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. The width of width 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 slip it. If in doubt as to whether the fabric will tear easily, cut each length on wrong side of selvage and clip it.
4. From a selvage side of one of the widths, remove a 6 1/4-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 1/4 inches. This includes the 5 1/4-inch seam allowances at each end of the band and a 1 1/4-inch overlap. The width of the strip for the band should be 4 inches. This allows for a finished band 1 1/4 inches wide plus seam allowance of 1/4 inch. That is, the band should be your waist measurement plus 3 1/4 inches in length, and 4 inches wide. Cut the band from the strip allowed for this purpose.
6. From the fabric strip left, cut a strip 2 1/4 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 thread at the 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 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 opening beginning with edges together.
3. Turn skirt wrong-side-out and press. Edges should be your waist measurement divided by 4. Continue stitching placket strip to right side of placket opening almost to one-half of the waist measurement. Stop machine, leave thread ends by tying or backstitching.
4. Trim away one-half of the stitched seam allowance on the placket strip. Place this fold on stitching line allowing approximately 6 stitches per inch. Continue stitching the full width of the skirt around to the front placket binding. Now machine stitch 1/2 inch from the edge.
5. 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 measurement, then secure them 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.
6. Turn band at center front and divide the remaining stitches do not show on right side.

E. GATHERING SKIRT
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 overlap on the back side and divide the remaining measurement in fourths. Place this fold on stitching line.
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 the center front and back. Adjust gathers in skirt to fit band.
5. With gathered side up, stitch the band to the skirt using 3/4-inch seam allowance. Secure the threads at both ends by tying or backstitching.

F. SKIRT BAND
1. Fold band lengthwise with right sides together. Machine stitch across both ends of band 1 1/4 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 overlap on the back side and divide the remaining measurement in fourths. Place this fold on stitching line.
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 the center front and back. Adjust gathers in skirt to fit band.
5. With gathered side up, stitch the band to the skirt using 1 1/4-inch seam allowance. Secure the threads at both ends by tying or backstitching.

G. SKIRT HEM
1. Machine stitch around skirt 1 1/4 inch from lower edge.
2. Turn under lower edge of skirt on line of machine stitching. Edge stitch and press.

H. FASTENINGS AND FINAL PRESSING
1. Close band with hooks and eyes and press.
2. Press thoroughly for a neat appearance.
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