

Circle Skirts

You don't need a pattern to make a circle skirt, just a simple compass and your measurements to make a basic circle panel. Circle panels can make several different types of dance skirts, but they all start out the same way. Variations of circle skirts can be as diverse as 1950's poodle skirts to really full gypsy skirts, and panel skirts.

- Basic circle: 1 full circle (2 half panels)
- Gypsy skirt: 2 or more full circles
- Panel skirt: half circle for front, and full circle for back
- Flounces and ruffles can be added for extra detail.

Because you will need to "hang out the bias" (allow the fabric to stretch), you will want to start making this skirt at least a week prior to the date you plan to wear it.

INSTRUCTIONS:

BASIC HALF-CIRCLE PANEL, Floor Length

The amount of yardage you will need is based on how full of a skirt you are planning, and your height. You will need a length twice measurement A and at least as wide as measurement A for one half-circle panel.

MEASUREMENT A

Measure from your waist to the floor, over your roundest part (rear or hip) in the shoes you plan on wearing.

MEASUREMENT B

Measure from your waist to your hip.

MEASUREMENT C

Measurement A less B is C (you will need this).

To make a simple compass using a string the length of A, attach a push pin to one end and tailor's (fabric) chalk to the other.

Fold fabric in half. In corner at fold place pushpin end of compass, holding string tight, draw an arch with the chalk onto your fabric. Now draw another arch at measurement B. Trim fabric .5" (seem allowance) to outside of chalk measurement.

To hang out the bias, pin hip band area of panel to hanger and let it hang. Depending on the fabric you can hang it near the shower so it can steam out or wet it and let it hang dry. If you're not sure just let it hang for a minimum of 48 hours. Always let the bias hang out before you hem.

Put whatever type of waist band in you prefer (casing and elastic work well), and hem.

Hemming (2 methods):

Method 1) You will need a friend to help. Wear the skirt (in the shoes you will be wearing) and have your friend pin the hem at the length you want--you will have to mark front and back on the hip band because they will probably be different (back longer than front).

Method 2) Take measurement C and retrim the skirt panel to that measurement, and hem. This should give you the proper length to go over the roundest part of you (lets say your rear) and then be a little longer in the front, just roll over the hip band in the front to make it the proper length.

