

How to Sew a Simple Christmas Tree Skirt

Dress up your Christmas tree by creating a new tree skirt. Use festive fabric, fusible fleece, and jumbo-sized fusible piping to streamline the sewing without compromising the design.

FINISHED SIZE: approximately 40" diameter

SUPPLIES:

- 2½ yd. 45" fabric or 1¼ yd. 108" fabric
- ½ yd. coordinating fabric to cover piping
- 1¼ yd. fusible fleece
- Matching all-purpose thread
- 1 pkg. (6 yd.) 12/32" Wrap 'n Fuse Piping

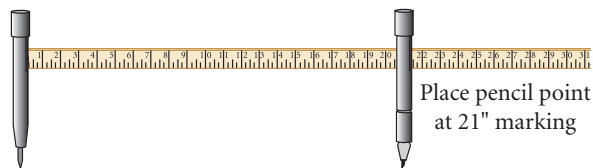
HANDY NOTIONS:

- Rotary cutter, mat, and ruler
- Yardstick Compass
- Pattern paper
- Zipper Foot
- Curved Basting Pins, size 1
- 1" Bias Tape Maker

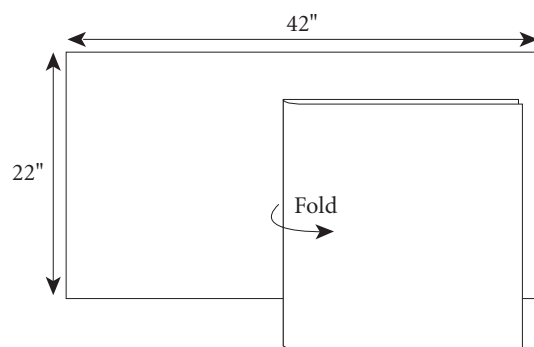
DIRECTIONS:

1. Create a paper pattern.

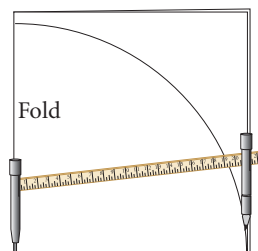
- Attach the Yardstick Compass to a yardstick. Place the pointed end at the 0" marking and the pencil point at the 21" marking.



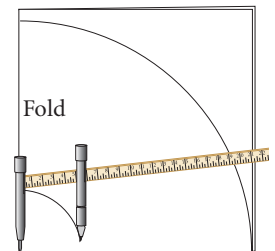
- Cut a length of paper at least 42" long and 22" wide. Fold paper in half, meeting short ends; finger press at the fold.



- Place the pointed end of the Yardstick Compass at the fold/edge. Draw a quarter circle.



- Realign the pencil point of the Yardstick Compass to the 5"–6" marking. Draw a second quarter circle, using the same axis point.
- Cut out the paper pattern using a paper scissors.



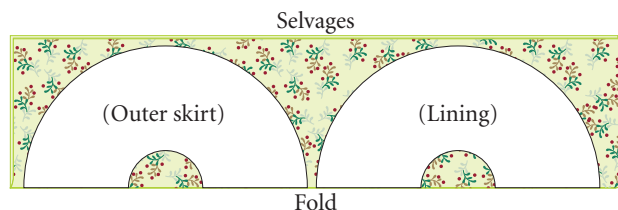
sewing with nancy hint

Use a paper scissors rather than your good dressmaking shears for cutting paper. Your dressmaker shears will stay sharp much longer!

- Open the folded pattern to form a half circle.

2. Cut out the fabric.

- Fold the fabric, aligning selvages.
- Place the straight edge of the pattern on the fold of the fabric. Cut out the circle pattern for the outer tree skirt; trim away the smaller center circle.
- Repeat, cutting a second fabric circle for the tree skirt lining; trim away the smaller center circle.



- Cut out one circle from the fusible fleece; trim away the smaller center circle.



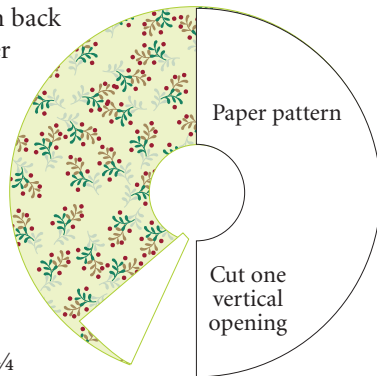
3. Layer fleece/fabric.

