

Three Tiered Skirt by *SquigglyTwigs* Designs



<http://www.squigglytwigs.blogspot.com>

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Description

This skirt pattern is designed to be easy to fit and quick to assemble, yet stylish. By having control over the width and length of the skirt, as well as the number of tiers, you can create any look you can imagine. With the sizing formula, you can create a custom three-tiered skirt for yourself or your child. You can also take the formula and modify it slightly to make a drop waist (2 tiered skirt). Or start with a wider first tier and make a very full and flouncy skirt.

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Materials

Calculator (or a good math mind) and measuring tape for working the formula

Ruler/yardstick, pencil, scissors/rotary cutter for measuring and cutting fabric

Thread, pins, 3/4" no-roll elastic

Fabric:

For a child: cottons, velour, light weight denim, or gauze types.

For an adult: any light weight, flowing fabric. Cottons will work but may have more body to them than you would like. Although I've seen many skirts made of quilting cotton come out beautiful. I'd make one.

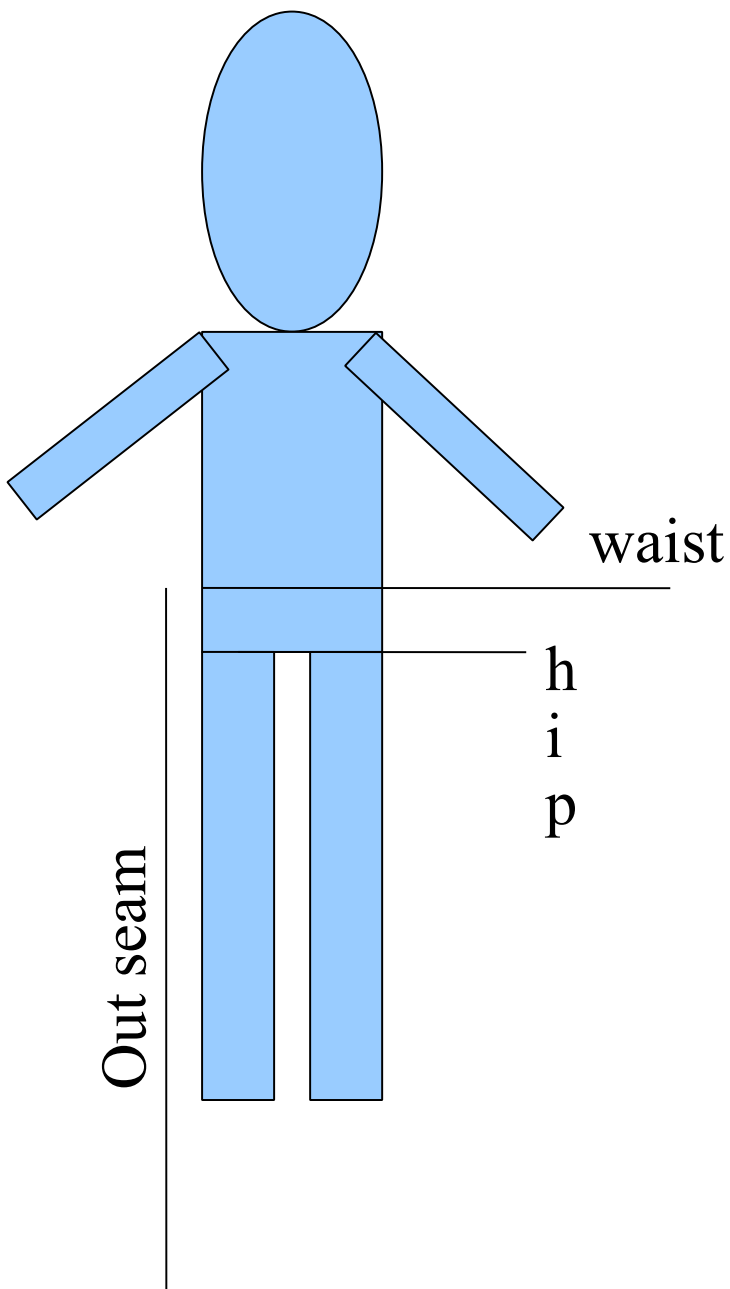
Measurements

With a measuring tape:

measure waist for elastic

measure hip for tier A

measure out seam for
desired skirt length



Sizing and Fabric Chart

size	45” Fabric	60” Fabric
6 mo.- 12mo.	$\frac{3}{4}$ yd	$\frac{3}{4}$ yd
Child: 2-6	1 yd	$\frac{3}{4}$ yd
7-10	1 1/2 yd	1 yd
12-16	2 yd	1 1/2 yd
Ladies: S	2 yd	2 yd
M	2 1/2 yd	2 1/4 yd
L	2 3/4 yd	2 1/2 yd

The above fabric amounts are based on average width and lengths, and skirts of all one fabric. After creating your first skirt you may find you can use less fabric than listed above. This sizing chart information is based on information gathered from sewing books, patterns, clothing stores, etc.

