

# THREE BEARS PRINTS

# Tutorial



Sew a Skirt with  
Elasticated Waistband



# Welcome to this Three Bears Prints Tutorial!

Welcome to this Three Bears Prints tutorial! Three Bears Prints is run by me, Marliese Richmond. I live in Perth, Scotland, with my husband, daughter and dog. My first passion is linocutting and printmaking, and I also apply these skills to fabric design and pop up cards. I love teaching my creative skills and this tutorial is part of that.

Come and visit me on my website, where I share my artistic interests, especially my prints and designs. On a weekly basis on my blog, I let you see my latest artistic projects, my sources of inspiration and give an insight into my creative processes.



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## Project Description: Skirt with Elastic Waistband



If you've never sewn any clothes before, this is a good introductory dress-making project. It's easy to sew yet you end up with an item of clothing which makes a real impact. It's a project which can easily be adapted and embellished. Skirts with an elastic waistband are also an excellent choice for children as they are easy to put on and pull off.

You can see photos of all my fabric designs on my website and then follow the links through to my Spoonflower site.



# What you will need: Skirt with Elastic Waistband

## What you will need:

- Fabric for waistband
- Fabric for skirt
- 2.5cm (1 inch) width elastic
- thread
- scissors
- sewing machine



## Measurements:

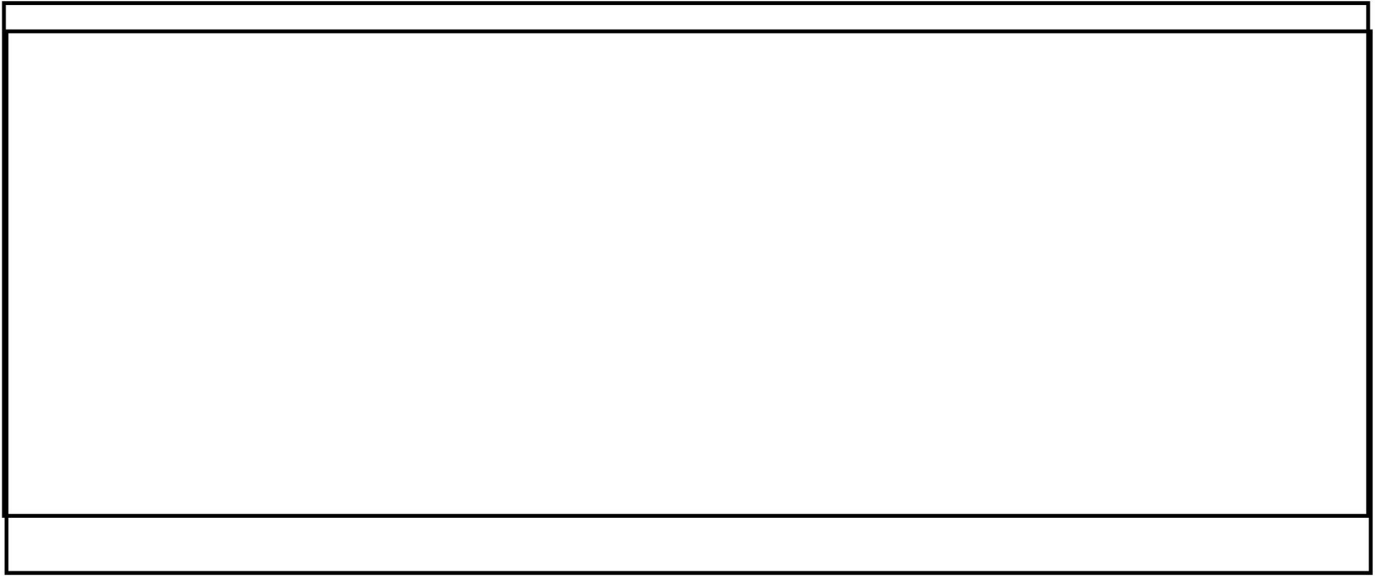
Measure out your skirt. Decide on the length - remember it will jump up a bit with the fullness, so take this into consideration. You can make it whatever you like, from a mini skirt to a ball dress length! Add on 5cm (2 inches) at bottom and 2.5cm (1 inch) at top). The width should be approximately 3 times that of the person's waist, but you can make it up to 4 times if you'd like a really full skirt.

Cut out your waistband. It will be the same width as your skirt. It will be 4 times as high as your elastic (so 10cm, or 4 inches). Fold and iron it into 4 along the length.

