

Dolly OutFITTERS Patterns

Step-by-Step
Guide for the

Cascading Skirt Pattern

for American Girl Dolls!



Simple, Gathered, and
ruffled hems included!

Cascading Skirt Pattern

For this pattern you will need:

- 1/3 yard of well draping fabric. Swimwear, dance fabrics, and very stretch knits are the perfect fabrics for this pattern's style. (You can use old T-shirts to practice this skirt with knits. They are perfect for that.) Woven fabrics may also be used. They won't hang quite the same way but are still cute.
- ¼ yd. of coordinating fabric for optional trim and ruffle.
- 12 inches of ¾ inch black or white braided elastic. (If you use fold-over elastic use 11 inches instead of 12. It has more stretch than braided elastic.)
- Thread to match your fabric/elastic.

Sewing Equipment/Tools you will need:

Scissors, Pins, Chalk, Pattern Tracing Paper or Light colored Tissue Paper

Cutting Instructions

- Cut 1 Skirt front piece on the fold.
- Cut 1 Skirt back piece on the fold.
- Cut 1 piece of ¾ inch black or white elastic 12 inches long.
- Cut 2 ruffle pieces 2" X 20" for the hem from the same or coordinating fabric.



Alternate Skirt Lengths

Make the skirt short by cutting 2 skirt front pieces.



Skirt Sewing Instructions

Important: Use a 3-3.5mm stitch length or the stretch/knit stitch if your machine has one for the seams when making the skirt. These stitches help to keep the thread from breaking when the elastic stretches.

Unless otherwise noted, you will use ¼ inch seam allowances for all seams.

1. Finish the very top edge of both skirt pieces to prevent fraying and give a professional look. You can use a serger or a zigzag stitch. (If you are using a knit swimwear or dancewear fabric, this isn't necessary as it won't fray. It's up to you. The following examples do not show finished edges.)
2. With right sides together, sew the skirt front to the skirt back at the side seams. Finish the seams as desired. (The corners of the side seams will just touch at the bottom. Then, the back of the skirt will be longer as shown.)



3. Place a pin at the center front and center back of the skirt as shown and set aside.



4. Sew the short ends of the 12 inch piece of elastic together with a ¼ inch seam. Then, press the seam open and sew each side of the seam allowance to lie flat against the elastic.



5. Mark the elastic with chalk into quarters on the right side of the elastic. The picture below shows two of the marks. The seam is the first chalk mark, then across from that when lying flat. Next, bring your first 2 marks together and mark on the other 2 ends. (You will have a seam and 3 chalk marks an even distance from each other.)



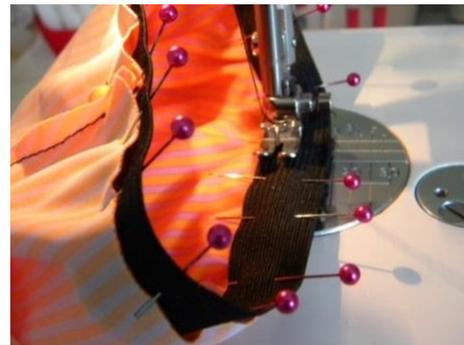
6. Match those four marks on the elastic with the side seams and center front/back of the skirt. The skirt top edge should overlap the elastic by ½ inch. Can you see the 4 pin heads in this picture?



7. The skirt fabric will be wider than the elastic. Stretch the elastic to meet the width of the skirt between the pins and keep pinning until all the fabric is worked into the elastic.



8. Topstitch the elastic onto the skirt fabric, stretching the elastic a bit, but letting the machine feed the fabric slowly.

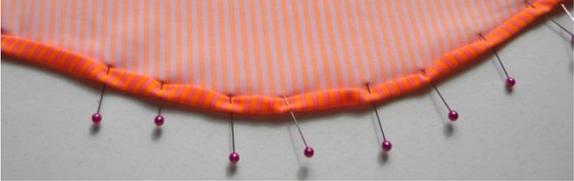


9. The following picture shows how the finished stitching will look on the inside. (This fabric isn't finished at the top edge because it is swimwear fabric. If you want it to look more finished you could add a row of stitching closer to the top of the skirt fabric.)



