



*Ruffled Up Skirt*



This skirt is full of ruffles and perfect for all those scraps and remnants! Select color-coordinating fabrics or make a wild mix of colors/prints as I did for this example.

**OPTION:** At the end of the tutorial you will find instructions for making a folded hem versus using a serger for woven fabrics only! Read those first before cutting your ruffle strips!!

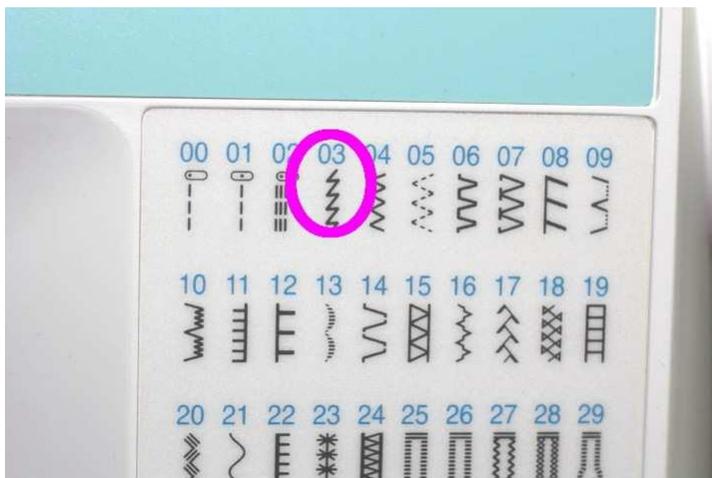
**List of required materials:**

- Knit fabric (please read about knits first), regular woven cotton fabric or any lightweight material
- ¾" elastic
- Sewing machine
- Overlock machine or serger (optional for woven fabrics but recommend for knits)
- Scissors
- Lip edge ruler or measuring tape
- Ball point sewing machine needle for knits or regular standard needle for woven material
- Thread
- Iron
- Fabric marker (optional)
- Straight pins
- Hand sewing needle

**Seam allowance:** 3/8" (or half a presser foot) unless stated otherwise

**Sewing stitch:** If working with knit fabric, use a stitch suitable for knit fabrics such as a knit stitch or slight zigzag stitch unless otherwise stated (sewing with knits info at the bottom of this tutorial). If using woven material, use a regular stitch.

My machine has a stretch stitch which looks like this:



(If your machine doesn't have a knit stitch, choose a narrow zigzag stitch like this: stitch length at 2.5 and stitch width at 1.)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE WHEN SEWING WITH KNITS:** prewash your knits because most knit fabric will shrink up to ONE INCH!!!

Always have the stretch of the fabric go ACROSS the body to ensure a proper fit!

**Sizing chart – based on 42 inch wide fabric WITH print direction (possible SHRINKAGE INCLUDED!!!)**

Ruffle strip information: This skirt has 4 rows of ruffles. The sizing chart does not provide a yardage chart for the ruffles since you can choose to make each row from a different print. In order to figure out the exact yardage to purchase, take the given LENGTH (for example, 1.5” for size 6-9m) and multiply it by how many rows (max.4) you want to use this print on and then multiply by 2 (for front and back). So for a size 6-9m, if you wanted all four rows of ruffles from the same print, it would be 12” = 1/3 yard. For size 10 & up you want to multiply the length (provided in the chart below) by how many rows (max.4) you want to use this print on and then multiply by **4!**

\*\*\*Please note that if you do not have a serger and would like to do a folded hem instead of a serged edge on the ruffles, you will need to add some length to your ruffle strips when cutting. Please see the directions provided at the end of the tutorial for a full explanation.

Size	Appr. Skirt length	Skirt cut 1x WxL	Skirt yardage	Ruffle strips cut the amount given per size WxL	Waist elastic Cut 1x
18" doll	5 ¼"	9"x7.5"	1/4yd	8x strips 19"x1.5"	11"
6-9m	6 ¼"	31"x8.5"	1/4yd	8x strips 34"x1 ¾"	16"
12-18m	7 ¾"	33"x10"	1/3yd	8x strips 35"x2"	17"
24m/2t	8 ¾"	34"x11"	1/3yd	8x strips 36"x2.5"	18"
3t	10 ¼"	34.5"x12.5"	3/8yd	8x strips 38"x2 ¾"	19"
4t	12"	35"x14 ¼"	1/2yd	8x strips 39"x3 ¼"	19.5"
5t	13 ¾"	35.5"x16"	1/2yd	8x strips 40"x3.5"	20"
6	14 ¾"	36"x17"	1/2yd	8x strips 41"x4"	21"
7	15 ¾"	36.5"x18"	1/2yd	8x strips 42"x4 ¼"	22.5"
8	16 ¾"	37"x19"	2/3yd	8x strips 43"x4 ¾"	23"
9	18 ¼"	38"x20.5"	2/3yd	8x strips 44"x5"	23.5"
10	19 ¼"	39"x21.5"	2/3yd	16x strips 23"x5 ¼"	24"
11/12	19 ¾"	40"x22"	2/3yd	16x strips 23.5"x5.5"	27"
13/14	20 ¾"	41"x23"	2/3yd	16x strips 24"x5 3/8"	30"
15/16	21 ¾"	42"x24"	3/4yd	16x strips 25"x5 ¾"	31"

