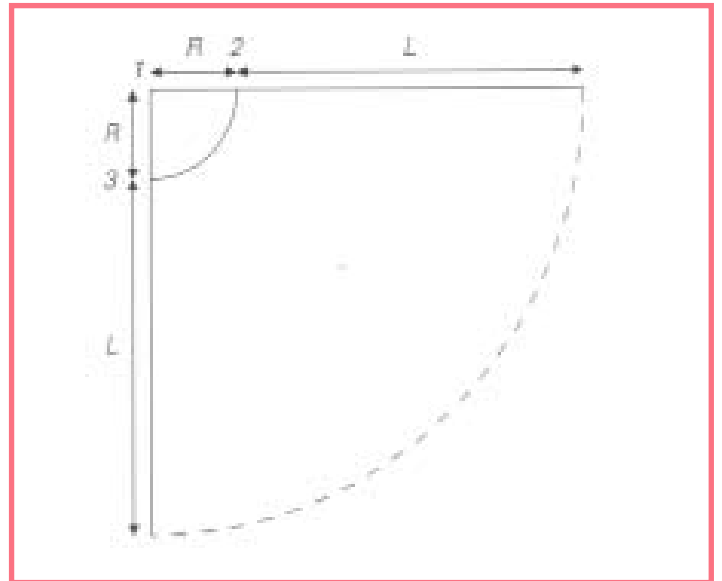


# Circular Skirt Pattern

Taken from Sew It Up,  
published by Kyle Cathie Ltd

## Making the pattern

First you need to make a personalised pattern on a large sheet of paper. You could use brown paper or sheets of newspaper taped together.



### Step 1:

Make a note of your waist measurement. Decide on the length you would like the finished skirt, plus 5cm (marked as 'L' on the diagram.) The example here is 70cm long.

### Step 2:

To make the waist the right size, you need the radius (marked as 'R' on the diagram) of your waist measurement, so divide your waist measurement by 6.28. So a waist measurement of 70cm would have a radius of 11.146cm. Round the figure up or down to the nearest whole number, in this case 11cm.

### Step 3:

Following the diagram above, mark point 1 in the corner of the paper.

### Step 4:

Use a set square or square edge to mark lines at right angles from this point.

### Step 5:

Measure the distance 'R' across to point 2, and again to point 3.

### Step 6:

Using the edge of a dinner plate, draw a smooth curve between points 2 and 3.

## Materials:

- Brown paper or newspaper
- Tape measure
- Calculator
- Set square
- Pencil
- Paper
- Dinner plate
- Metre rule
- Fabric
- Scissors
- Pins
- Sewing machine
- Sewing thread to match fabric
- 20cm zip
- Small button (about 2cm)
- Hand-sewing needle

### Step 7:

Using a metre rule, measure the distance L (the length you would like your skirt) from point 2 and again from point 3.

### Step 8:

Mark the same distance L at several points, measuring down from the waist curve, as shown by the dotted lines on the diagram.

### Step 9:

Join the hemline dots to make a smoothly curved line.

### Step 10:

Cut out the pattern and that's it – you have your own circular skirt pattern!

## Working out the amount of fabric needed

Now you have made your pattern, the next step is to work out how much fabric you will need – it will vary depending on the length you have chosen for your skirt.

### Step 1:

Draw around the pattern piece so that you a second one and mark one as the front and one as the back.

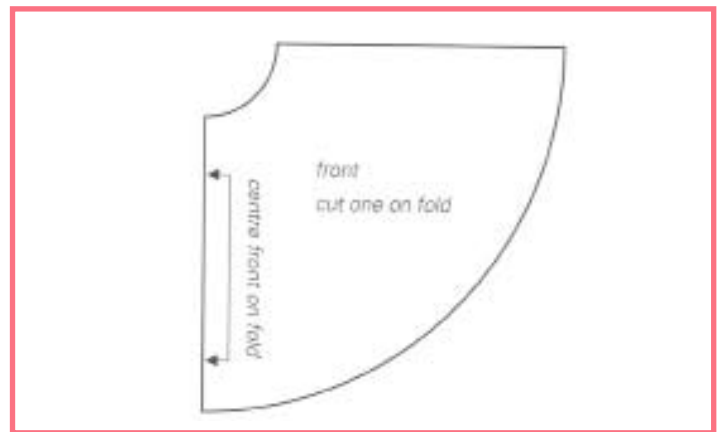
### Step 2:

Draw on the markings as shown on the diagrams with the zip mark 22cm from the waist edge.

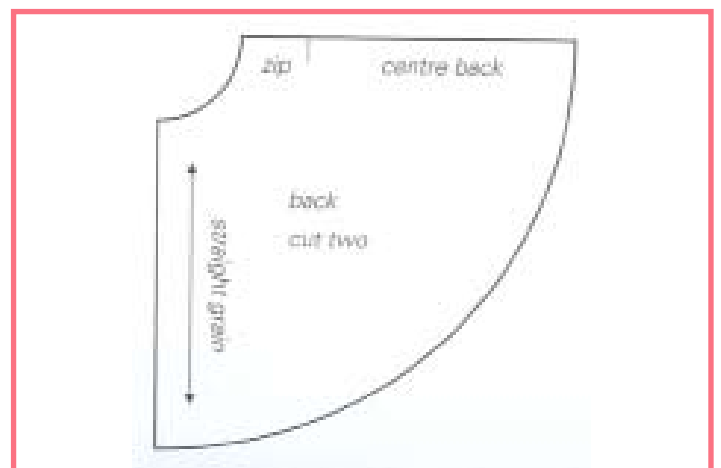
### Step 3:

Lay the pieces out as show in the diagram and measure the length and width the pieces take up. Fabric comes in several widths, so for narrow fabric you will need more length and for wide fabric you will need less. Work out your length requirement based on the most common fabric widths: 110cm, 140cm and 160cm. Remember, both pattern pieces need to be cut out on doubled fabric and the length you have worked out is for one layer – so you will need to double this to make all three panels for your skirt. As an estimate, you will need around 4 metres.

