

Simple-to-make Skirt

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
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Simple-to-make Skirt . . . follow these steps in the order listed

A. MATERIALS NEEDED

- Suitable, preshrunk cotton fabric of medium weight, such as percale. To measure for amount of fabric needed, first decide how full you want the skirt to be. Three widths may give a desirable fullness. Measure the finished skirt length desired; then add 3 inches for hem. This measurement times the number of widths desired will give you the total yardage needed. In other words, finished length plus hem times the number of widths equals total yardage.

- One spool matching thread.
- Two hooks and eyes, two snaps.

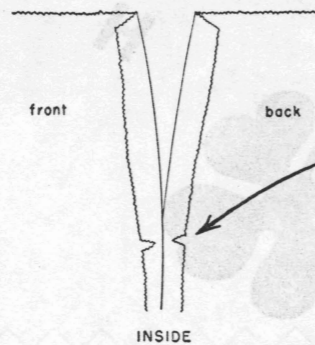
B. PREPARING FABRIC

1. Press all creases and wrinkles out of fabric.
2. Check grainline of fabric and straighten if necessary.
3. Divide total length of fabric into number of widths to be used, allowing equal lengths for each. Clip through one selvage for 1 inch, then tear across each length up to other selvage and clip it. If in doubt as to whether the fabric will tear easily, cut each length with scissors, being sure to cut on the grain.
4. From a selvage side of one of the widths, remove a 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch strip the total length. This will be used for the band and placket.
5. The length of the band should be the waist measurement plus 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. This includes the $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam allowances at each end of the band and a 2-inch underlap. The width of the strip for the band should be 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. This allows for a finished band 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide plus seam allowance of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. That is, the band should be your waist measurement plus 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, and 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. Cut the band from the strip allowed for this purpose.
6. From the fabric strip left, cut a strip 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and 12 inches long. This will be used for the placket.

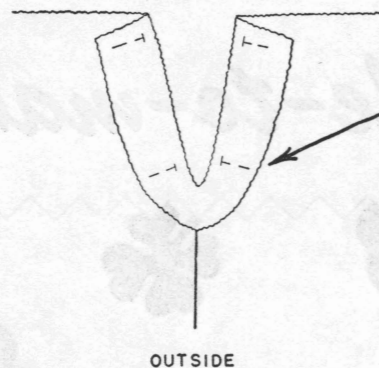
C. JOINING SKIRT WIDTHS

1. Join each width of the skirt on the selvage sides with machine stitch, approximately 14 stitches per inch. Tie the threads at beginning and ending of all seams. Leave one seam open 6 inches from the top for the placket. This placket will be on the left side. Fasten threads at this point by tying or backstitching to prevent ripping.
2. Clip selvage edges every 3 or 4 inches. Press seams open.

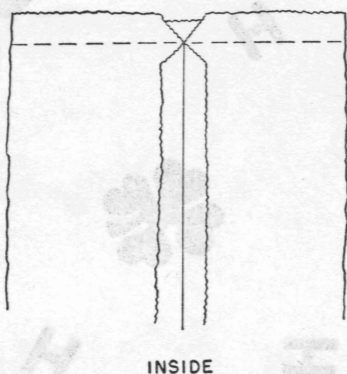
D. CONTINUOUS BOUND PLECKET



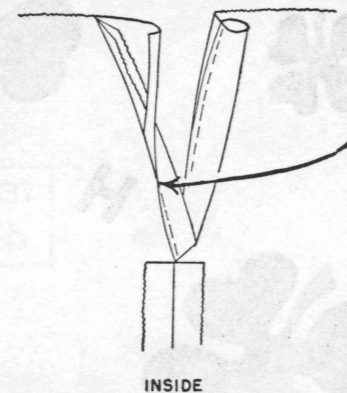
1. Clip the seam at the end of the placket opening almost to the stitching line.



2. Pin right side of placket strip to right side of placket opening, beginning with edges together.

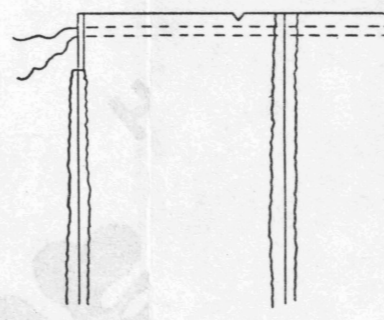


3. Turn skirt wrong-side-out and place placket strip down toward feed dog. Begin at top and stitch strip and placket edges together, using $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam allowance. Continue stitching to bottom of placket opening. Stop machine, leave needle in fabric, raise presser foot, swing skirt around, and continue stitching placket strip to top.

