

Let's make an elastic waist skirt.

You'll need: medium weight cotton print fabric (preshrunk)

Matching thread

$\frac{3}{4}$ " wide elastic

Scissors, pins, and seam ripper.

1. Decide the length you want your finished skirt to be _____ inches
2. The casing area at the top of the skirt will add - - - - - $1 \frac{1}{2}$ inches
3. The hem will require an additional - - - - - $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches.

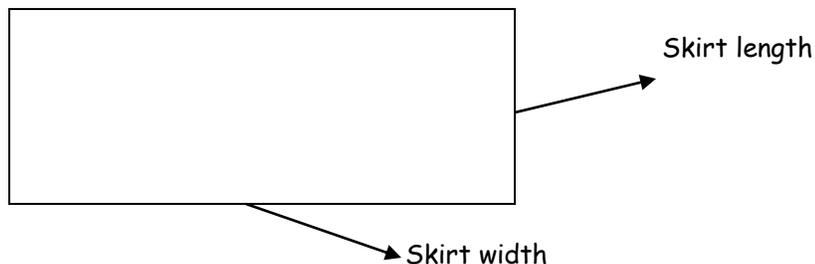
Add the above amounts (1+2+3) to determine the length of fabric you will cut. _____ inches

The width of the skirt is determined by: how full the desired skirt is to be
and the size of the girl.

One width of 45" fabric may be suitable for a slender girl, whereas a larger girl may require two widths. Another option is to determine what width the finished skirt will be, and simply buy that length of fabric. (In this case the skirt would be cut on the cross-grain.)

Cutting and sewing directions:

1. Measure and cut the fabric into the size of rectangle you will need



Be sure that either the length or width is on the straight of grain (parallel to selvage edge).

2. Sew a simple seam finish on the cut edges of the skirt length
3. Press under $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the top edge of the skirt width. Zig-zag or stitch this edge in place. (if using a straight stitch, stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the fold.)
4. Press the top edge to the inside at $1 \frac{1}{4}$ inch depth...measure to be sure this is even.
5. Put the right sides of fabric together, skirt length edges even. This will be the center back seam. Pin to hold fabric edges in place. Begin stitching (backstitch) at the casing fold, and sew down to the bottom edge of the skirt (backstitch), making a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam.
6. Press the seam open.

7. From the fold line to the top edge, trim away half the width of the seam allowance. This will reduce the bulk in the seam allowance. *see page 44 in "Let's Sew"
8. Machine- baste each seam allowance to the garment for about 3" from the upper edge. This prevents the elastic from getting caught under the seam when it is inserted.
9. Fold the casing to the inside, as previously pressed. Measure and pin to insure that the entire casing is the same width. The edges of the center back seam should meet evenly at the center back.
10. Stitch around the lower edge of the casing. Use a stitching guide so the stitching is a uniform distance from the top edge of the skirt, as well as 1/8" from the lower fold of the casing.
11. Stitch around the top of the casing 1/8" from the top edge. This second stitching helps keep the elastic from twisting. *see pictures on pg.44 "Let's Sew" to help with steps 7-11.
12. Cut a piece of elastic which fits comfortably around your waist.
13. Attach a large safety pin to one end of the elastic. Thread the elastic through the opening in the center back seam. Be careful that the elastic does not twist. Do not pull the second end of the elastic into the casing. (You may want to pin the second end of the elastic to the garment to prevent it from being pulled into the casing.)
14. Join the ends of the elastic by overlapping the ends 1 inch and machine stitch an "x" to hold the ends together.
15. Distribute the fullness evenly around the waistline.
16. Close the opening used to insert the elastic by handstitching.
17. "Stitch-in-the-Ditch" at the center back seam (*see pg. 45 "Let's Sew"). Also place a "stitch-in-the-ditch" at each side. (even though there may be no seam there...)
18. Carefully remove the basting stitches from step 8.

Hemming your skirt:

19. Finish the lower edge of the skirt by pressing under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and either zig-zag or straight stitch close to fold, as was done in step 3.
20. Fold under the hem, measure and press so the hem width is an even 2 inches. Pin in place.
21. Machine stitch the hem, using the same procedure as step 10.

Congratulations! You've completed your elastic waist skirt! Be sure all stray threads are trimmed, and that your garment is clean and pressed for judging.

