



18 INCH AND AMERICAN GIRL 3 WAY SKIRT

Make Your Outfit Instructions

1. Preview of Completed Outfit

Play this video and check out this great outfit that YOU will make!



2. Tools and Resources Required

- 1) Paper pattern (printed from PDF file downloaded to your computer)
- 2) **Fabric for Basic Skirt** – 6½ x 14 inches (16 x 35cm) cotton, poly cotton, denim

Fabric for Frill or Pleated Skirt – 7 x 30 inches (18 x 75 cm) or 3½ x 41 inches (9 x 105 cm)

Optional netting for Frill Skirt – 3¼ x 27 inches (8 x 68cm)

- 3) 9½ inches (24cm) of ¼ inch (6mm) elastic
- 4) Matching thread
- 5) Paper scissors
- 6) Glue
- 7) Fabric scissors or rotary blade and mat
- 8) Clippers/snips
- 9) Pins
- 10) Ruler, sewing gauge or tape measure
- 11) Marking pen/chalk for Pleated Skirt only
- 12) Safety pin or loop turner



3. Preparing Paper Pattern

- 1) Check the 2 inch (5cm) top measurement is correct to ensure you have printed the pattern to the correct size.
- 2) Cut out pattern pieces following the solid line depending on which skirt you are making.

Basic Skirt – Cut around outside solid line of Piece #1

Frill or Pleated Skirt – Cut around outside solid line of Piece #1 as above and fold at the cutting line marked for the Frill or Pleated Skirt or cut along this cutting line. Then also cut around Pattern piece #2: part 1 of 2 and piece #2: part 2 of 2. Glue pattern piece #2 part 1 on top of pattern piece #2 part 2 matching solid line to dashed line and placing glue in the overlap section.

4. Cutting Out Fabric

Basic Skirt

- 1) Fold fabric in half and place paper pattern piece #1 onto the fabric with the edge that says 'Place on Fold of Fabric' along the fold of the fabric. Pin in place.
- 2) Cut around paper pattern with scissors or cutting blade and remove pins.

Frill or Pleated Skirt

- 1) If using one long thin strip of fabric, fold one end in 7" (17 ½ cm) and place pattern piece #1 (Top of skirt) onto the fabric with the edge that says 'Place on Fold of Fabric' along the fold of the fabric. Pin in place. Fold the other end of the fabric in about 14" (35cm) and place pattern piece #2 (Frill/Pleated section) onto the fabric with the edge that says 'Place on Fold of Fabric' along the fold of the fabric. Pin in place.
- 2) If using a bigger piece of fabric, fold in half along the long side and place pattern piece #1 (Top of skirt) and pattern piece #2 (Frill/Pleated Section) onto the fabric with the edge that says 'Place on Fold of Fabric' along the fold of the fabric. Pin in place.
- 3) Cut around both pattern pieces with scissors or cutting blade and remove pins.



5. All Skirts - Make Top Casing

- 1) Take piece #1 - Basic Skirt or Top of Frill/Pleated Skirt and place it down in front of you with the wrong side of fabric facing up. Turn down the top raw edge $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (2cm). Pin in place.
- 2) Press and remove pins.
- 3) Turn raw edge of casing in towards the fold $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm). Pin in place.
- 4) Press with fingers or with iron.
- 5) Using a straight stitch, sew along the bottom edge of the casing, close to the fold securing the beginning and end of stitching with a couple of reverse stitches.

6. All Skirts - Sew Hem

- 1) With fabric wrong side up, turn up raw edge of hem $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12mm). Pin in place.
- 2) Press and remove pins.
- 3) Turn raw edge down into the fold and pin in place. Press with fingers or iron.
- 4) Using a straight stitch, sew close to the left hand fold doing a couple of reverse stitches at both beginning and end.

7. Frill Skirt Only – Sew Gathering Stitch

- 1) If using netting, place the netting on wrong side of fabric and match long raw edge of frill with long edge of netting. Pin.
- 2) Sew a row of long straight stitches (gathering stitch) $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3mm) in from the raw edge of the top of the skirt leaving excess threads at beginning and end of sewing. **Do not** do reverse stitches at beginning and end.
- 3) Sew a second row of gathering stitch $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (9mm) in from the raw edge of the top of the skirt leaving excess threads at the beginning and end of sewing. **Do not** do reverse stitches at beginning and end.



