

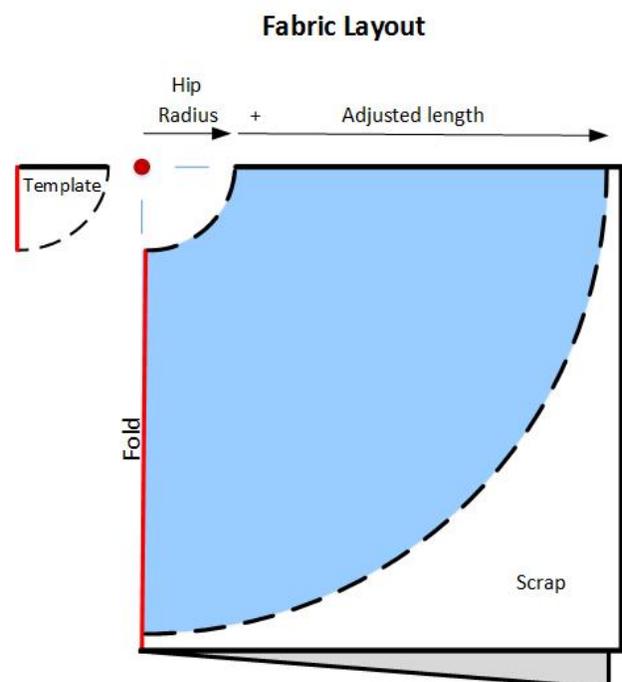
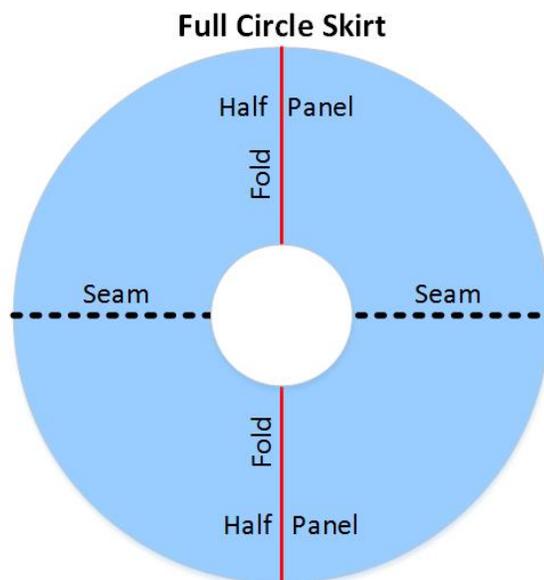
How to Make a Simple Circle Skirt For Square Dancing or Just for Fun!

This skirt is designed to pull-on over your hips, so you will make the skirt according to your hip measurements. You can use almost any kind of fabric. You will be cutting two half circles and sewing them together with two side seams. You will cut the half-circles on folded cloth, so it will look like quarter circles while you are cutting. The waistband will be bare wide elastic which will be hidden by a belt when you wear the skirt. Or you can get colored or printed elastic if you want it to show.



1. Take Your Measurements

- * Waist (this is just for elastic, add 1" for overlap)
- * Hip (do not add anything for seam allowances – see math explanation below)
- * Length from waist to hem (desired finished length)
- * Adjusted Length: add 1" total for seam allowances, then subtract inches if you plan to add eyelet or ruffle to bottom later. The final number will be your "adjusted length."



2. Find your hip radius by checking the chart below:

If your hips are larger than your waist, use your hip measurement. (If your waist is larger than your hips, use your waist measurement instead.) If you are using stretchy fabric, you can probably reduce the radius by up to a 1/4"

<u>Hips</u>	<u>Radius</u>	<u>Hips</u>	<u>Radius</u>
25"	3-5/8"	43"	6-1/8"
26"	3-3/4"	44"	6-1/4"
27"	3-7/8"	45"	6-1/2"
28"	4"	46"	6-5/8"
29"	4-1/8"	47"	6-3/4"
30"	4-1/4"	48"	6-7/8"
31"	4-1/2"	49"	7"
32"	4-5/8"	50"	7-1/8"
33"	4-3/4"	51"	7-1/4"
34"	4-7/8"	52"	7-1/2"
35"	5"	53"	7-5/8"
36"	5-1/8"	54"	7-3/4"
37"	5-1/4"	55"	7-7/8"
38"	5-1/2"	56"	8"
39"	5-5/8"	57"	8-1/8"
40"	5-3/4"	58"	8-1/4"
41"	5-7/8"	59"	8-1/2"
42"	6"	60"	8-5/8"

If you care to know the math, you are figuring out the radius of your hip circumference (minus about 10% to account for part of the bias stretch resulting from a circular cut, while the 1/2" seam allowances make up the other part of the bias stretch.)