### FRONT



### BACK



### Step 4:

Lay out the pattern pieces and cut them out as shown on the diagram above, making sure the straight edges are on the straight grain and the front piece is cut on the fold.

## Making the skirt

Now that you have the required amount of fabric you are ready to make the skirt.

### Step 1:

Immediately stay stitch the waist curves on all pieces you have just cut out.



### Step 2:

Use 1.5cm seam allowances throughout unless otherwise stated. Sew up the back seam to the zip mark, leaving 22cm open at the top. Press the seam allowance open. Insert a centred 20cm zip in the back seam.



### Step 3:

Sew up the side seams and press the seam allowances open. Try on the skirt and adjust the waist area if required by pulling up the stay stitching.



### Step 4:

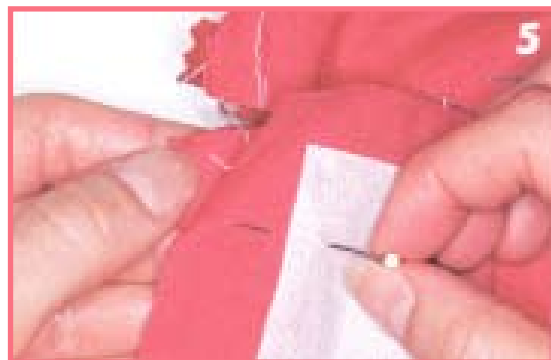
For the waistband, cut a strip of fabric 9cm wide by your waist measurement plus 6cm. Cut a piece of medium-weight interfacing 7cm wide by the same length, or use special waistband interfacing. Iron the interfacing to the wrong side of the waistband. Press the waistband in half way along the length, then open it out and press under the seam allowance on one edge only.



### Step 5:

Right sides together (so the interfacing faces up), pin one end of the raw edge of the waistband to the top of the skirt at the zip. Make sure that

1.5cm of the band protrudes across the zip. Pin the waistband around the skirt waist. You should have 4.5cm left at the other end to make the buttonhole in. If the waistband is too short you may need to ease the skirt waist slightly by pulling up the stay stitching threads to make it fit perfectly, and leaving 4.5cm of the waistband overlapping.



### Step 6:

Sew the waistband to the skirt.



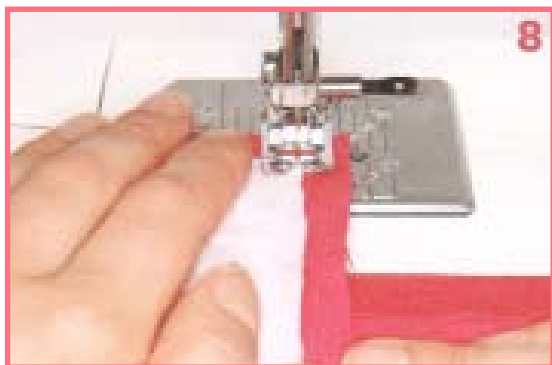
### Step 7:

Trim the seam allowance and press it up towards the waistband. Don't trim the ends of the zip tape. Fold the waistband inside out and sew across the shirt end (the end you started pinning in step 5). This line of stitching should align with the teeth of the zip.



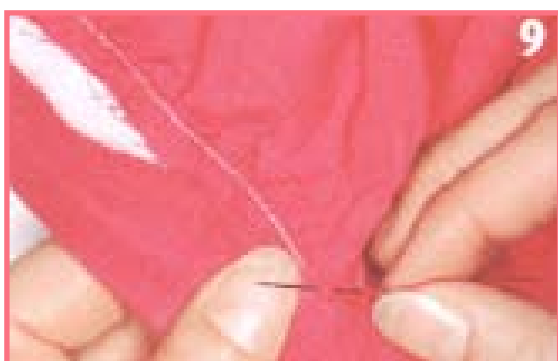
### Step 8:

At the other end of the waistband, unfold the pressed-under edge. Sew across the short end, then turn the corner and sew along up to the zip, making a tab.



### Step 9:

Clip the corners of the long and short tab ends of the waistband and turn it the right way out. Slip stitch the waistband to the seam allowance.



### Step 10:

Make a buttonhole on the tab to fit your chosen. Try on the skirt, work out where the button needs to be and sew it on. Hang the skirt on a clip hanger for 24 hours to let the fabric settle, then hem it.



### Tip!

You can easily embellish this skirt with frills, ruffles or appliqué. You could wear the skirt with a 1950s net petticoate for a retro look, or make your own with frills or lace peeking out under the hem.



