



POLKA DOT SKIRT

Pattern taken from *Stylish Skirts*, published by Lark Books

- Materials Needed**
- Fabric and notions per the pattern envelope (we used cotton fabric, contrasting thread and ½ inch elastic)
 - Sewing machine
 - Machine needles
 - Measuring tools
 - Marking tools
 - Scissors
 - Seam ripper
 - Pins
 - Needles for hand sewing
 - Thread
 - Bodkin
 - Pattern for a bias-cut pull-on skirt (these are readily available from your local sewing shop)

Step 1: Cut out and mark the skirt according to your pattern's instructions. Remember to finish the seam allowances of your skirt using the method of your choice.

Step 2: Stitch the skirt front and back sections together as the side seams, right sides together, matching the notches (photo 1).

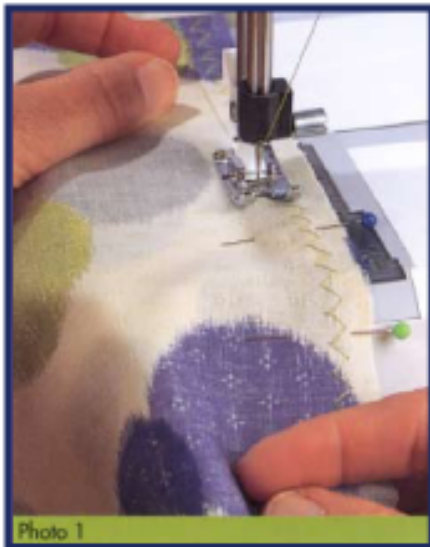


Photo 1

Step 4: Make the casing by pressing one inch of the upper edge of the skirt to the inside. Press under ¼ inch on the raw edge. Stitch on the lower edge of the casing, leaving an opening to insert the elastic (photo 2). Note the line of basting stitches from Step 3 are visible at the seam.

Step 3: In the next step you are going to make a casing for the elasticised waist. First, to save yourself the frustration of getting the elastic stuck in the seam allowances when you insert it in the casing, begin by basting the upper three or four inches of the seam allowances to the skirt.



Photo 2

Step 5: Cut a piece of elastic to fit your waste, plus one inch. Pin the free end of the elastic to the skirt so it doesn't disappear inside the casing and insert the other end of the elastic through the casing using a bodkin (photos 3 and 4). Overlap the ends and pin them together so you can try on the skirt. Adjust the elastic to fit if necessary.



Step 6

Stitch the ends of elastic together securely (photo 5) and stitch the opening closed. Distribute the fullness evenly through the waist. Remove the basting stitches at the seam allowances. (If you want, you can secure the elastic in place by stitching through the casing at each side seam.)



Step 7

Let the skirt hang overnight. Try it on and mark the desired length. If necessary, trim the depth of the hem evenly, allowing 3/8 inch for a narrow hem. Stitch 3/8 inch from the lower edge of the skirt. Press up the hem along this line of stitching, then tuck under the raw edge to meet the line of stitching. Stitch the hem in place (photo 6).



Note!

When you cut woven fabric on the bias, it drapes beautifully because this is the direction in which the fabric has the most stretch. A skirt cut on the bias needs to hang to relax to its maximum length before you hem it.