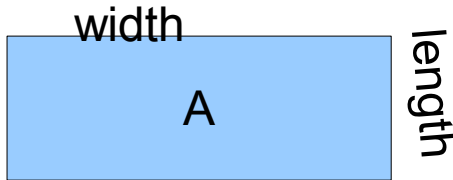
Creating Your Pattern

Option 1: Pink/Purple (pictured) 1.5 times = less fullness

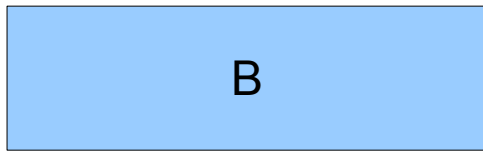
Option 2: (Not pictured) 2 times = medium fullness

Option 3: Peach (pictured) Tier A is 1.5 times **hip** measurement = near "circle" fullness

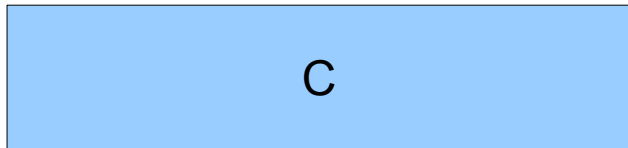
1. Calculating width of strips for tiers: (option 1 is used in the pattern calculations)



$$A = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} (\text{hip}) + 4'' (\text{child}) \text{ or } + 6'' (\text{adult})$$



$$B = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} A \times 1.5 (\text{round up for calculating ease})$$



$$C = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} B \times 1.5 (\text{round up})$$

2. Calculating the length of each strip

Start with the desired length of the skirt

 ” divided by 3 = finished length of tiers.

(or desired number of even length tiers)

Adjust accordingly for tiers of different finished lengths

(A short/B long/etc.)

Now calculate the length of each tier.

$$A = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + 1 \frac{3}{4}'' (\text{casing and seam}) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$B = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \frac{1}{2}'' (\text{seams}) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$C = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \frac{3}{4}'' (\text{seam and hem}) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Width was calculated in step # 1

Length of strips was calculated in step # 2

A is _____" wide by _____" long

B is _____" wide by _____" long

C is _____" wide by _____" long

Now you know the size of each tier.

For example:

A=28" x 9 1/4"

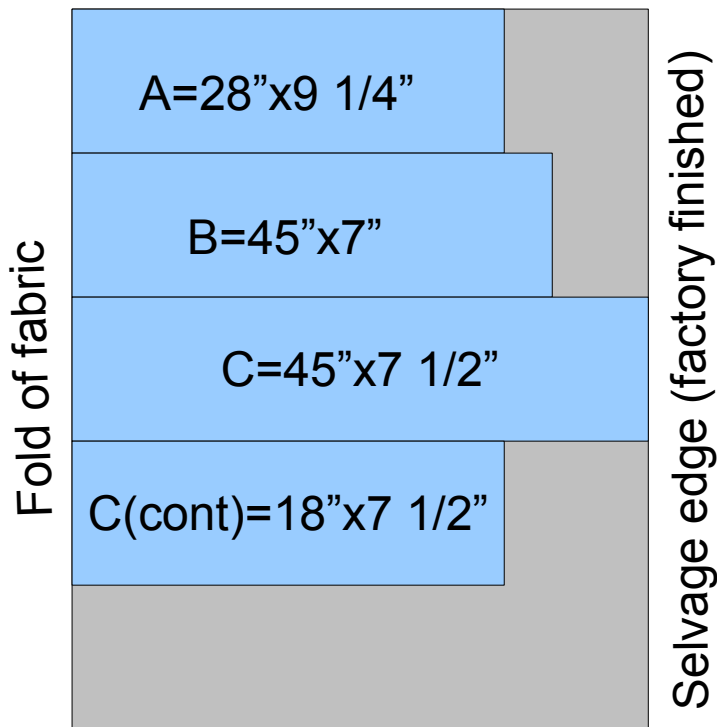
B=45" x 7"

C= 63" or 45" x 7 1/2" and 18" x 7 1/2"

Because 63" width requires more than one strip for Tier C

You are ready to cut your strips.

