



18 INCH AND AMERICAN GIRL PEASANT 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 – cotton, cotton blend, knit (that doesn't roll when cut)
Long – Three tiers 12 inches (30cm) fabric
Short – Two tiers 5 inches (12.5cm)
- 3) Elastic ¼ x 10 inches (6 mm x 25 cm)
- 4) Matching thread
- 5) Paper scissors
- 6) Paper Glue
- 7) Fabric scissors
- 8) Clippers/snips
- 9) Pins
- 10) Safety pin or bodkin
- 11) Ruler, sewing gauge or tape measure
- 12) Pencil or marking pen



3. Preparing Paper Pattern

- 1) Check the 2 inch (5cm) tip measurement is correct to ensure you have printed the pattern out to the correct size.
- 2) Cut out pattern pieces following the solid line.

Note: If you are making the short skirt then you will cut Piece #1, Piece #2 part 1 and part 2. For the long skirt you will need all pattern pieces.

- 3) Glue Pattern Piece #2: Part 1 of 2 to Pattern Piece #2: Part 2 of 2 and if making the long skirt, Pattern Piece #3: Part 1 of 2 to Pattern Piece #3: Part 2 of 2.

4. Cutting Out Fabric

- 1) Open out your fabric and fold one selvedge over 14 inches (35cm) towards the center and the other selvedge in to meet it. Place paper pattern pieces #2 and #3 (if making the long skirt) onto the fabric you have folded over 14 inches (35cm) and pattern piece #1 onto the other side, making sure to place the edges marked with arrows on the fold of the fabric.
- 2) Pin pattern pieces in place and cut around with scissors or cutting blade.
- 3) Pin pattern piece #3 onto the fabric again but this time NOT on the fold.
- 4) Cut around with scissors or cutting blade.

Note: If you are making the short skirt, you will not be cutting out pattern piece #3.

5. Create Casing

- 1) Fold the one long edge of pattern piece #1 (top of the skirt) down into the wrong side of the fabric $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (2cm). Pin and press.
- 2) Remove pins. Fold the raw edge into the casing $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm), pin and press. This will create a casing approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12mm) wide.
- 3) Sew a row a straight stitches close to the left hand fold of the casing securing the beginning and end with reverse stitches.



6. Hem Bottom Ruffle

Long Skirt

- 1) To join all three pieces of Ruffle 2 together, take the longest piece of Ruffle 2 and pin one short piece of Ruffle 2 to each end with right sides together end matching the raw edges.
- 4) Using a straight stitch sew a ¼ inch (6mm) seam where you have pinned, securing the beginning and end with reverse stitches.
- 5) Overcast the raw edges with a zigzag stitch. I use a stitch width of 3-3.5 and a length of 1.

Short and Long Skirt

Note: If you are making the short skirt, you will be working with piece #2 (Ruffle 1) or if you are making the long skirt, you will be working with piece #3 (Ruffle 2) for this step.

- 6) With the right side of the fabric facing down, fold one long raw edge in ½ inch (12mm) to the wrong side and pin. Press.
- 7) Fold raw edge into the fold that you have just pressed and press again.
- 8) Sew a row of straight stitches close to the inside fold starting at one end continuing all the way to the other end of the skirt.

Ruffles in Seam

7. Sew Gathering Threads

- 1) Sew a row of gathering stitch just inside ¼ inch (6mm) from the raw edge of the top of Ruffle 1 leaving excess threads at beginning and end of sewing.
- 2) Sew a second row of gathering stitch beside the first row and a little more than ¼ inch (6mm) in from the raw edge leaving excess threads at beginning and end of sewing. When you attach the ruffle you will sew in-between these two rows.

Note: If sewing the long skirt, repeat steps 1) and 2) with Ruffle 2.



8. Attach Ruffles in Seam

Long Skirt

- 1) Fold ruffle 2 in half matching the two short ends. Place a pin or mark with a pen at the fold on the raw edge – this is the center of the ruffle. Open the ruffle out and take one end into the center pin to find the $\frac{1}{4}$ mark. Place a pin or mark with a pen at this point. Repeat on the other side. You now have the ruffle marked into 4 even sections.
- 2) Repeat with ruffle 1 but you will be placing the pin on the edge WITHOUT the gathering stitches.
- 3) Lay ruffle 1 down in front of you with the right side of the fabric facing up and the edge with the gathering threads towards the bottom. Place ruffle 2 on top with right side facing down, matching the raw edges and the two center pins or marks. Pin the two pieces together here.

Tip: place your pin vertically across the stitching line so that you can easily pull the threads to gather the ruffle between these pins.