The math formula is therefore:

Hip Radius = (Hip – hip x .10) / 3.14 divided by 2

The chart rounds to the nearest eighth inch.

3. Figure out how much fabric to buy (this is the hardest part)

You can use almost any kind of fabric.

If your hip radius + adjusted length is 22" or less you can plan to use 44" fabric folded in half lengthwise. (this uses much less fabric but will probably only work for little girls or very short mini skirts.)

If your hip radius + adjusted length is longer than 22" you will need wider fabric, or you will need to fold it as it comes off the bolt. This might not work with obvious patterns or certain types of material. (See example on next page)

Example:

My hip measurement is 38"

My hip radius from chart is 5-1/2"

My desired length is 21" + 1" allowance – 1-1/2" for an eyelet finish = 20-1/2" adjusted length

My hip radius + adjusted length is 26"

If I can get 52" or wider fabric I would buy 1-1/2 yards (56") so I can fold it in half lengthwise, and cut two 26" pieces on the fold.

If I get 44" fabric I would have to buy 3 yards of fabric (108") and cut it into two 54" pieces which I would then fold in half to cut two 26" pieces on the fold.

4. Figure out how much elastic to get:

Waist measurement + 1 inch (to overlap for securing)

Look for 1-1/2" or 2" wide "non-roll" elastic.

5. Figure out how much trim to get. If you plan to finish your skirt with ruffle or eyelet, you will need to know the finished circumference of your skirt. Finished circumference = (Hip radius + adjusted length) x 3.14 x 2. In my example this took almost 5 yards of eyelet. Get your coupons ready!!

6. Buy fabric, elastic, trim, thread and notions if desired (this is the fun part!) Remember to bring your coupons!

7. Fold the fabric in half. You will need to cut two pieces on a fold as follows. (See diagram)

8. From the folded corner measure your hip radius. Use a tape measure or piece of ribbon like a compass. Mark dots with a permanent marker at this distance in an arc. This will be the waist-line. Don't cut anything yet!



9. From the same folded corner point, measure the hip-radius + the adjusted length. Use a tape measure or piece of ribbon like a compass. Mark dots with a permanent marker at this distance in an arc. This will be the hem-line.

10. Cut along the dotted waist-line. The piece you remove should look like a quarter-circle. When you unfold it, it should look like a half-circle. Save this piece as a template for the second panel (and to make future skirts.)

11. Cut along the dotted hem-line. The piece you remove should look like a quarter-circle. When you unfold it, it should look like a half-circle. (There will be lots of wasted fabric, which you can use to make matching bows, ties, patch-work, or doll-clothes.)



12. Now repeat steps #7-11 to cut another piece exactly the same as the first. You can use the first piece as a template instead of measuring and drawing dots to save time if you wish. Make sure you are lining it up against the same fold line. If you have an obvious pattern, try to line it up so it matches.

13. Unfold the two half-circles that will be the skirt, and lay them with the waist cut-outs together. It should look like a circle with a hole in the middle. Now lay one half-circle on top of the other with right sides of the fabric together.



14. Pin and sew the side seams together with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam. Lay the skirt flat and keep the wrong-side facing up.

15. Put the elastic around your waist and pin it just a little tighter than your waist. Hold it tightly and make sure it will still stretch over your hips. Sew it to this size by overlapping about one inch and stitching securely with an X and a square. Trim any excess. Keep the elastic band right-side out for the next step.



16. With the skirt wrong-side up, put the waistband inside the center hole. Pull the skirt up to the TOP edge of the waist-band so the top edges of the elastic and skirt are together and the right sides of both are together. The skirt fabric circle is bigger than the waistband, so it will look bunched.



17. Pin the waistband evenly at both seams. Then find the center of each side and pin the fabric to the waist-band. Then find the center of these sections and pin again, evenly spacing the fabric around the waist-band.

18. Sew the fabric to the waistband about ¼" from the TOP edge. Sew from pin to pin, firmly holding and stretching the elastic as you go to take up the slack in the fabric. Be sure to put the needle down manually while you remove one pin and stretch to the next.



19. When finished, turn the skirt right-side out and flip the waistband up. Iron the fabric flat if necessary. Try it on and see how it fits. Make adjustments if necessary.

20. To finish the bottom hem of the skirt, simply fold and sew a hem, or attach a ruffle or eyelet trim by sewing right sides of trim and skirt together all around the bottom.



21. Enjoy dancing in your skirt! You will want to wear some petti-pants, tap-pants or bicycle shorts underneath for modesty. You can also wear a petticoat underneath for more fullness. Go to the links page on our website to find places to purchase accessories online. You can often find "experienced" clothing, including petticoats, on sale at extreme discounts (about \$5) at new student or half-way dances. Visit our website to learn more!

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