

we all sew

made to create **BERNINA⁺**



Created by Stacy Schlyer

Maxi Skirt

materials and tools

- 1½ to 2 yards of 60"-wide stretch jersey fabric
- Coordinating sewing thread
- Scissors
- Yardstick or ruler
- Tape measure
- Water-soluble marker or tailor's chalk
- Twin (double) needle (optional)

Want an easy way to look stylish, but feel comfortable at the same time? Sew up a customized maxi skirt—it's easy to wear without sacrificing fashion!



step one

Measurement A

- Place the tape measure around your body at the "waist" where you intend to wear your skirt. This can be your natural waistline (where your belly button is located) or lower (e.g. 1" below belly button) depending on your comfort level.

Waist measurement = _____ inches

- Plug that number into this formula:

_____ inches ÷ 2 = _____ inches; + ½" seam allowance = = **Measurement A**

(For example, if your waist measures 30": 30" ÷ 2 = 15"; + ½" seam allowance = 15½")

You will use *Measurement A* when cutting out your skirt.



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step two

Measurement B

- Measure the length you want your skirt to be. To take this measurement, start at where you intend the “waist” of your skirt to be (natural waistline or below) and end where you would like your finished skirt to end (ankles, floor, etc.). Keep in mind the shoes you may be wearing, as this could change the look and length of your design.

Length measurement = _____ inches

- Plug that number into this formula:

$$\text{_____ inches} - 2\frac{1}{2}'' = \boxed{} = \text{Measurement B}$$

(For example, if your length is 35": $35'' - 2\frac{1}{2}'' = 32\frac{1}{2}''$)

You will use *Measurement B* when cutting out your skirt.

• Tip: To guarantee the best results, it is important to take very accurate measurements. You may want to enlist the help of a friend and wear minimal clothing to achieve precise numbers.

step three

Cut the Waistband

- Cut two $7\frac{1}{2}''$ x *Measurement A* strips. (For the measurements used in the example, cut two $7\frac{1}{2}''$ x $15\frac{1}{2}''$ strips.)



• Note the direction in which the fabric stretches most. Be sure to cut out your pieces so the stretch goes around your body and not up and down!

step four

Cut the Skirt

- Fold the fashion fabric in half, making sure that the most amount of stretch is going from side to side and not up and down.



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step five

- Locate the 28" mark on your yardstick. Draw a 28" line along the bottom edge of the fabric, centered from side to side. (There will probably only be about 1" from the ends of the line to the edges of the fabric.)

step six

- From this line measure up the length of *Measurement B* (for example, 32½") and make a mark.



step seven

- From here, draw the length of *Measurement A* across the fabric (for example, 15½"), being sure this length is centered over the bottom line. (With, for example, about 7" from the ends to the side edges of the fabric.)

step eight

- Connect the ends of the upper and lower lines to create a trapezoid shape.



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step nine

- Cut along the drawn lines, taking care not to move the layers of fabric when cutting. Shifting layers will alter the size and shape of the trapezoid, affecting the finished garment.
- You now have two skirt panels.



step ten

Stitch the Waistband

Note: All seams are $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless otherwise specified.

- Sew the short ends of the two waistband pieces right sides together.
- Repeat for the second side, creating a continuous "loop."

step eleven

- Fold the band in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, matching the raw edges and the seams.



step twelve

- Press.
- If desired, baste the raw edges together.
- Set the waistband aside.



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step thirteen

Stitch the Skirt

- With right sides together, stitch the sides of the two skirt panels together using a narrow zigzag stitch.



step fourteen

- Place waistband around the upper skirt edge, right sides together, matching raw edges and seams.
- Stitch using a narrow zigzag; press seams toward skirt.



step fifteen

- Fold under 1" along the lower edge of the skirt.
- Stitch hem close to raw edge.



optional

- For a more ready-to-wear look, use a Twin needle to stitch the hem.

