly well through there.. Otherwise you could undo a seam and add a gore if needed..

Turn your skirt **WRONG SIDE OUT**. For beginners I would **IRON** each seam so it laid flat.

You are going to sew down each seam again on the wrong side with a 1/4" seam allowance. This should encase the other seam and raw edges so you have no edges showing. On my foot the right edge is the 1/4" seam allowance guide. So I line up the edge of my fabric to the edge of the foot.



Sewing down the edge



Finished seams should look like this:



Repeat for the remaining seams.

Turn the skirt **RIGHT** side **OUT**!

Press the seams. I make sure that the inside seam goes to one side or the other all the way down the seam.



At the TOP edge, SNIP off loose threads and odd little ends of fabric that might be left from the seams.

Fold the edge over ½ inch wrong sides together along the top of the skirt. Press.



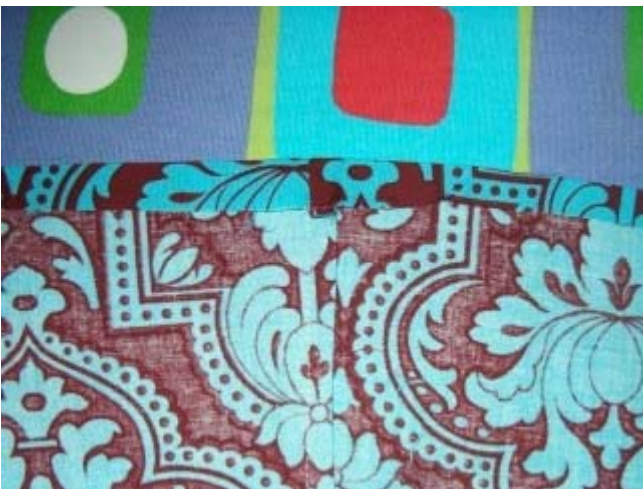
Fold and press the edge in again about 1.5".



This is where we will encase the elastic to finish the waist.

While at the ironing board... Turn skirt around and snip loose threads/fabric from the bottom edge. Then press under about 1/2" When doing the bottom you make sure to line up the outside seam with the inside line that you sewed to make that seam when you come around to the seams. You may have to fold the seam in more then the edges between seams like this:

First fold in:



Press in again about 1" this time



So all raw edges should be pressed under or sewed into the seams now.

Take your waist measurement and for a women's skirt I like to subtract 2" If you are someone that can't stand to have your elastic/waist at all tight you might want to do 1-1.5" less than your waist. Beware it might be easy for your child to pull down that way!

For those that like a really snug waist you might want to subtract 2.5". Make sure that the elastic will stretch out at least as big as your HIP measurement so you know you will be able to get the elastic waist over your hips..



Fold into a flat circle:



Zig Zag stitch over the 2 edges a few times* I used 4.0 stitch length on my zig zag* or straight stitch back and forth a LOT. Pull to make sure it is secure.



It should look like this:



Topstitch the bottom of your skirt. *insert thread color that matches in the top spool if you want at this time*. Feel the edge of the skirt.. line it up so the edge of the pressed seam on the back side is about 1/8 from the needle so you stitch through all layers. I always eyeball where I am at and how far the fabric is over to the RIGHT of the foot and concentrate and keeping the fabric that far away as it feeds through and stitches the top:



Done with the edge folded up so you can see where the back of it was stitching through:



One last step- The elastic waist band. It is the most difficult step. Insert the elastic to the far inside edge of the "casing" we ironed down earlier



Push the elastic up the edge with your nail.



Turn with the right side up and make sure elastic stays to the far right and you don't catch it in the sewing. Feel again for the "edge" of the back pressed seams we did on the hem and make sure your needle is 1/8" or so from the edge so you stitch through all layers.



When you get about 2-3 gores left you will have to start stretching the elastic and pull it from the part you have already sewn so you have enough slack to go all the way around. Make sure the elastic is flat as you sew next to it under the needle.

Ok so you are done. I for personal reasons *a.k.a. the elastic irritates me if it turns/rolls around*, put my straight stitch length all the way to 5.0 and I pull the elastic stretched out *make sure it is so the far right still* and stitch over the elastic to hold in place.



Finished skirt laid out.



Skirt on me:

