

Pink gingham elastic-waist midi skirt - sewing instructions

EU 38 . 4 pieces . seam allowance 10 mm

0. Paper first

Print the pack at 100% scale, then measure the square on page 3 of the A4 pattern with a ruler. If it is not 100 mm, DO NOT CUT. Trim the sheets along the LEFT and TOP edges, overlap them until the corner targets (a cross in a circle) of neighbouring sheets sit exactly on each other, and tape. The page map is on page 2 of the A4 pattern.

Body and finished garment measurements

EU 38: standard size-table body, not your personal measurements. All circumferences below are in cm; garment minus body is the constructed ease. Seam allowances are excluded.

Waist: body 70.0 / garment not measured / ease not measured cm.

Hip: body 94.0 / garment not measured / ease not measured cm.

Fabric and ease decisions

Fabric mechanics are unmeasured. The existing pattern uses its recorded default ease; this is not a fabric-specific fit approval. Sample evidence applies only to its stated load, direction, method and time. It does not establish seam elasticity, movement, pressure, comfort or physical fit. Test a toile and your actual cloth before final cutting.

1. Cutting

Cut along the OUTER line; the default 10 mm seam allowance is inside it, except where a different edge allowance is printed. The inner fine line is the stitching line. The arrow on each piece (grainline) must lie PARALLEL to the straight grain of the fabric - set it askew and the garment will twist on the body. A piece marked "ON FOLD" is placed against the folded edge and is never cut along it.

- #1 SKIRT FRONT: CUT 1X ON FOLD
- #2 SKIRT BACK: CUT 1X ON FOLD
- #3 CASING FRONT: CUT 1X ON FOLD
- #4 CASING BACK: CUT 1X ON FOLD

CHECKED FABRIC: match the checks before you cut. Cut single layer, right side up, and turn the paper over for the second copy of a mirrored piece, so both copies sit on the checks the same way; a piece marked ON FOLD is traced, flipped along its fold line, traced again and cut whole. Place a piece's centre line (or fold line) on the middle of a check, and its hem line on the same horizontal check line on every piece. Then put each side-seam notch of the front and of the back on the same horizontal check line (Patterns Scissors Cloth: centre front and back first, then side seams). Buy extra cloth for this (see the cutting layout).

2. Markings

Notches (the small ticks on an edge) tell you where two pieces meet. Cut each piece out on its solid line first; then, at every tick, snip 3 mm straight into the allowance from the cut edge, along the tick (a double tick is two snips). The tick is printed 7 mm long only so that you find it; it stops 3 mm short of the stitching line, so a 3 mm snip never reaches the seam. On a piece cut with no allowance (a binding strip) mark the tick with chalk instead of snipping. A single tick marks a FRONT edge, two ticks close together mark a BACK edge (Tilly: "two notches together usually indicates the back of a pattern piece"). A seam that joins a front piece to a back piece (a side seam) carries a single tick on BOTH pieces, so the two ticks you match

always look the same. Each seam step below names its notches piece by piece, with the distance along the edge.

This pattern also carries LINES DRAWN ON THE PIECE (not cut, not sewn): trace them onto the fabric with tailor's chalk before you unpin the paper. Each one is listed with the piece it belongs to and what it is for.

- CASING_FRONT / PLACEMENT LINE 1 (placement): CASING FOLD LINE: 75 mm from each long seam line; fold wrong sides together, the fold is the finished top edge

- CASING_BACK / PLACEMENT LINE 1 (placement): CASING FOLD LINE: 75 mm from each long seam line; fold wrong sides together, the fold is the finished top edge

3. Sewing order

This order is the construction order of this skirt, every seam of the stitch graph in it: the casing ring is joined while flat, before it is folded, so the side seams never close the elastic channel.

Seam allowances: after stitching each seam, neaten each raw allowance edge on its own with an overlock (serger) or a narrow zigzag close to the edge, so the cloth cannot fray inside the garment; then press as the step says. Bound edges, hem turns and fold lines need nothing extra.

1. CASING_FRONT <-> CASING_BACK - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

Casing ends joined at the side seams to form the ring before folding and attaching.

notches - CASING_FRONT side edge (150 mm seam): single notch at 75 mm from its lower end (75 mm from its upper end);

CASING_BACK side edge (150 mm seam): single notch at 75 mm from its lower end (75 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

2. SKIRT_FRONT <-> SKIRT_BACK - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

Skirt side seam, hem to casing seam; front and back halves equal.

notches - SKIRT_FRONT side edge (705 mm seam): single notch at 353 mm from its lower end (353 mm from its upper end);

SKIRT_BACK side edge (705 mm seam): single notch at 353 mm from its lower end (353 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

3. CASING_FRONT (folded, both long edges) <-> SKIRT_FRONT - folded casing seam, 10 mm allowance through all three layers; neaten the three allowances together and press them down, away from the casing.

Folded casing to the skirt top: both casing long edges (seam plies) and the skirt top edge at equal length (1:1), one stitch line; the skirt is not pre-gathered, the elastic gathers all layers together. Leave a 50 mm gap at one side seam to insert the elastic.