10. To hem the skirt, press the bottom edge of the skirt to the inside ¼ inch.



<p>11. Then, press again another ¼ inch and pin.</p>	
<p>12. Sew the hem as close to the fold as possible.</p>	

☺ With stretchy knit and swimwear/dance fabrics, you don't even have to hem the skirt at all since it won't fray. That's your choice as the skirt maker ☺

Alternate Hem Style – Add a ruffle for a more formal and dramatic look!

- Cut 2 pieces of fabric 2 inches by 20 inches.



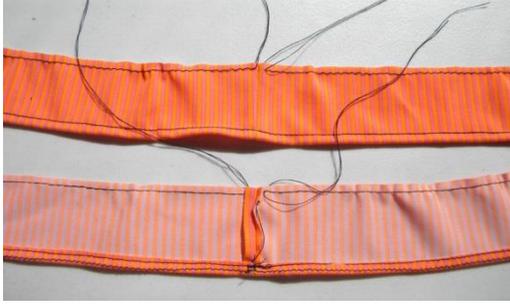
- Sew the short ends of the ruffle together. Finish the seams of the ruffle as desired.



- Finish one long side of the ruffle as desired. Press this to the wrong side of the fabric and stitch into place. (To finish the edge, this picture just shows a row of stitching ¼ of an inch from the edge and turned up for simplicity.)



- Starting at the side seams, sew 2 rows of basting stitches along the top edge of the ruffle. Leave long threads at the ends. You have 2 separate sides to ruffle. The seam starts at one side seam and stops at the next side seam to create 2 separate basting areas. The first picture shows the first set of basting stitches. The second picture shows the double row.



- Match and pin the side seams of the ruffle to the side seams of the skirt with right sides together. Match the center of the skirt pieces with the centers of the ruffle pieces on each side.



- Gather the ruffle to the same width of the skirt and pin in place. Stitch the ruffle into place and finish the seam as desired. The skirt pieces should be flat and the ruffle will have tucks as evenly placed as possible.



- Press the seam up toward the skirt waist. If desired, stitch just above the ruffle seam to keep the ruffle from flipping up. The first picture shows the ruffle sewn on and flipped out. The second photo shows the ruffle finished and topstitched to the skirt.



- Yay! You're done! Try it on your doll and ENJOY!

Another Alternate Hem Style 😊 – A different kind of ruffle to add interest!

- Cut 2 ruffle of knit fabric 1 inch by the entire width of the fabric. They should be about 42-54 inch wide depending on the manufacturer.



- Sew a basting stitch (4-5mm) through the center of the entire ruffle. You can draw a line down the center with a disappearing marker to insure you sew a straight line.
- Hold the threads with one hand and cinch the fabric together to gather the ruffle along the center basting stitch until you have the ruffle the length you desire. (It might twist on you. But, you can flatten it out while you pin it to the edge of the skirt.)



