

# Make a Ruffle Skirt

Wanting to create something to wear by yourself?

Making yourself a skirt would be a great introduction for sewing. Choose your favourite fabrics (that's the best part!), and draft a pattern to suit your body. It has a comfortable elastic waist and a sweet ruffle. Here are step by step instructions of how to create your new skirt!

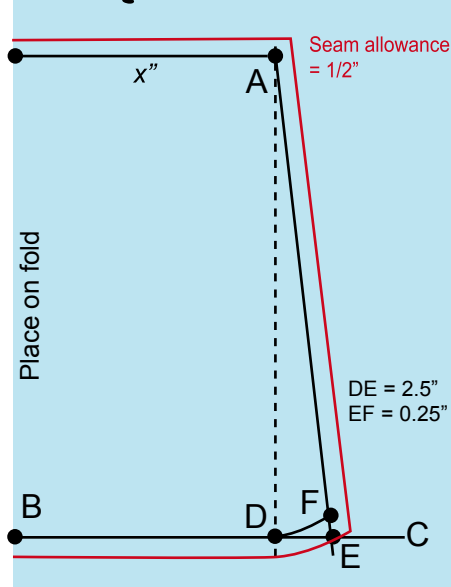


## Things You Need

- Wrapping paper for drafting the pattern
- Fabric (Medium weight cotton or linen fabrics are recommended)
  - for the main piece  
(your preferable length) x 2 + 3" of 45" wide fabric
  - for the waist band and ruffle: 22" of 45" wide fabric  
(if your hip measurement is larger than 47", prepare 28" of 45" wide fabric)
- Elastic
  - 1" wide non-roll elastic, long enough to comfortably go around your waist
- Thread to match the fabric

## How to Draft the Patterns

### Main piece - Cut 2



### Main Piece

1. Measure your hip at your widest point and add 3" for comfort. Then divide the figure by 4. Let's call this figure x.

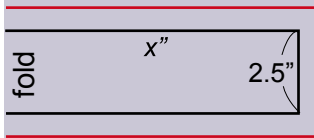
$$\left( \frac{\text{Your hip measurement} + 3}{4} = x \right)$$

eg. if your hip measurement is 37",  
 $(37 + 3) / 4 = 10$  So, your x is 10"

Draw a horizontal line on your wrapping paper as shown in the diagram (point A).

2. Decide the length of your main skirt piece (I made it 18") and mark it on "Place on fold" line (point B).
3. Draw a long horizontal line from point B (point C).
4. Draw a vertical line from point A to line BC (point D).
5. Mark 2.5 inch from point D toward point C (point E).
6. Mark 0.25 inch on line EA from point E (point F).
7. Draw a curved line from D to F.
8. Add 1/2 inch of seam allowance all around the pattern except the "Place on fold" line.
9. Cut on the red line.

### Waistband - Cut 2



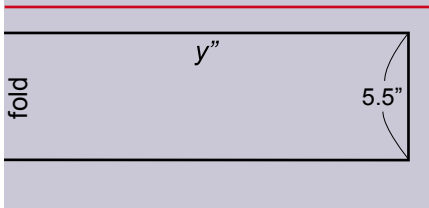
Seam allowance = 1/2"

The pieces for waistband and ruffle are rectangles. So it's easy enough to draw directly on your fabric.

### Waistband piece

Draw a rectangle of  $x$  by 2.5". Then add 1/2 inch seam allowance all around it except the fold line.

### Ruffle - Cut 2 or 3



Seam allowance = top and side 1/2"  
= bottom 1"

### For Ruffle piece

The total length of your ruffle will be equal the length of the main skirt hem multiplied by 1.5.

The hem length is about  $4x + 10$ ". Multiply the figure by 1.5.

eg. If your  $x=10$   
 $(10" \times 4) + 10" = 50"$   
 $50" \times 1.5 = 75"$

If the figure is smaller than 90", divide it by 4 and that is your "y" figure.

eg. If your  $x=10$   
 $75" / 4 = 18.75"$  (= your "y" figure)

If the figure is larger than 90", you need 3 pieces of ruffle. Divide the number by 6 instead of 4 to find out your "y" figure.

Draw a rectangle of 5.5" by  $y$ " and add seam allowance of 1/2" on top and side, and 1" on bottom.

Now cut all pieces of fabric.

# How to put your skirt together

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## 1. The Side Seams

Pin the skirt pieces right side together and sew the side seams using a 1/2 seam allowance. Do the same for the ruffle pieces. Open the seams by using an iron then zig-zag stitch the raw edges. There are many ways to treat raw edges. I folded the seams inside and zig-zag stitched here.



## 2. The Hem

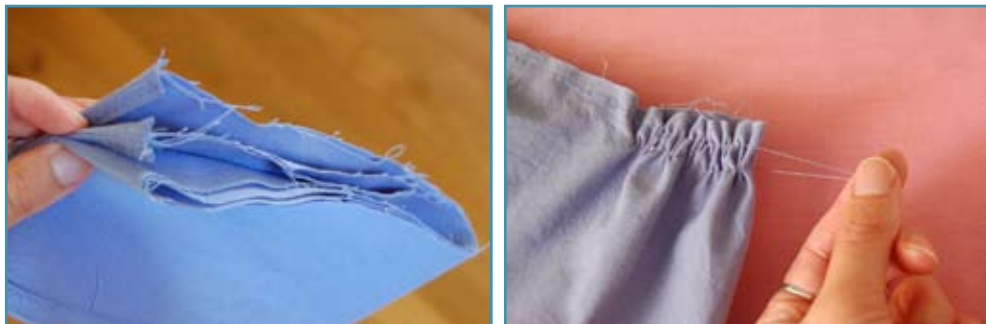


Hold the bottom edge of the ruffle over 1/2" on the wrong side and press. Then fold over 1/2" again and press so that the raw edge will be hidden inside. Sew the hem.