Measure elastic around person's waist to find out what is comfortable - in my case, I made it the same size as my daughter's waist, then pulled it in by 5cm (2 inches). You will need this length, plus another 2.5cm (1 inch).

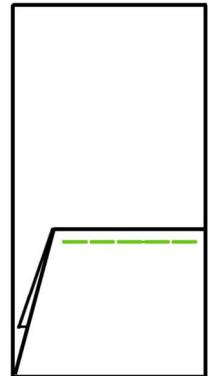


# How to do it: Skirt with Elastic Waist

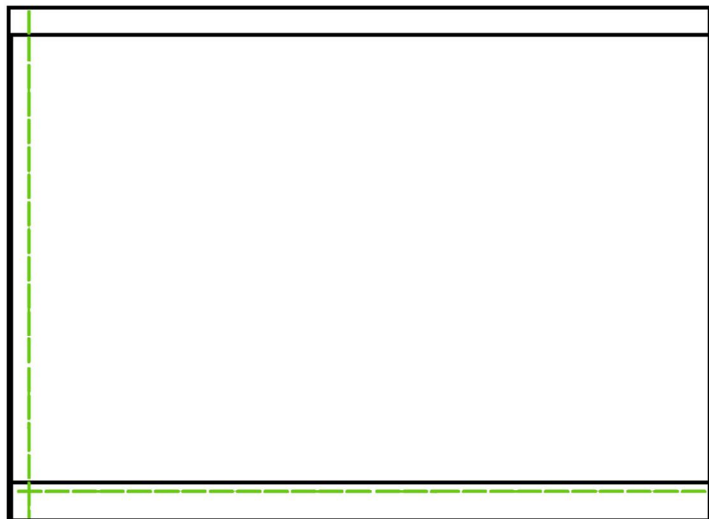


1. We are going to start with sewing the skirt - remember, the skirt has an extra 2.5cm (1 inch) at the top, and an extra 5cm (2 inches) at the bottom along the hem line.

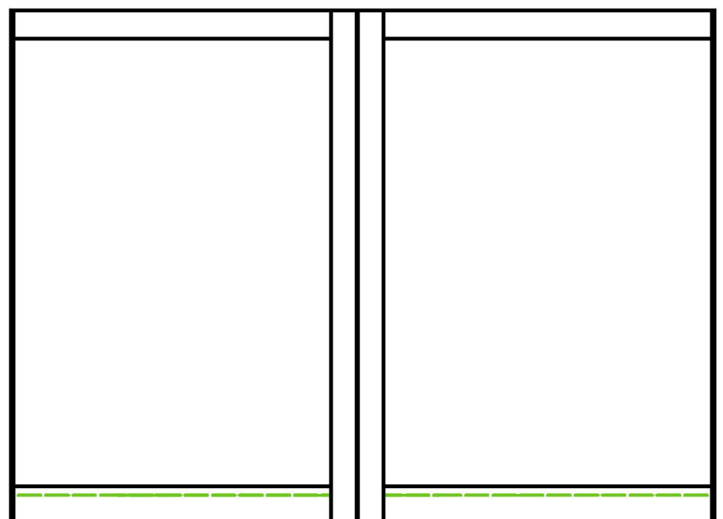
2. Fold up the hem 2.5cm (1 inch) and fold over again 2.5cm (1 inch). Stitch into place so that the hem is on the wrong side of the skirt.



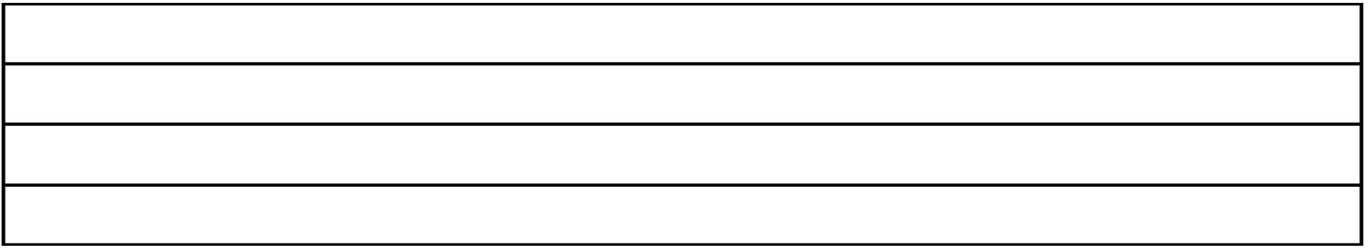
3. Match the right sides of your skirt together. Sew the side seam 2.5cm (1 inch) in from the edge. If you have fabric which frays, you may wish to finish the raw edges off first with a zig zag stitch.