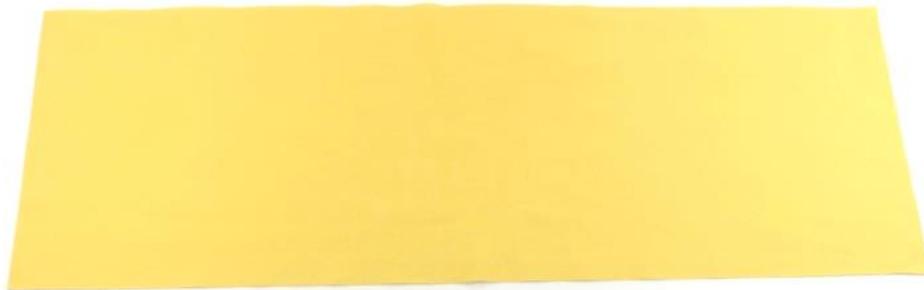
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**These are your cut pieces:**

Ruffle Strips



1 Skirt Piece



**To make the ruffles:**

NOTE: If you are making a size 10 & up, you want to sew together 4 of the 16 ruffle pieces you cut out giving you 4 individual ruffle rings! Smaller sizes will only have 8 total ruffle pieces cut out, so you will take 2 of those ruffle pieces and sew them together to create a continuous loop.

To sew the ruffle pieces together, take 2 of them (you can choose to have them match or mismatch) and place them right sides together. Make sure the print direction of both is the same. Pin and sew along the dashed line on the short ends. Backstitch the beginning and end.



Repeat with the other ruffle pieces.

Finish the edges on both the top and bottom (serge on woven and knit fabrics or choose to omit finishing the edges on knits). There are directions provided at the end of this tutorial for how to do a folded hem if you don't have a serger.



This is your ruffle before gathering:



### **To ruffle the fabric:**

Set your machine to the longest stitch and highest/strongest tension. This way your machine should automatically gather your fabric. If not, please check your machine's manual on gathering fabric as not all machines allow this setting, or use your preferred method.

You will sew your gathering stitch  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the top of your ruffle. Gather in 2 steps, from side seam to side seam across the front and then from side seam to side seam across the back. By gathering on each side separately, it will make it easier when distributing the gathers.

Start by sewing a gathering stitch from one seam to the other and stop. Cut your thread and leave a tail about 3" long to pull your gathers. Next, start at the seam where you stopped and sew a gathering stitch to the seam where you started and cut your thread leaving about a 3" tail to pull your gathers.

Repeat with the other ruffles.



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This is your gathered ruffle:



**To make the skirt:**

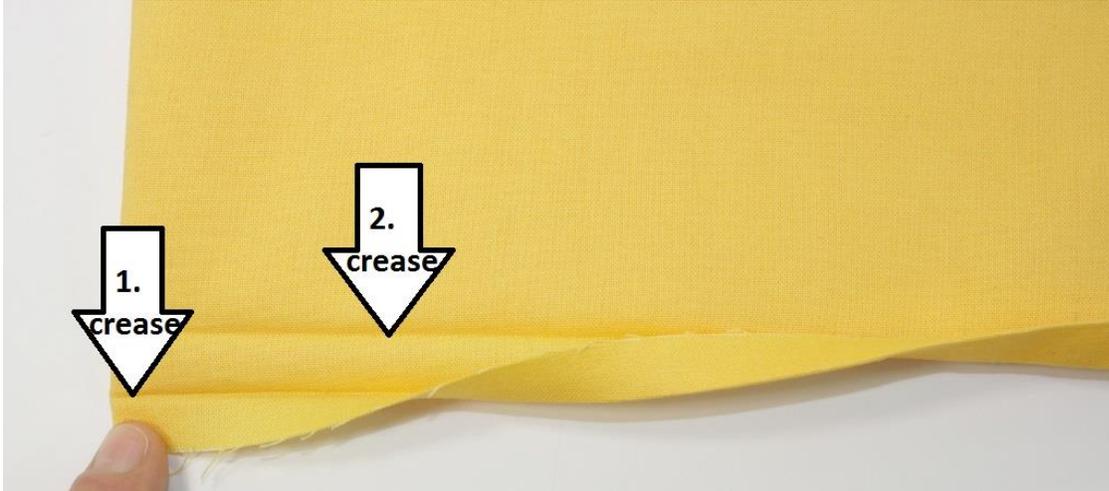
Fold the skirt piece in half with right sides together and sew the short edges along the dashed line.