8. Frill Skirt Only – Attach Frill to Skirt Top

- 1) Fold Skirt Top in half to find the centre front. Place a pin at this point on the raw edge.
- 2) Fold Frill section in half lengthwise to find the centre front. Place a pin at this point on the raw edge.
- 3) Lay the Skirt Top down in front of you with the right side facing up. Place the Frill down onto the Skirt Top with right sides of fabric together. Match the raw edges and the two centre pins. Remove one pin and use the other pin to join the two pieces together here.
- 4) Take one end of the Frill and match to the end of the Skirt Top. With raw edges even pin together. Repeat with other end of Skirt Top and Frill.
- 5) Take the two bobbin threads (threads on the wrong side of the fabric) of one end of the Frill and pull gently to gather the fabric until it is the same length as the Skirt Top. Even out the gathers in between the pins and secure with more pins.
- 6) Repeat step 5) on the other end of the skirt.
- 7) Sew a row of straight stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge to attach the Frill to the Skirt Top, ensuring the gathers are even as you go. Secure beginning and end of stitching with some reverse stitches.
- 8) Remove gathering thread.
- 9) Sew a row of zigzag stitch over the raw edges to prevent fabric fraying.

9. Frill Skirt Only – Top Stitch

- 1) Fold the seam allowance up towards the top of the skirt and sew a row of straight stitch on the top of the skirt close to the seam.

10. Pleated Skirt Only – Create Pleats

- 1) If adding trim, do so before creating pleats.
- 2) Fold Pleat section in half matching short ends. Where the fold is place a pin at the raw edge.



- 3) Using a ruler or tape measure start at the centre front pin and mark at the following intervals towards the end of the fabric.

1" / 1" / 1" / 2" / 1" / 1" / 2" / 1" / 1"

2.5cm / 2.5cm / 2.5cm / 5cm / 2.5cm / 2.5cm / 5cm / 2.5cm / 2.5cm

- 4) Repeat step 3) from centre point out to other end.
- 5) Turn fabric right side up and short end towards you, this will make folding the pleats easier.
- 6) Fold the first mark up towards the second mark. Go to the next mark and fold it down to this same point (second mark). You have made your first box pleat.
- 7) Now go to the next mark, which is the start of your next pleat, and repeat step 6). Continue all along to the end of the fabric. Press pleats.

11. Pleated Skirt Only – Attach Pleats to Skirt Top

- 1) Sew a row of straight stitch just inside the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) seam allowance to secure the pleats in place.
- 2) Take the top piece of your skirt and fold in half matching the short ends, place a pin at the centre fold on the raw edge.
- 3) Repeat with the pleated section, placing a pin at the centre along the raw edge.
- 4) Place the top of the skirt down in front of you with the right side facing up and raw edge to the top. Lay the pleated section on top with right sides together, matching centre pins and raw edges. Remove one pin and use the other to pin both pieces together.
- 5) You will notice that the pleated section is a little longer than the top of the skirt – we will cut off the excess fabric later. Matching raw edges pin skirt top to pleated section.



- 6) Using a straight stitch, sew a ¼ inch (6mm) seam being careful that the pleated section remains flat as you sew over it.
- 7) Sew a row of wide zigzag stitch over the raw edges to prevent fabric fraying.
- 8) Cut off excess fabric from both ends of pleated section so that it is even with the skirt top.

12. Pleated Skirt Only – Top Stitch

- 1) Fold the seam allowance up towards the top of the skirt and sew a row of straight stitch on the top of the skirt close to the seam.

13. All Skirts - Thread Elastic

- 1) Cut a piece of ¼ inch (6mm) elastic 9½ inches (24cm) and place a pin in one end.
- 2) Thread through casing with a safety pin, Bodkin or Looper.
- 3) With one end of elastic in line with the end of the casing, stitch across the elastic to secure in place. Ensure elastic is not twisted through the casing. Match the other end of elastic with the other end of the casing and stitch across the elastic to secure in place.
- 4) Pull on either end of elastic to even out gathers along the casing.

14. All Skirts - Sew Back Seam

- 1) With rights sides together, match raw edges ensuring that the top casing and the hem are even. Pin.
- 2) Using a straight stitch sew ¼ inch seam starting at the top of the casing. Secure beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 3) Sew a row of zigzag stitch over the raw edges to prevent fabric fraying, secure beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 4) Turn to right side.

15. Congratulations You Did It!

Celebrate! YOU made another great outfit. Well done!