

Project: Cute Skirt

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FABRICS are from the Tweet Birdie Tweet collection by Michael Miller Fabrics (michaelmillerfabrics.com).

Pick your favorite fabric and sew an easy skirt for any occasion!

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Materials

- Fabric for skirt: two times finished length of skirt plus 10"
- 1½"-wide nonroll ribbed elastic: waist measurement plus 1"
- Thread
- Large safety pin

Step 1

Ask an adult to help you measure your body. You'll need to know your waist measurement and how long you want your skirt to be to know how much fabric to buy and what size to cut your skirt pieces.

Cut fabric into two rectangles. Each should be two times your waist measurement (wide) by finished skirt length PLUS 5" (long). Machine-zigzag-stitch the short edges of each piece of fabric. This stitching keeps the seam edges looking neat and prevents the edges from raveling (**photo 1**).

TIP: Ask for help setting the sewing machine to a zigzag stitch. Zigzag-stitch through a single layer of fabric right next to the cut edge.

Step 2

Place large fabric rectangles with printed sides together and pin one set of zigzag-stitched edges together. Sew through both layers from top to bottom, ½" from zigzag-stitched edges. Backstitch at beginning and end of sewing line to secure stitching. Repeat to sew opposite edges and make a fabric tube (**photo 2**).

TIP: A seam guide "bumper" made with layers of blue painter's tape will help keep the fabric straight while you stitch.

Step 3

Place fabric tube printed side down on ironing surface. Press Step 2 seams open. Fold over one open end of tube ½"; press. The iron is hot. Keep your hands away from the heat.

Fold over the same edge an additional 2"; press and pin to prepare skirt top for elastic waistband casing (**photo 3**).

TIP: It helps if a pair of extra hands folds the fabric and holds it straight while you press.

Step 4

Edgestitch around tube ¼" from top fold. Stitch a second time around tube ¼" from bottom fold, leaving a 2" area unsewn to make waistband casing for elastic strip. Note: Our sewer has pulled the fabric away from the needle so you can see her contrasting stitching lines. The blue tape to the left of the throat plate is the guide used for stitching 1⅞" from the top fold (**photo 4**).

TIP: Ask for help setting the sewing machine to a low speed. (Most machines have a speed control.) A low speed will give you more control over the machine and help you make straight and even rows of stitches.

Step 5

Cut 1½"-wide elastic into a strip the measurement of your waist PLUS 1". Secure large safety pin to one end of elastic strip. Thread safety pin through one side of 2" casing opening at tube top. Keeping elastic flat, push safety pin through casing until pinned end of elastic strip comes out at opposite side of opening (**photo 5**).

TIP: You'll be able to feel the large safety pin inside the folded fabric. It acts as a guide to push/pull the elastic through the casing.

Step 6

Pull both ends of elastic strip out and away from casing. Overlap ends of elastic 1". Sewing in a rectangle, stitch together overlapped ends. Work elastic back into casing and stitch opening closed (**photo 6**).

TIP: After threading elastic through casing, try on skirt and adjust waist elastic as needed before stitching elastic ends together and closing casing.

Step 7

Place skirt tube printed side down on ironing surface. Fold over bottom of tube ½"; press. Fold over the same edge an additional 1½"; press and pin as done in Step 3. Topstitch close to first fold to hem and complete skirt.

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Set machine for a medium-width, medium-length zigzag stitch.

PHOTO 1

Don't sew over pins! Stop stitching and remove pins right before the needle gets to them.



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4

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PHOTO 5



PHOTO 6