Fabric Layout and Cutting the Tiers



The numbers used are based on my daughter's measurements

Measure and mark the cloth for each tier.

Or you can make a paper pattern for each tier, making future skirts of this size quicker. If you have made a paper pattern, lay it on the fabric as the picture shows.

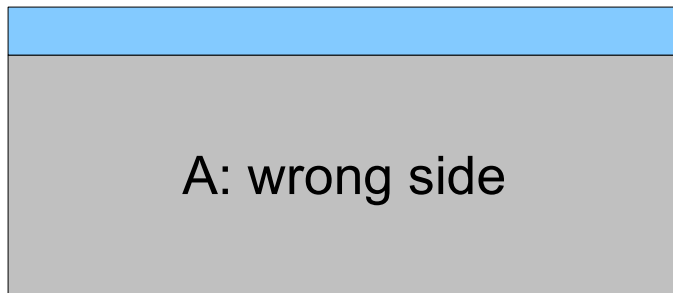
Cut and label each tier, A,B,C, so that they don't get mixed up while sewing.

Use pinking shears if you have them. This prevents fraying and will eliminate the need to zigzag to finish seams later.

Press to form casing and hem

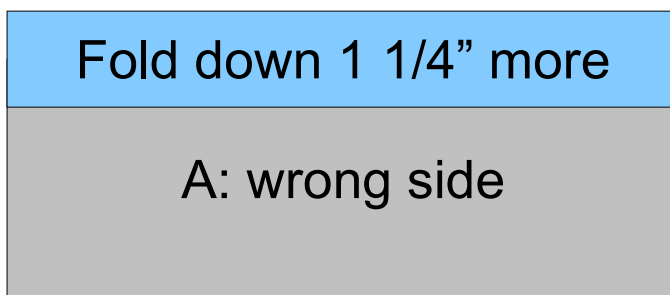
gray=wrong side
blue=right side

Fold down 1/4"



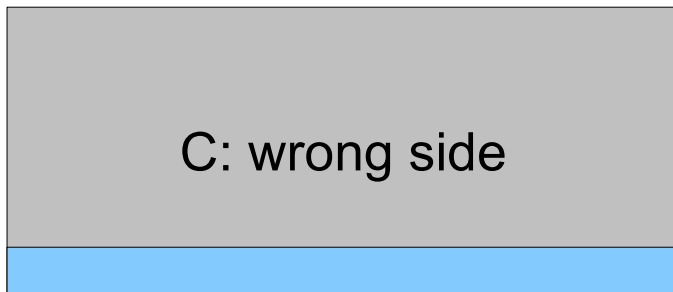
Fold down top edge of A 1/4" and press for casing.

Fold down 1 1/4" more



Fold down top edge of A again 1 1/4" more and press.

C: wrong side



Fold up bottom edge of C 1/4" and press for hem. Fold it up 1/4" more and press again.

Fold up 1/4" and repeat

Sewing Tiers

Tier A:

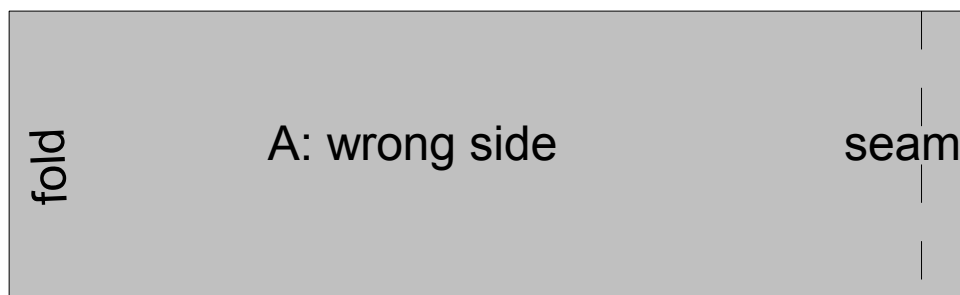
Fold tier with right sides together matching up short side.

Open up area pressed for casing.