- 4) Now working out towards the end, match the quarter pin of ruffle 1 with the quarter pin of ruffle 2 and pin in place.
- 5) Take the end of ruffle 1 and match it with the end of ruffle 2, ensuring raw edges are even. Pin in place.
- 6) Repeat steps 4) and 5) attaching the other side of ruffle 1 to the other side of ruffle 2.
- 7) Working from one end of ruffle 2, take the two bobbin threads (threads on the wrong side of the fabric) and pull gently to gather the fabric of the ruffle from the center pin out towards the end. Continue pulling until ruffle 2 is the same length as ruffle 1 on that side and even out the gathers in between the pins. Place as many pins as you need to hold the gather securely.
- 8) Repeat step 7) on the other side.
- 9) Using a straight stitch sew $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) seam to attach ruffle 2 to ruffle 1 securing the beginning and end with reverse stitches. You will be sewing in between the two rows of gathering stitches. Remove gathering threads.
- 10) Overcast raw edges of seam allowance with a zigzag stitch.



Short & Long Skirt

- 11) Fold ruffle 1 in half matching the two short ends. Place a pin or mark with a pen at the fold on the raw edge – this is the center of the ruffle. Open the ruffle out and take one end into the center pin to find the $\frac{1}{4}$ mark. Place a pin or mark with a pen at the fold. Repeat on the other side. You now have the ruffle marked into 4 even sections.
 - 12) Repeat with the top of the skirt so that you have it marked in 4 even sections.
 - 13) Lay the top of the skirt down in front of you with the right side of the fabric facing up and the casing towards the bottom. Place ruffle 1 on top with right side facing down, matching the raw edges and the two center pins or marks. Pin the two pieces together here.
- Tip: place your pin vertically across the stitching line so that you can easily pull the threads to gather the ruffle between these pins.**
- 14) Now working out towards the end, match the quarter pin of ruffle 1 with the quarter pin of the top of the skirt and pin in place.
 - 15) Take the end of ruffle 1 and match it with the end of the top of the skirt, ensuring raw edges are even. Pin in place.
 - 16) Repeat steps 14) and 15) attaching the other side of ruffle 1 to the other side of the top of the skirt.
 - 17) Working from one end of ruffle 1, take the two bobbin threads (threads on the wrong side of the fabric) and pull gently to gather the fabric of the ruffle from the center pin out towards the end. Continue pulling until ruffle 1 is the same length as the top of the skirt on that side and even out the gathers in between the pins. Place as many pins as you need to hold the gather securely.
 - 18) Repeat step 17) on the other side.
 - 19) Using a straight stitch sew $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) seam to attach ruffle 1 to the top of the skirt, securing the beginning and end with reverse stitches. You will be sewing in between the two rows of gathering stitches. Remove gathering threads.
 - 20) Overcast raw edges of seam allowance with a zigzag stitch.
 - 21) Press the seam allowances of the skirt layers up.



Top Stitched Ruffles

9. Prepare Ruffles

Short & Long Skirt

- 1) Finish off the raw edge of the top of the skirt with a zig zag stitch, I use a length of 1 and width of 3-3.5
- 2) Turn the raw edge of ruffle 1 down 1/8 inch (2mm) to the wrong side of the fabric and press. If making the long skirt, choose either long raw edge.
- 3) With the right side of ruffle 1 facing up, sew a zig zag stitch along the edge that you have just pressed. I use a stitch width of 3-3.5 and length of 0.75 as I want the stitches to be close together and sew with the needle coming down just over the edge of the fabric on the right. Clip off any loose threads on the wrong side.
- 4) Sew a row of gathering stitch just inside ¼ inch (6mm) from the top edge of Ruffle 1 leaving excess threads at beginning and end of sewing.
- 5) Sew a second row of gathering stitch beside the first row and a little more than ¼ inch (6mm) in from the top edge leaving excess threads at beginning and end of sewing. When you attach the ruffle, you will sew in-between these two rows.

Long Skirt

- 6) Finish off the long raw edge of ruffle 1 with a zig zag stitch, I use a length of 1 and width of 3-3.5.
- 7) Repeat steps 2) to 5) with ruffle 2.

10. Attach Top Stitched Ruffles

- 1) Lay the top of the skirt on the table in front of you with the right side of the fabric facing up and the casing to the top. Using a marking pen or tailors chalk draw a line ½ inch (12mm) up from the bottom edge.

Long Skirt

- 2) Repeat step 1) with ruffle 1.
- 3) Fold ruffle 2 in half matching the two short ends. Place a pin or mark with a pen at the fold on the top edge – this is the center of the ruffle. Open the ruffle out and take one end into the center pin to find the ¼ mark. Place a pin or mark with a pen at this point. Repeat on the other side. You now have ruffle 2 marked into 4 even sections.



