

Broom Stick Skirt

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When we first made these skirts about 20 years ago, we made them fuller than we're making them now. This pattern is revised for the slimmer skirt.

Materials:

100% Cotton Fabric
Thread to match
Gathering Foot, Ruffler or Differential Feed Serger
 $\frac{3}{4}$ " to $1\frac{1}{4}$ " Non-roll Elastic
Rotary Cutting Tool, Board, Ruler
Old pair of panty hose & rubber bands

Helpful but not required:

If turning up a hem
Fusible Thread (84990)
Twin needle for top stitching hem (2.5/80 74881)
or a 5mm Hemming Foot
Magnetic Seam Guide or Quilt Guide for your machine
Serger for a rolled edge finish instead of turned up hem
5-in-1 Sliding Gauge 40237



To determine the amount of fabric, use this formula:

1. Desired skirt length below the waistband,
plus 3, divided by 3, x 9, + 4, divided by 36 = number of yards
Example: desired skirt length = 27, + 3 = 30, divided by 3 = 10, x 9 = 90, + 4 = 94, divided by 36 = 2.611 or about 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards

*Note: if your hip measurement is 43" or over, add $\frac{1}{3}$ yard for an extra strip.
Add another $\frac{1}{4}$ yard if you want to do the Sewing Club Wrap Belt and pockets.

Use $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams except where indicated. Be sure to finish the edges of these seams since you're working with a fabric that ravels. A serger or a stitch that makes the seam and overcasts the edge at the same time will be the fastest methods.

Procedure:

1. Being sure to cut at right angles to the fold of the fabric as it comes off the bolt, cut strips the width of the fabric by the number determined by this formula (**except for two strips***):

Desired skirt length (from below waistband) divided by 3.

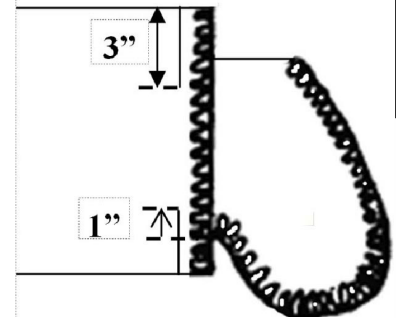
(*Note: add 3" to two of the strips, the ones that will be the top layer, since they include the casing for the elastic.)

2. Cut off the selvages from all the strips, at right angles to the cut edges. (If you're serging, you can do this as you sew the strips together.) Take the top two of the strips and cut them shorter than the width of the fabric by this formula: Hip measurement + 12, divided by 2. Example: hip = 42". $42 + 12 = 54$, divided by 2 = 27". Serge or overcast the short edges of both strips. The extra might be big enough for the pocket pieces if you're putting in pockets.

3. Cut two pocket pieces from the pattern outline. Serge or overcast the rounded side. Sew a pocket piece, right sides together, to the short side of one of the hip pieces, $1\frac{3}{4}$ " down from the top edge of the strip. Do the same thing on the other hip piece, on the corresponding short side. Press the seam allowance toward the pocket.

4. Put right sides together, matching pocket and skirt pieces, and straight stitch for 3" down from the top edge of hip pieces, through both layers, and up from the bottom edge of the hip piece to about 1" from the edge of the pocket as shown in the diagram. Use 1/2" seam allowance. Serge or overcast and seam the two pocket piece on the outside with 1/4" seam allowance. The seam with the pocket will be at your right side if you're right handed, left if left handed. With this in mind, press the pocket toward what will be the front, and baste the top of the pocket to the skirt front.

5. Sew all the remaining strips together to make one long strip. Test your gathering on one of the strips to get 10" to gather to as close to 7" as you can. Then gather the long strip to make one long ruffle. You can use the differential feed of your serger, or a gathering foot or ruffler. If you use the gathering foot, put your needle on the right side and use a magnet or quilt



guide along the edge to keep it straight.

6. Place the gathered side of the strip right sides together with the bottom raw edge of the hip piece (be sure your pocket won't be upside down). Have the gathered piece on top. Sew until you run out of hip piece, being sure to take a deep enough seam that your gathering stitch won't show. Cut off the extra ruffled strip.

7. Add the third tier to the bottom of the second tier in the same way. Cut off the extra and save it for an applique or something!

8. Finish the bottom edge with a rolled edge on the serger, or seam finish using Fusible Thread (84990) on the bobbin of your machine. Loosen your bobbin case or use an extra bobbin case. With an overcast foot and a zig zag about 1 mm long and about 5 wide, sew with the right side up all along the edge. The Fusible Thread can then fuse the hem in place, and a double needle top stitch can hold it. (Use a magnetic seam guide or quilt guide to keep your stitching straight.) Another method is to use a 5mm hemmer on your machine, a regular needle, and a medium zig zag. If you have another way you prefer, feel free to use that method. (Be sure that the edges of the skirt are going to be the same length when you sew the side seam. If not, you can adjust the hem now.) Or you can sew the side seam and then finish the bottom.

9. Seam finish the top edge of your piece skirt, turn it down 1 1/2", and press it. Stitch this casing 1 3/8" from the fold. Cut a piece of elastic to fit snugly around your waist plus 1/2". Put the elastic through, securing it at both ends.

10. Sew the side seam, and you're sewing's done! (Note: if you prefer, you can finish the side seam first and then do the casing for the elastic and the hem in the round.)

To wrinkle your skirt the first time and to keep it attractively wrinkled, you need to follow this procedure each time you wash it:

Cut the old panty hose off at the toes and down the crotch, to make two tubes. After you've washed your skirt and had it spin dry, pull it into the one of the panty hose tubes. Keep the hem from being turned up, and try to keep the skirt fairly straight. Put the other tube over the first one, with the crotch part at the other end. Secure each end with rubber bands or your skirt will crawl out of the nylons while it's in the dryer and you'll have a square dance skirt instead of a "broomstick" skirt!

Put the skirt through the drying cycle a few times. To speed drying at this point, I take it out of the panty hose, separate the folds just a little bit, and hang it on the clothes line this way. Usually it's dry the next day. If you keep your skirt in the panty hose between wearings, you won't need to go through this as often. This is a really fun skirt to wear, and attractive on all figures. Take it when you travel, in the panty hose. It saves space, and wrinkling only enhances its appearance! Note also, if you travel with a friend and have several of these in your suitcase, there's great shock value!

