



Reverse-Appliqué Skirt

Pull this skirt on and you're ready for anything from work to a date night. It's versatile, beautiful, comfortable, and really fun to make — which is great, because once your friends see it, they'll beg you to make one for them. You can use sleek stretch wool jersey, or piece a look together from roomy upcycled t-shirts.

1. STITCH A TWO-PANEL SKIRT

Follow the instructions in step 1 to measure, mark, and cut the fabric for the Two-Panel Skirt (chapter 3, page 46).

2. ATTACH THE APPLIQUÉ

Press or pat out any wrinkles. Trace the appliqué template onto the front panel, as desired.

Pin the right side of the contrasting jersey to the wrong side of the skirt panel, underneath the traced appliqué design. With embroidery thread, hand-sew a running stitch along the chalk lines. When you're done stitching, trim away the excess contrasting jersey from the back, around the stitching.

3. ASSEMBLE THE SKIRT

Pin the front and back panels with the right sides together. Using a straight stretch stitch and coordinating thread, sew $\frac{1}{2}$ " seams. Press the seams.

Turn the skirt right side out and, if you like, topstitch over both seams with contrasting thread and a tricot stitch (or any decorative stretch stitch).

If you choose to hem the skirt, press and then stitch the hem in place using coordinating thread and a zigzag stitch.

Sew fold over elastic along the waistband (see chapter 1, page 19).

4. CUT THE REVEAL

With the skirt right side out, pinch the center of each shape to pull the layers apart. Cut out the shapes with the embroidery scissors, being careful to snip only through the top layer, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " margin inside the stitched lines.

what you'll need

- 1½ yards of wool or cotton jersey (for the main body)
- 24" square of contrasting wool or cotton jersey (for the appliqué)
- Approximately 1 yard of fold over elastic
- 1 spool each of coordinating and contrasting thread
- Embroidery thread and needle
- Sharp embroidery scissors
- Flower template (page 309)



design alternatives:

There are several fun ways to create layered designs on a reverse-appliqué project, as shown in our examples, including:

- Stitch a shape on top of the cutout reverse-appliqué design.
- Add a second underlayer behind the first. On this skirt, we stitched a piece of cream-colored fabric under the pink, and then cut away the small central circle to reveal it.
- On the big flower with the brown ring, we stitched a cream swatch behind the pink, then hand-stitched the flower's edges and two circles in the middle. Next, we cut away the brown fabric around the outside of the circle, and then we cut through both the brown and the pink layers inside the circle, revealing the cream swatch underneath.

And then, of course, you can always add some embroidery thread accents without cutting anything away, as we've done with the little brown flowers on our skirt.