4. Press open your side seam on the wrong side of the skirt and give your hem a good iron too. Turn skirt the right way round.

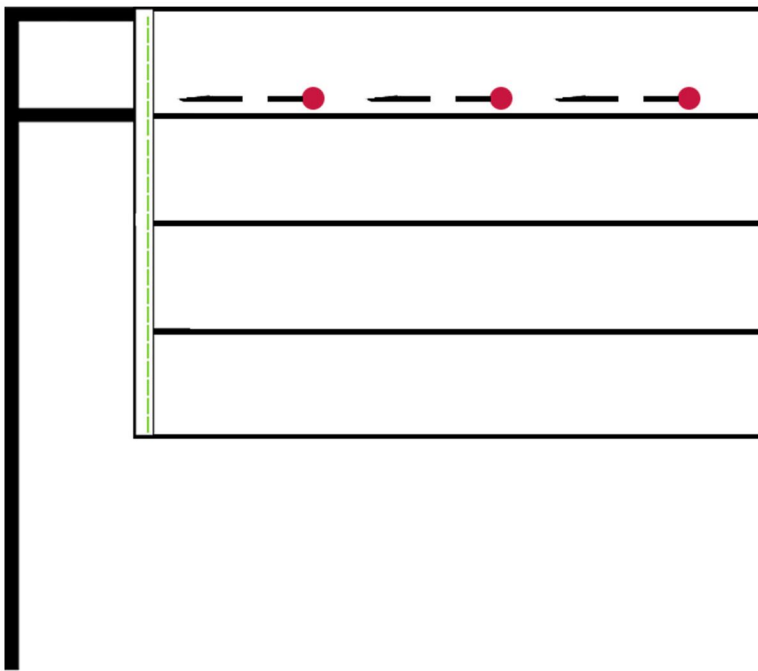
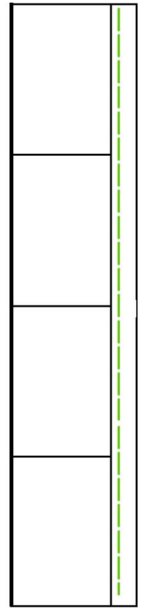


# How to do it: Skirt with Elastic Waist

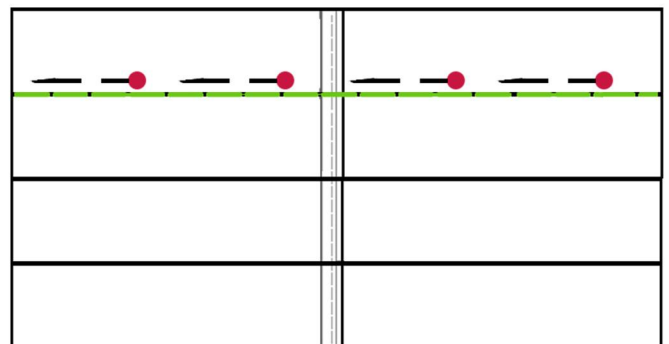


5. Now we are going to attached the waistband. You should already have it folded and ironed into 4 along the length.

6. Fold over the edge of the waistband 1.25cm (1/2 inch) and the same again. Stitch it down so seam is on the wrong side of the waistband.

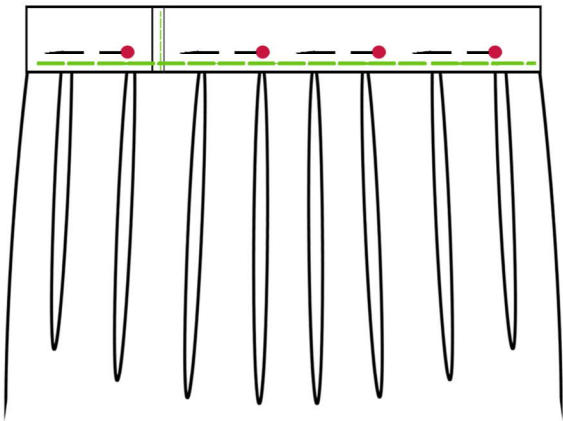


7. Pin waistband onto front of skirt, matching top edges and with the right side of the waistband facing the right side of the skirt. Make sure you start pinning from the finished end of waistband.