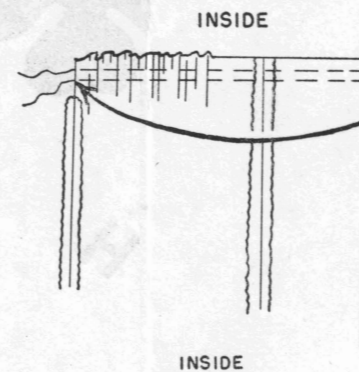


4. Trim away one-half of the stitched seam allowance on the placket; press.
5. Turn under $\frac{5}{8}$ inch of the outer edge of placket strip. Place this fold on stitching line and press.
6. Sew folded edge by hand, catching in machine stitch, or top stitch on machine.

E. GATHERING SKIRT



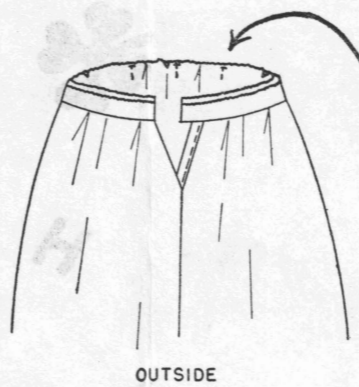
1. Divide the skirt width into four equal parts, and with scissors cut a small notch to indicate right side, center front and center back.



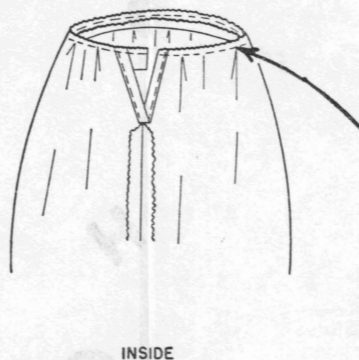
2. Stitching on wrong side of fabric, beginning at the front placket binding, machine stitch $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the edge using approximately 6 stitches per inch. Continue stitching the full width of the skirt around to the front placket binding. Now machine stitch $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edge.

3. The thread ends of these lines of stitches should be pulled together gently to form gathers. Pull the thread ends on the front half of the skirt up to one-half of the waist measure, then secure threads by wrapping them around a pin placed in the fabric. Now pull the threads on the back half as you did the front and secure them.

F. SKIRT BAND



1. Fold band lengthwise with right sides together. Machine stitch across both ends of band $\frac{5}{8}$ inch from edges. Turn and press.

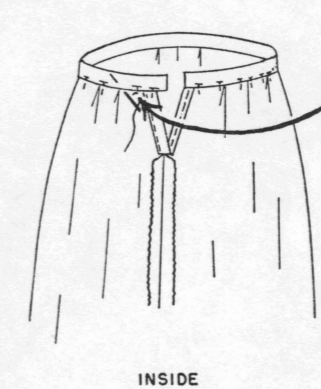


2. Pin placket in position with front side turned under and the back side extended. Press.

3. Mark the side seams of the band and the center front and back with a small notch. To do this, subtract the 2 inches for the underlap on the back side and divide the remaining measurement in fourths.

4. Starting with the front placket edge, pin the band to the skirt, right sides together. Match and pin the notches of the band and skirt at the center front, right side and center back. Adjust gathers in skirt to fit band.

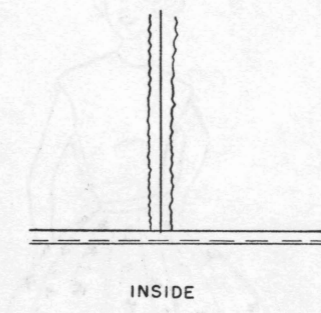
5. With gathered side up, stitch the band to the skirt using $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam allowance. Secure the threads at both ends by tying or backstitching.



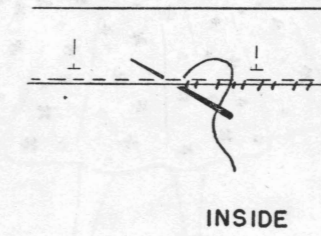
6. Turn $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam allowance under on back side of band and whip down by hand, from end to end of band, running needle under machine stitching to secure each stitch.

7. Remove gathering thread exposed, by clipping it every 5 inches and pulling threads away.

G. SKIRT HEM

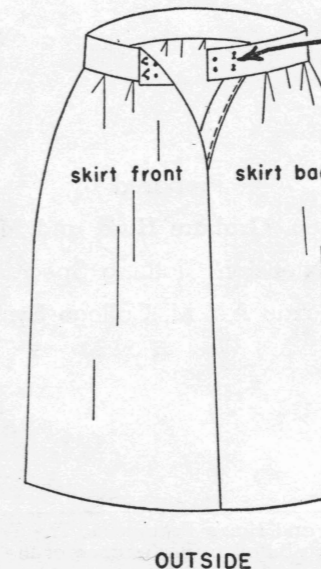


1. Machine stitch around skirt $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from lower edge.
2. Turn under lower edge of skirt on line of machine stitching, edge stitch and press.



3. Pin in position 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hem and press. Put in hem by hand, being careful that stitches do not show on right side.

H. FASTENINGS AND FINAL PRESSING



1. Close band with hooks and eyes and snaps.
2. Press thoroughly for a neat appearance.



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