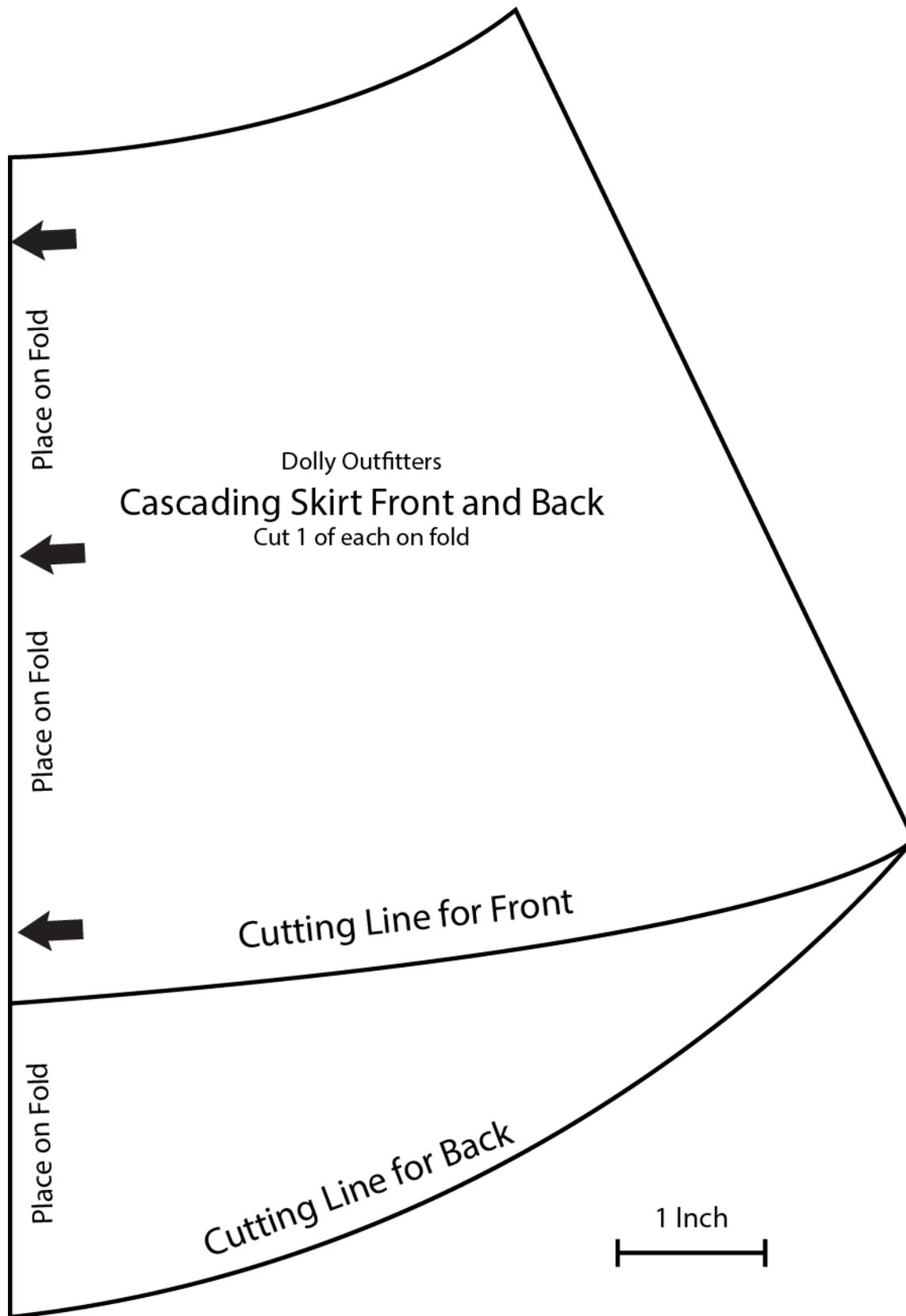
- Fold the ends of the ruffle to a point. Then tuck the point under flat and pin to the edge of the right (as you are facing the skirt) skirt seam.



- Pin and stitch the ruffle on top of the skirt edge all the way around.



****Note:** If you come to the end of your ruffle, end the ruffle just like you began at the seam. Turn the ends to a point, fold under, and pin to the skirt. Then, overlay your second ruffle until you get it all pinned on. Stitch the ruffle into place. (The ruffle lengths will vary depending on how close you want your gathers.)



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The top shown on the left is from the Cami and PJ shorts pattern by Dolly Outfitters.

This skirt is also made of a woven cotton fabric. The hem was serged, turned up, and stitched.

If you don't have a serger, you can just fold 2 times and sew the seam for a narrow hem.



The skirt in this photo was created using a yellow knit lining was used to make 2 front skirt pieces, hemmed $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and then layered under the see-through black knit fabric made with the regular front piece and the longer back piece.

The top was made using the LJC Trendy t-shirt modifications pattern.

BONUS:

To make the ruffled headband: Cut a piece of fold-over elastic the circumference of your doll's head. Overlap the ends and stitch together.

Then, take a piece of 1 inch wide knit fabric and baste a stitch down the center. Ruffle up your fabric to the length you want. Then, sew the fabric onto the headband elastic with the same method as described in the ruffled hem style skirt.

Don't forget to backstitch at the beginning and the end of the ruffle when sewing it onto the headband.