Serge/zigzag stitch the raw edge.

**To hem the skirt:**

Fold the bottom up 1/4" and press. Fold up another 1/4" and press.

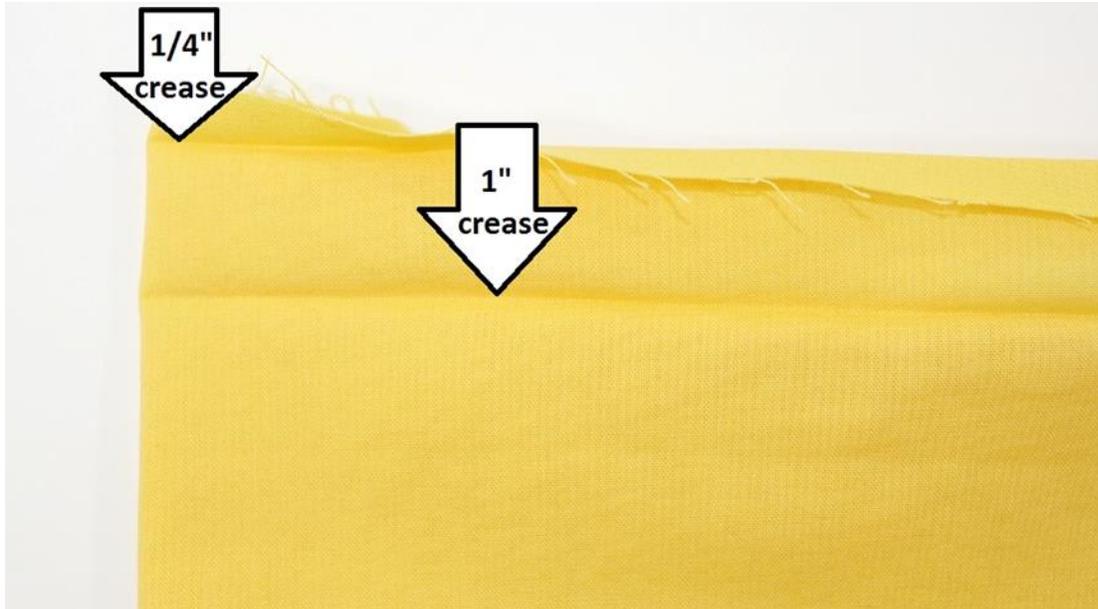


Sew 1/8" from the inner folded edge along the dashed line all the way around. Backstitch the end:

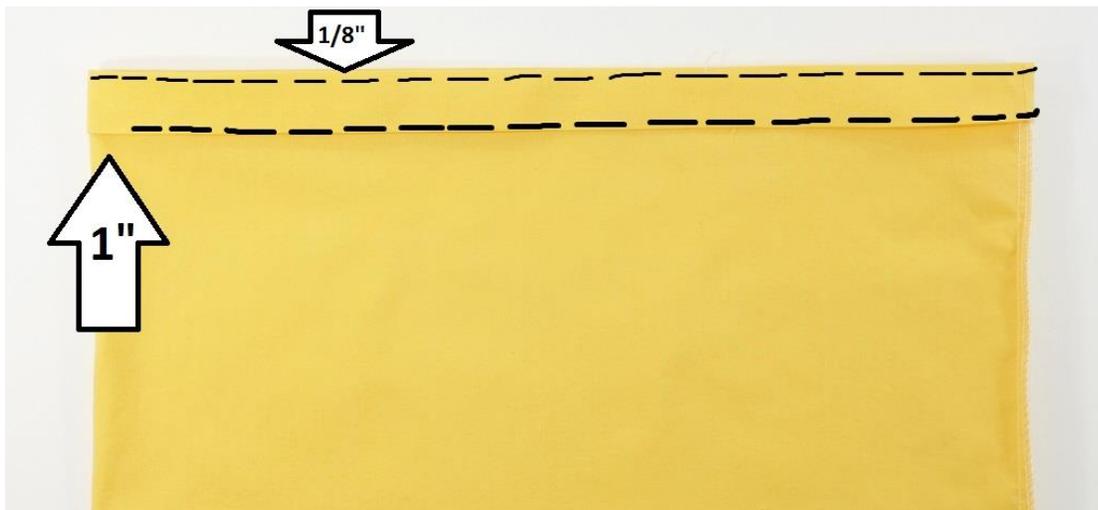


**To make the waistband casing:**

Fold the top of the skirt down  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press. Fold down another 1" and press.