- Layer and fuse the fleece batting to the wrong side of the outer tree skirt according to manufacturer's instructions.

sewing with nancy hint

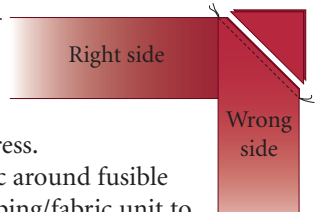
If you are using a nonfusible batting, pin every 6"–8" with size 1 Curved Basting Pins to hold batting in position as you complete the sewing.

- Lay the paper pattern back on the unfolded outer tree skirt. Cut one vertical opening on the outer tree skirt between the inner circle and the hem area. Repeat on the tree skirt lining.



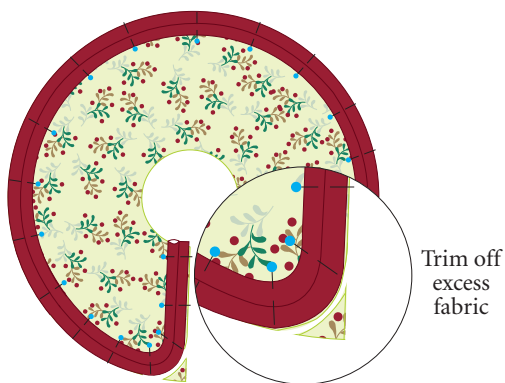
4. Create piping.

- Cut approximately 4¼ yd. (153") of 2½" wide bias strips from coordinating fabric.
- Seam short ends using diagonal seams to reduce bulk. Trim seams to ¼"; press.
- Wrap wrong sides of fabric around fusible piping. Periodically pin piping/fabric unit to ironing board.
- Guide the tip of the iron along the cording area; fuse piping/fabric together.

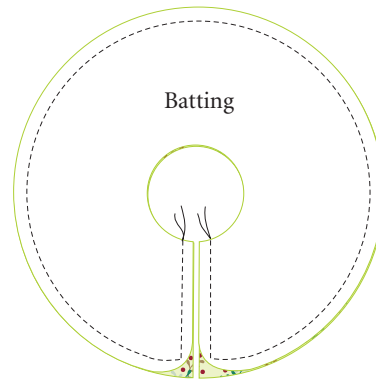


5. Attach piping to the tree skirt.

- Start attaching piping at the inner circle opening. Pin the piping to the right side of the outer tree skirt, meeting cut edges. Round the piping at the lower edges. Trim off the excess fabric at the corners.



- Attach a zipper foot to your machine; stitch next to the piping.
- Pin tree skirt lining to the outer tree skirt, right sides together.
- Adjust needle position to the left, one number/notch closer to the piping from the first line of stitching.
- Stitch all layers from the batting side, using the piping stitching as a guide.
- Turn right side out through the inner circle; press.

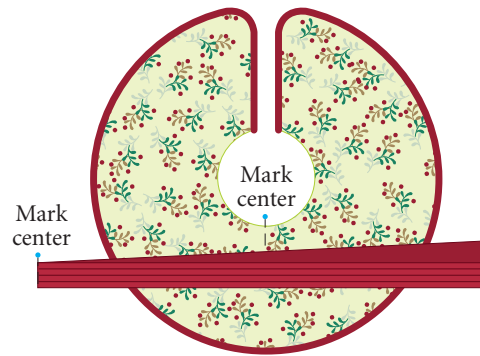


6. Finish inner circle edge with bias tape.

- Cut approximately 2 yd. (72") of 2" wide bias strips.
- Seam short ends; press.
- Advance and press strips through a 1" bias tape maker to create bias tape.



- Pin mark center of inner circle. Fold bias tape with short ends together to find center, pin mark center point.



- Unfold one edge of bias tape.
- Pin bias tape to tree skirt, right sides together, matching pin marks and cut edges. Pin remaining bias tape around the inner circle.
- Stitch along the first foldline of the bias tape.
- Wrap bias tape around the unfinished edge; pin in place.
- Fold under the short ends of the bias tape; pin long edges together.
- Edgestitch from end to end.