Sew 1/4" seam, along short side, backtack (knot) at each end.

Zig zag seam edge to prevent fraying.

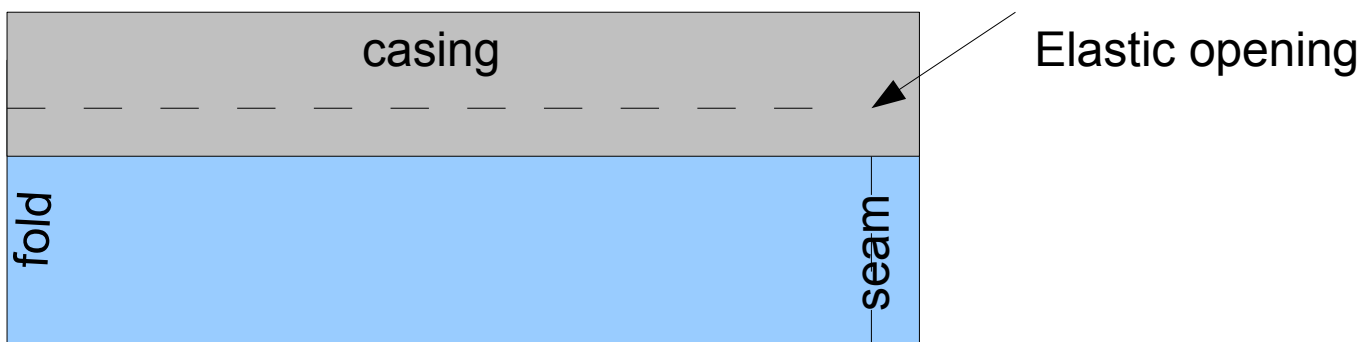
This creates a circle.



Now, fold casing as was pressed earlier.

Sew along bottom edge of casing. Leave 1-2 inches open at the back to insert elastic later.

Set aside.

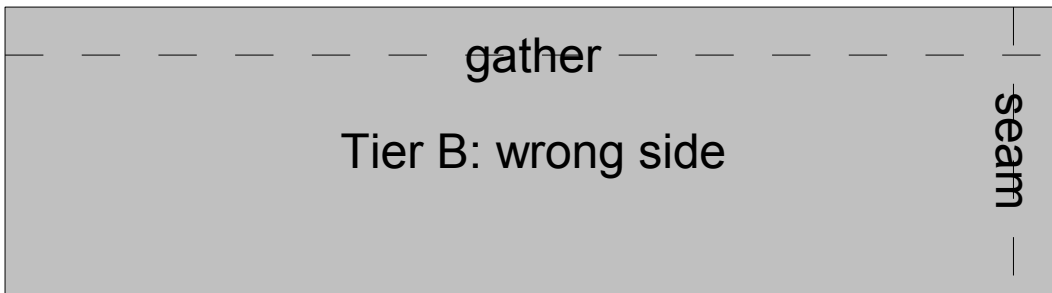


Tier B:

Do the same as you did to **Tier A** to create a circle.

Near the top edge of **Tier B**, sew a gathering/basting stitch. *More information on gathering is written in the Tips section of this pattern.* Do not knot a gathering stitch.

Set aside.



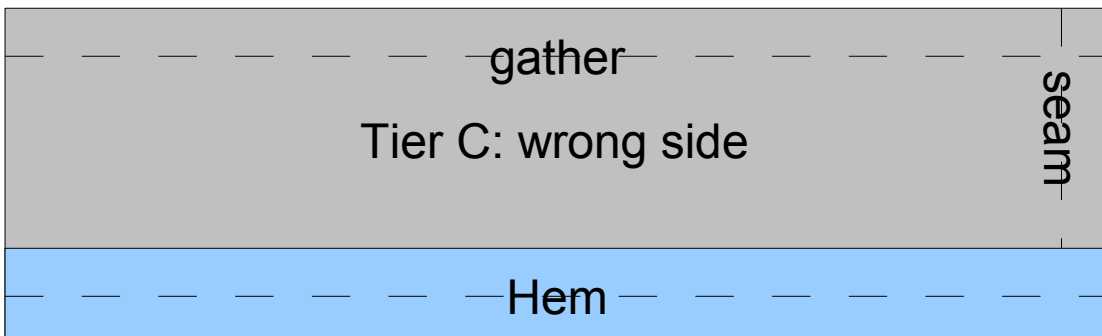
Tier C:

Do the same as you did to **Tiers A and B** to create a circle, with regular stitch. *Open up pressed hem and sew entire side seam.*

Gather the top edge of **Tier C** as you did with **Tier B**.