Sew  $\frac{1}{8}$ " down the top of the skirt all the way around along the dashed line. Next, starting at the side seam, sew as close to the folded edge as you can leaving a 1" opening for inserting the elastic. Be sure to backstitch at the beginning and the end.



This is your elastic casing for the waistband:



**Attaching the ruffles:**

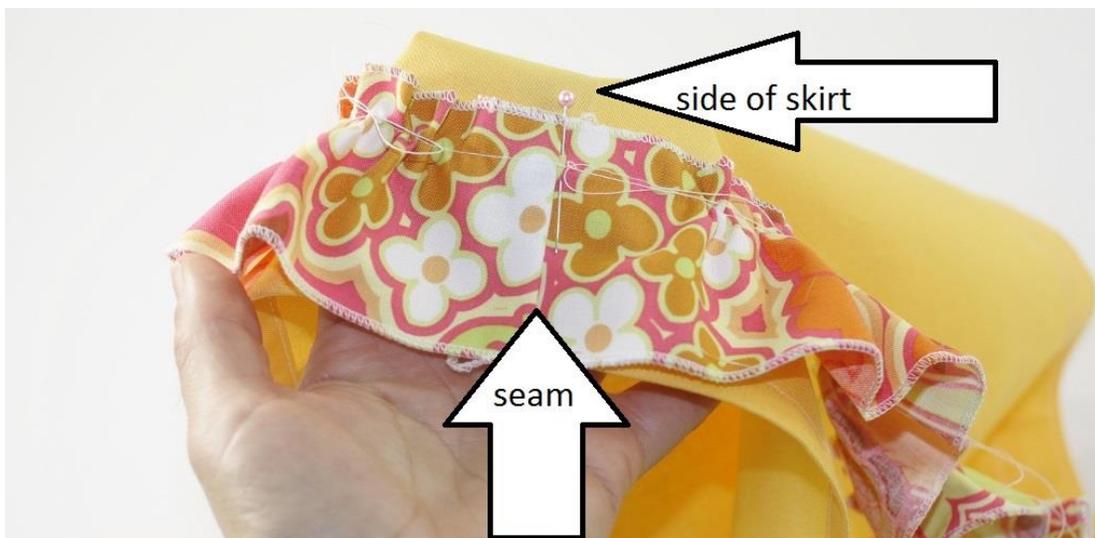
Turn the skirt right side out with the elastic casing on top:



The first ruffle will start at the bottom of the skirt. Distribute the gathers evenly to the width as the skirt. Align the bottom of the ruffle with the bottom of the skirt.



Align the seam of the ruffle with the side of the skirt and start pinning from there...



Slide a hard surface in between the skirt so you can pin better. I used a magazine...



Continue pinning, matching up the other seam with the fold side of the skirt while distributing the gathers evenly. Repeat with the other side. I like to tie my starting and stopping points together to keep the gathers from coming undone. Pin every inch.



Sew over the gathering stitches, along the dashed line.



Then, place and pin the top ruffle about ¼" under the elastic casing seam...



Now adjust the other ruffles into the center.....some may overlap. Attach them the same way as described above:



Secure a safety pin to your waist elastic and insert it into the inner waist band opening:



Overlap the beginning and end of the elastic by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and sew it together with your double-threaded hand sewing needle. Stitch at least 10 times back and forth to secure the stitches well:



Tuck the elastic inside the casing, add a size tag (if preferred), and sew the opening closed.



Last step is make sure all loose threads from serging etc. are stitched down or taken off.

This is your finished Ruffled Up Skirt:



### **Instructions for making a folded hem versus serged edges:**

You want to ADD 1" to the ruffle strip LENGTH (measured from the top to the bottom of the fabric) when cutting the fabric. The skirt does not need to be adjusted since it has a folded hem.

Take your ruffle strip and place it with right side down and print direction vertical in front of you. Fold up the bottom edge 1/4" and press, and then fold up once more 1/4" and press. Then fold down the top edge 1/4" and press, and once more 1/4" and press:



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Sew both folds down along the inner folded edges:



Follow through with the instructions in the main tutorial above for gathering the fabric, but sew your gathering stitch underneath the top fold with a 1/4" seam allowance. This is now your finished and gathered ruffle:



(Picture only shows a small piece of this ruffle as an example.)

Design examples:



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