- 4) Fold ruffle 1 in half matching the two short ends. Place a pin on the right side of the fabric at the fold above the line you have drawn with the pointy part of the pin facing down to the bottom of the ruffle. Open the ruffle out and take one end into the center pin to find the $\frac{1}{4}$ mark. Place a pin at this point again with the pointy part of the pin facing down to the bottom of the ruffle. Repeat on the other side. You now have ruffle 1 marked into 4 even sections.
- 5) Lay ruffle 1 down on the table in front of you with the right side of the fabric facing up and the line you have drawn towards the bottom.
- 6) With the right side of the fabric facing up, lay ruffle 2 on top of ruffle 1 matching the center pins and the top of ruffle 2 with the line you have drawn on ruffle 1. Pin together.

Tip: place your pin vertically across the stitching line so that you can easily pull the threads to gather the ruffle between these pins.

- 7) Now working out towards the end, match the quarter pins and the top of ruffle 2 with the line you have drawn on ruffle 1. Pin together.
- 8) Take the end of ruffle 1 and match it with the end of ruffle 2, again matching the top of ruffle 2 with the line you have drawn on ruffle 1. Pin in place.
- 9) Repeat steps 7) and 8) attaching the other side of ruffle 1 to the other side of ruffle 2.
- 10) Working from one end of ruffle 2, take the two bobbin threads (threads on the wrong side of the fabric) and pull gently to gather the fabric of the ruffle from the center pin out towards the end. Continue pulling until ruffle 2 is the same length as ruffle 1 on that side and even out the gathers in between the pins. Place as many pins as you need to hold the gather securely.
- 11) Repeat step 10) on the other side.
- 12) Using a straight stitch sew in between the two rows of gathering stitches to attach ruffle 2 to ruffle 1, securing the beginning and end with reverse stitches. Remove gathering threads.



Short & Long Skirt

- 13) Fold ruffle 1 in half matching the two short ends. Place a pin or mark with a pen at the fold on the top edge – this is the center of the ruffle. Open the ruffle out and take one end into the center pin to find the $\frac{1}{4}$ mark. Place a pin or mark with a pen at this point. Repeat on the other side. You now have ruffle 2 marked into 4 even sections.
- 14) Fold the top of the skirt in half matching the two short ends. Place a pin on the right side of the fabric at the fold above the line you have drawn with the pointy part of the pin facing down to the bottom of this piece. Open the top of the skirt out and take one end into the center pin to find the $\frac{1}{4}$ mark. Place a pin at this point again with the pointy part of the pin facing down to the bottom. Repeat on the other side. You now have the top of the skirt marked into 4 even sections.
- 15) Lay the top of the skirt down on the table in front of you with the right side of the fabric facing up and the casing to the top.
- 16) With the right side of the fabric facing up, lay ruffle 1 on top of the skirt top matching the center pins and the top of ruffle 1 with the line you have drawn on the top of the skirt. Pin together.

Tip: place your pin vertically across the stitching line so that you can easily pull the threads to gather the ruffle between these pins.

- 17) Now working out towards the end, match the quarter pins and the top of ruffle 1 with the line you have drawn on the skirt top. Pin together.
- 18) Take the end of ruffle 1 and match it with the end of the skirt top, again matching the top of ruffle 1 with the line you have drawn. Pin in place.
- 19) Repeat steps 17) and 18) attaching the other side of ruffle 1 to the other side of the skirt top.
- 20) Working from one end of ruffle 1, take the two bobbin threads (threads on the wrong side of the fabric) and pull gently to gather the fabric of the ruffle from the center pin out towards the end. Continue pulling until ruffle 1 is the same length as the skirt top on that side and even out the gathers in between the pins. Place as many pins as you need to hold the gather securely.
- 21) Repeat step 20) on the other side.
- 22) Using a straight stitch sew in between the two rows of gathering stitches to attach ruffle 1 to the skirt top, securing the beginning and end with reverse stitches. Remove gathering threads.



Both Skirts

11. Thread Elastic

- 1) Cut a piece of ¼ inch (6mm) elastic 10 inches (25cm) and place a pin in one end. This will prevent the elastic from being pulled out the other end of the casing.
- 2) Thread through casing with a safety pin, Bodkin or Loop Turner.
- 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.

12. Sew Back Seam

- 1) Fold the skirt in half with rights sides together, match raw edges of the back of the skirt, 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.
- 5) Drop your feed dogs or change the stitch length to 0. Push the seam allowance to one side and topstitch a few stitches at the casing. This holds the seam allowance neatly to one side.

13. Congratulations YOU did it!

Celebrate! YOU made another great outfit. Well done!