Fold CASING_FRONT on its marked fold line, wrong sides together, so its two long raw edges lie exactly on each other (notches matched); baste them together 5 mm from the edge. Both edges are one layer pair on this single stitch line with SKIRT_FRONT; nothing is gathered (1:1). The elastic goes in through a gap in this seam: section 3b.

notches - CASING_FRONT outer edge (539 mm seam): single notch at 270 mm from its outer end (270 mm from its centre-line end);

SKIRT_FRONT waist edge (539 mm seam): single notch at 270 mm from its outer end (270 mm from its centre-line end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

4. CASING_BACK (folded, both long edges) <-> SKIRT_BACK - folded casing seam, 10 mm allowance through all three layers; neaten the three allowances together and press them down, away from the casing.

Folded casing to the skirt top: both casing long edges (seam plies) and the skirt top edge at equal length (1:1), one stitch line; the skirt is not pre-gathered, the elastic gathers all layers together. Leave a 50 mm gap at one side seam to insert the elastic.

Fold CASING_BACK on its marked fold line, wrong sides together, so its two long raw edges lie exactly on each other (notches matched); baste them together 5 mm from the edge. Both edges are one layer pair on this single stitch line with SKIRT_BACK; nothing is gathered (1:1). The elastic goes in through a gap in this seam: section 3b.

notches - CASING_BACK outer edge (539 mm seam): double notch at 270 mm from its outer end (270 mm from its centre-line end);

SKIRT_BACK waist edge (539 mm seam): double notch at 270 mm from its outer end (270 mm from its centre-line end). Match the single ticks to the single ticks and the double ticks to the double ticks; the two sides line up there.

3b. Inserted flat elastic in the casing

ELASTIC, PURCHASE SEPARATELY: one piece of 70 mm wide flat elastic, cut 615 mm = 595 mm loop + 20 mm overlap. The loop is a design proposal: the EU38 table waist 700 mm x 0.85. It is not a fitted or measured length.

FIT BEFORE CUTTING: wrap the elastic round the wearer where the casing will sit, at a comfortable snug tension, and mark the loop. It must also stretch to at least 980 mm (hip 940 mm + 40 mm clearance), 1.65 times its loop, to pass over the hips. Elastic stretch, recovery and holding force are UNMEASURED: no test was made. Where the fitting and this printed length disagree, the fitting wins.

The cloth needs no stretch: it is 2156 mm all round at the casing seam ($2.2 \times (\text{hip} + 40 \text{ mm})$), so it passes the hips before the elastic gathers it. The elastic is 5 mm narrower than the 75 mm finished casing so it can be threaded through.

1. Join the two casing pieces at both side seams into one ring (step 1) and press the seams open. Join the skirt side seams (step 2).
2. Fold the casing ring on its marked fold line, wrong sides together: the fold is the finished top edge, 75 mm above the seam line. Baste the two raw edges together.
3. Sew the casing to the skirt top in the round (steps 3 and 4), matching side seams and notches, but leave a 50 mm gap at one side seam: stop and restart 25 mm either side of it. Neaten the allowances.
4. Fix a safety pin to one end of the elastic and thread it through the gap right round the casing, flat and untwisted; pin the trailing end outside the gap so it cannot slip in.
5. Try the skirt on: pass it over the hips and check the waist hold. Then overlap the elastic ends 20 mm and stitch a box or two rows of zigzag through both layers.
6. Let the join slip into the casing, spread the gathers evenly round the waist and close the gap on the seam line. Stitch in the ditch of each side seam through casing and elastic (about 10 mm) so the elastic cannot roll or twist.
7. Hem the skirt (section 3c).

Software checks prove the cloth geometry and the matching seam lengths only. They do not show that the elastic holds or that the skirt fits: a physical try-on is required.

3c. Complete edge finishes

HEM: one, finished edge 2156 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

The cutting pattern includes exactly 20 mm on this edge. Turn the raw edge 10 mm to the wrong side, then turn another 10 mm; the second fold is the drawn finished edge. Press and stitch close to the inner fold. Distribute any extra length evenly without pleats; test the hem turn on the toile before cutting the final fabric.

4. Machine, needle and thread

Fabric mechanics have not been verified for this pattern. These are general examples. Pick your fabric first, then read your row from the table below.

For a light cotton: Universal needle 80/12, all-purpose polyester thread, stitch length 2.5 mm.

Choose the row for your actual cloth and test on a scrap:

- cotton and other light wovens (lawn, poplin, gingham, voile): Universal 70/10 - 90/14
- fine and sheer (chiffon, organza, silk): Microtex (or Universal) 60/8 - 70/10
- linen: Universal 70/10 - 90/14
- woven wool and tweed: Universal 80/12 - 90/14
- cotton twill / denim: Jeans 70/10 - 110/18
- jersey and knits: Jersey (ball point) 60/8 - 80/12
- very stretchy knits: Stretch 75/11 or 90/14
- satin, silk, microfibre: Microtex 60/8 - 90/14

Interfacing: choose a type compatible with your actual cloth and test a scrap first. Follow its manufacturer instructions for temperature, moisture, pressing time and cooling. The printed appearance does not identify the fabric or its interfacing requirements.

Needle and stitch-length figures: Schmetz "Needles by Fabric Type"; thread: Gutermann Sew-all No. 100; stitch length: Deer & Doe; interfacing: Vlieseline.