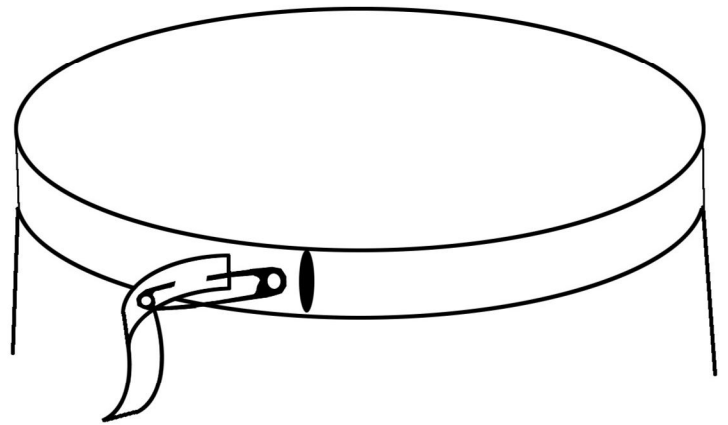


8. Pin waistband all the way around the top of the front of the skirt. Make sure you over lap the unfinished end of waistband over finished seam. Sew along the gully of the top fold.

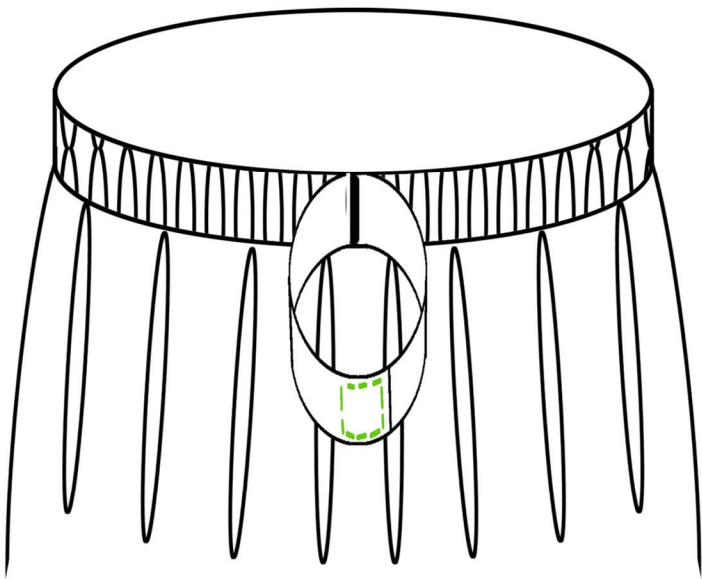
# How to do it: Skirt with Elastic Waist



9. Fold your waistband up and over, sandwiching the top edge of skirt. Pin from front making sure you catch bottom edge of back of waistband too. Sew neatly into place.

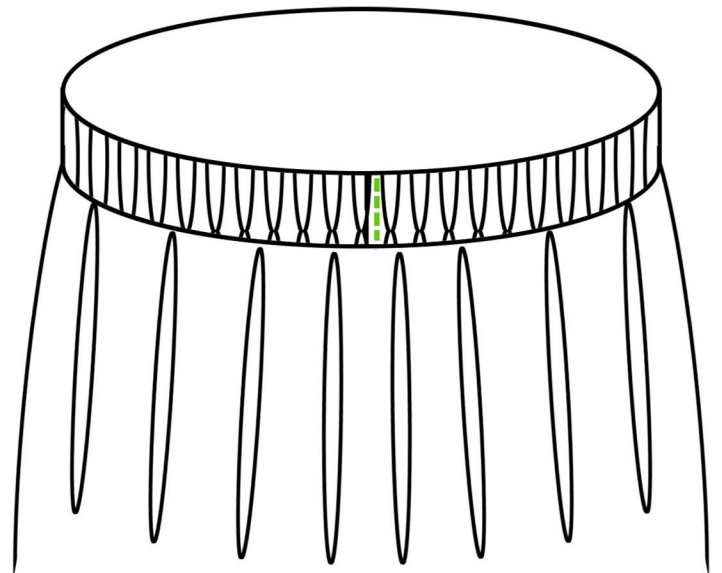


10. You will have a little gap to thread in elastic. Attach elastic to safety pin and thread it through gap, pushing it all the way through to other end. I actually put tape around the safety pin too, so there is no chance of losing the end.



11. Pull elastic through gap, being careful not to lose the ends. Stitch an overlap of 2.5 cm (1 inch). Ease elastic back into waistband.

12. Hand sew the little gap at the waistband, being careful not to catch on the elastic. You now have a skirt!



# How to do it: Skirt with Elastic Waist



You may want to add some embellishments - on this skirt, I added bias binding along the hem line.



On this skirt, I added darts along the top so the skeletons sat flatter, and added a net ruffle and bow on waistband.