## 3. Gathering the ruffle

Pick up the ruffle piece, and mark the half, and quarter points from the side seams. The easy way to do it is to simply put the two side seams together to fold and fold it again in half, and mark the folds. Do the same for the bottom edge of the skirt.

Stitch 3/8" and 5/8" along the top edge of your ruffle using a basting stitch. Basting stitch is the longest and loosest stitch (Choose the longest stitch and loosen the top thread tension to achieve this). Do not sew backwards and forwards to start and stop.

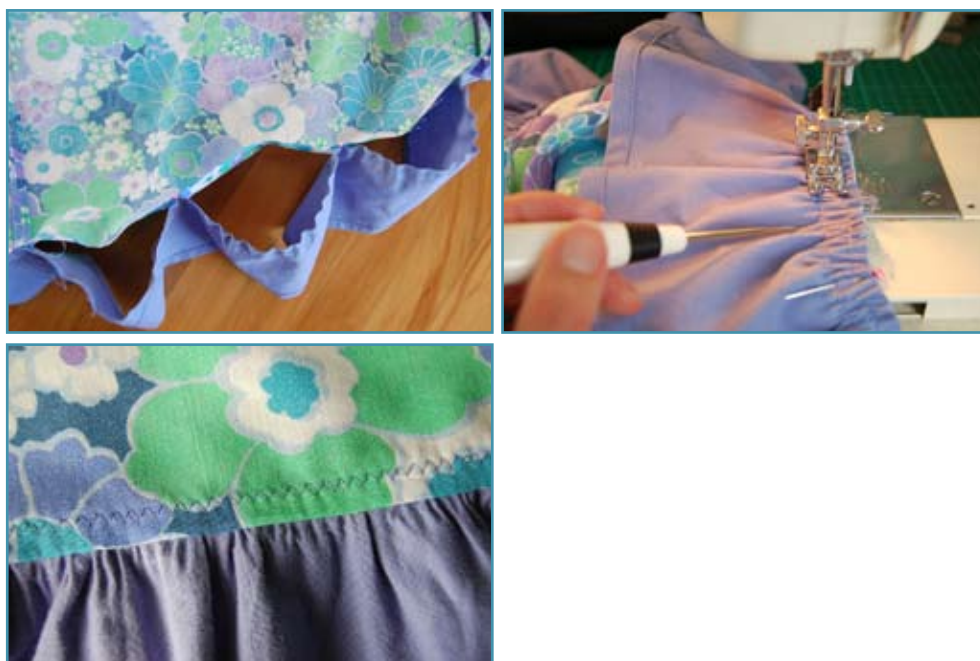


#### 4. Attach the ruffle to your skirt

Pin the ruffle piece to the bottom of the skirt right sides facing together. Match the marks you made so that the fabric will be gathered evenly. Pull the end of thread gently, and scrunch up the fabric.

Sew the ruffle to the skirt using 1/2" seam. Pay attention to make the gather even. I'm using an awl to move little gathers as I go.

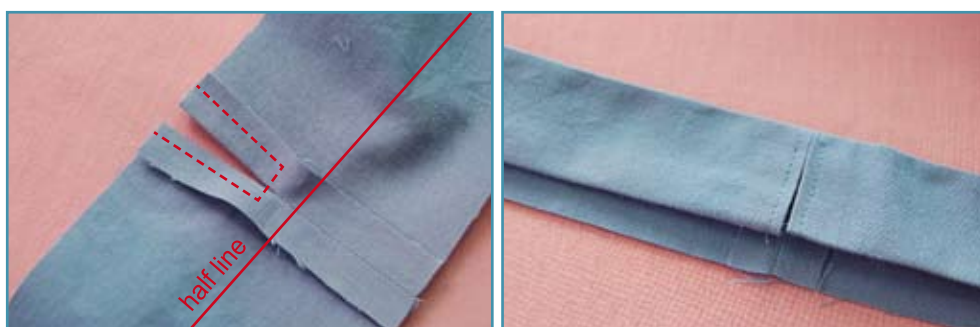
When you finish, take the bottom thread out. Use an iron to press the gathers toward the seams. Zig Zag stitch from the right side of your skirt so that you attach the seam to the skirt and treat the raw edge at the same time.



#### 5. Prepare the waistband

Sew one of the shorter sides of the waistband together right side facing to each other. For the other side, sew one or two stitches passed the half point. Press open the seams with the iron, then stitch the red dotted line shown in the photo. This will be the opening for the elastic.

Fold the waistband in half putting the wrong side together then press. Then, fold the raw edge of the side you have stitched 3/8" toward inside.



## 6. Sew the waistband to the skirt

Pin your waistband piece and skirt with right side together matching the side seams. (Make sure the opening for the elastic will be inside!) Sew them together. Press the seam toward the waistband. Fold the waistband in half and carefully stitch the edge between the waistband and the skirt piece. In theory, the wrong side is ¼" longer so you can catch it, but if it's difficult, stitch the waistband side as close as you can.



## 7. Insert elastic

Cut an elastic for your size (cut 1" longer so that you have some seam allowance), pin one side so that it doesn't go through the hole and insert the other edge through the hole using a safety pin.

Put the ends of elastic together and join securely (Sew a little rectangle).

Well done!

Now you have a lovely new skirt!

■ This tutorial was created by Emu Izaki for Sew, Mama, Sew.  
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April 2009