Simple-to-make Skirt
Simple-to-make Skirt . . . follow these steps in the order listed

A. MATERIALS NEEDED
1. Suitable, preshrunk cotton fabric of medium weight, such as percale. Avoid designs that have to be matched. Decide how full you want the skirt to be and measure for amount of fabric needed. Three widths may give a desirable fullness. Measure the finished skirt length desired; then add 3 to 5 inches for hem. This measurement times the number of widths desired will give you the total yardage needed.
2. One spool matching thread.
3. Two hooks and eyes. Two snaps.
4. Heavy duty or nylon thread may be used for gathering.

B. PREPARING FABRIC
1. Press out all creases and wrinkles.
2. Check grilleline of fabric and straighten if necessary.
3. Measure total length of fabric into number of widths to be used, allowing equal lengths for each. Mark each length with pin or chalk. Remove a 4¼-inch strip for the band and placket from a selvage side of two lengths. Cut or tear fabric into skirt lengths as marked. If in doubt as to whether the fabric will tear easily, tear fabric into skirt lengths as marked. Mark each length with pin or chalk.
4. Pull the threads on the front side turned under and continue stitching placket strip to top. Stitch the band to the skirt, right sides together. Machine stitch around skirt opening: stitch close to fold and press.

C. JOINING SKIRT WIDTHS
1. Join skirt widths with machine stitch, approximately 14 stitches per inch. Use ¼-inch seams. Leave one seam open 6 inches from the top for the placket. Fasten threads at this point by tying or backstitching to prevent ripping. The placket will be on the left side.
2. Clip selvage edges every 3 or 4 inches. Press seams open.

D. CONTINUOUS BOUND PLACKET
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 openings; place edges together.
3. Turn one-half of the skirt up to one-half of the waist measure: secure threads by wrapping them around a pin placed in the fabric. Pull the threads on the back half as you did the front and secure them.
4. Trim away one-half of the stitched seam allowance on the placket opening.
5. Place this fold on stitching line.

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. Place fabric wrong side up. Begin at the front placket binding and machine stitch ¾ inch from the edge using approximately 6 stitches per inch. Continue stitching the full width of the skirt around to the back placket binding. Machine stitch another row raw ½ inch from the edge, same as for first row of stitching.
3. Pull the thread ends of these lines of stitches gently together to form gathers. Pull the thread ends to the center back and back placket edge. Remove a 4¼-inch strip for the band and stitch strip and placket ends by tying or backstitching.

F. SKIRT BAND
1. Fold band lengthwise with right sides together. Machine stitch across one end of band using ¼-inch seam allowance. Start stitching on other end at ½ inch from the edge. Pivot and stitch 1½ inches. Turn and press.
2. Pin placket in position with notch at the center back. Stitch the band to the skirt at the center back and the center front.
3. Pull the thread ends of the back placket binding and machine stitch to secure each stitch.
4. Stitch the band to the skirt, right sides together. Stitch down center back and cut off extra band.

G. SKIRT HEM
1. Machine stitch around skirt ¼ inch from lower edge.
2. Turn under lower edge of skirt on line of machine stitching; stitch close to fold and press.

H. FASTENINGS AND FINAL PRESSING
1. Turn ¼-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.
2. Remove gathering threads, by slipping it every 5 inches and pulling threads away.

I. Press carefully for a neat appearance.