Fold up the hem edge as you pressed it earlier. Sew with presser foot along top edge of hem with a regular sized stitch.

Set aside.



Sewing Tiers Together

Divide Tier A into quarters. Put a **pin** at each $\frac{1}{4}$ point on the bottom edge of Tier A.

Divide Tier B into quarters. Put a **pin** at each $\frac{1}{4}$ point on the gathered edge of Tier B.

With right sides of the tiers together, match Tier B gathered edge to Tier A raw edge, matching $\frac{1}{2}$ point **pins** (pin together). Leave the other $\frac{1}{4}$ **pins** hang loose.

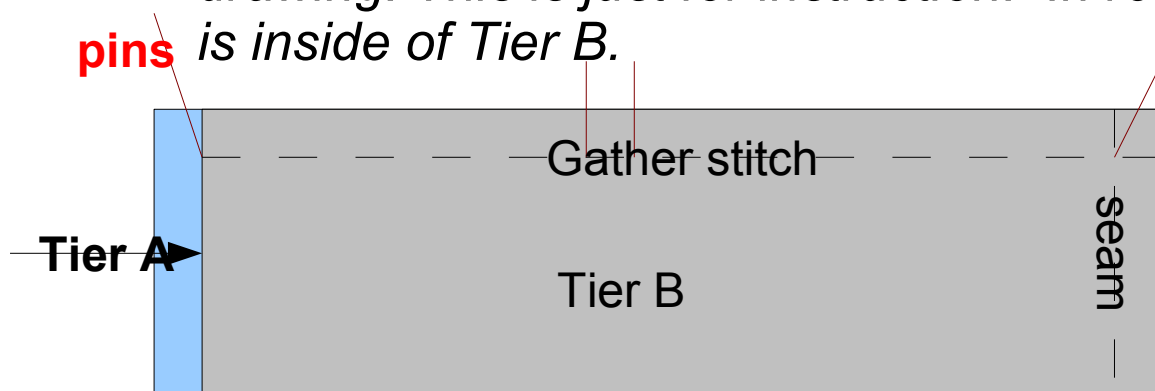
Pull top gather threads and arrange gathers evenly until all 4 pins match up. Pin tiers together securely for sewing.

Sew just below the gather stitch. Remove pins as you sew. Use a regular stitch(not gathering stitch). Make sure to smooth gathers as you go, keeping them evenly spaced between pins.

Open up skirt pieces to make sure it came together well and there are no unwanted puckers. Any gathering stitches that show on the right side can be removed easily later.

Zigzag edge to prevent fraying and to tidy up the raw edge.

Tier A is peeking out from behind tier B in the drawing. This is just for instruction. In reality Tier A is inside of Tier B.



Sewing Tiers Together Continued

Divide Tier B into quarters. Put a **pin** at each $\frac{1}{4}$ point on the bottom edge of Tier C.

Divide Tier C into quarters. Put a **pin** at each $\frac{1}{4}$ point on the gathered edge of Tier C.

With right sides of the tiers together, match Tier C gathered edge to Tier B raw edge, matching $\frac{1}{2}$ point **pins** (pin together). Leave the other $\frac{1}{4}$ **pins** hang loose.

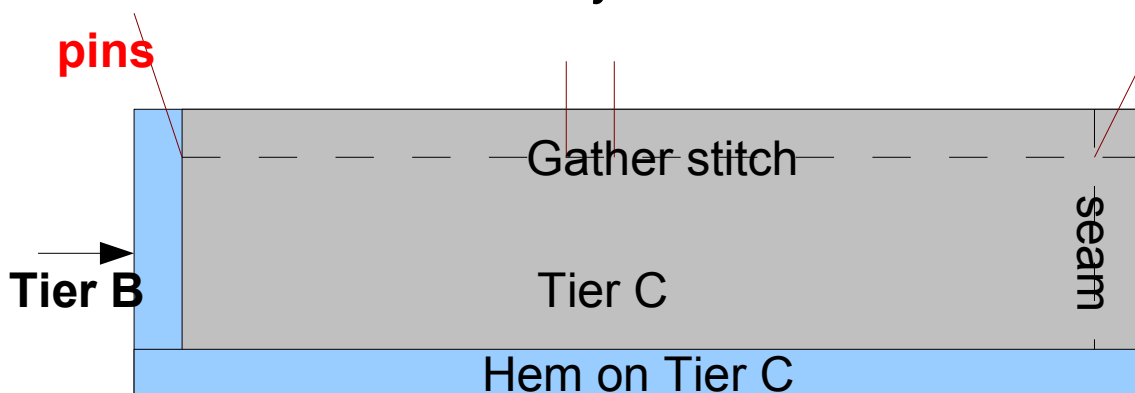
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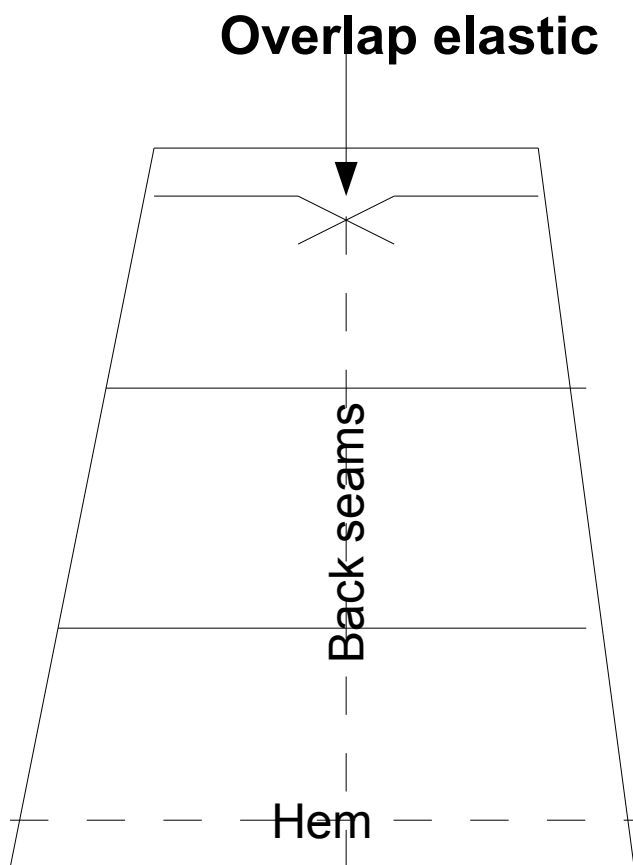
Open up skirt pieces to make sure it came together well and there are no unwanted puckers. Any gathering stitches that show on the right side can be removed easily later.

Zigzag edge to prevent fraying and to tidy up the raw edge.

Tier B is peeking out from behind tier C in the drawing. This is just for instruction. In reality Tier B is inside of Tier C.



Insert Elastic



This drawing is the skirt Completed and **wrong side out.**

Measure elastic to fit your child's (or your's) waist comfortably + 1" for overlap.

Put a safety pin on each end of elastic.

Pin one end to skirt near opening so it doesn't get pulled into casing.

Thread other end (pin) through casing.

Overlap ends slightly, pin together.

Try the skirt on and adjust the elastic so that it fits nicely on the waist and slides down over the hips easily.

Sew elastic together by stitching across the elastic the short way.

Tuck the elastic into the skirt and close the casing hole.

Press hem and casing.

Press gathered seams some to take the “poof” out.

Remove unwanted and showing gathering stitches.

Cut off any frays or loose threads.

You are finished!!!!!!

Enjoy your skirt. The first one is always the hardest, but now you've done the first...enjoy many more.

Tips

Gathering: Using a long stitch on your machine sew a gathering stitch. Keep your presser foot along the raw edge of your fabric. Sew another row with your presser foot along the first row. I sometimes just use one row. However, two rows makes a nicer gather and gives insurance just if a thread breaks while pulling gathering threads.

After both rows are sewn, put a pin in at each $\frac{1}{4}$ point, pull two threads (from the same direction) to gather up fabric. Move gathers along while pulling up more thread to the half pin. Pull the threads from the other direction and gather in the same manner.

All 4 pins from your gathered piece should match the 4 pins on your garment (not gathered piece) when pulling is complete.

For more help with gathering see the tutorial on youtube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watchv=4jIXqkwaqTM>

Embellishments or trim: You will want to add any embroidery, appliqués, or trims to the pants pieces prior to sewing them together.