

*Pattern Design Guides by Don McCunn***The Fitted Skirt**

These instructions show how to create a fitted skirt from the basic fitted sloper with minimal changes to the pattern. They have been prepared for the online class “How to Make a Lower Torso (aka Skirt) Sloper.”

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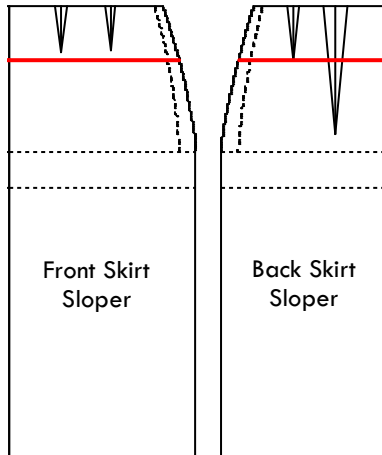
Design Enterprises of San Francisco
1007 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 282-8813 || Website: Patternmaking-Classes.com
Yahoo Groups: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/How-to-Make-Sewing-Patterns>
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The Fitted Skirt

by Don McCunn

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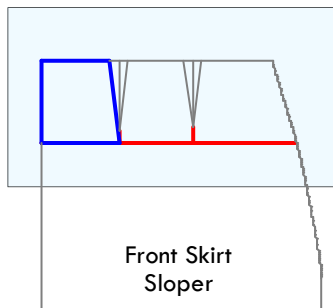
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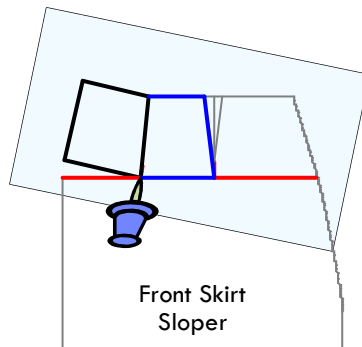
A fitted skirt can be created directly from the Lower Torso sloper. To finish the top of the skirt, these instructions show how to add a facing. The illustration to the right shows both the front and back fitted skirt slopers. The number and size of the darts and shape of the side seam on the sloper you are working with may be different than the one shown here. But the principle of creating the facing is the same.

To create the facing, draw the location of the bottom of the facing on the sloper patterns with pencil. The bottom of the facing is shown as a red line in this illustration. It is 3" down from the waist line. The natural waistline determined for the sloper is used for this example. To drop the waistline lower, see page 3.

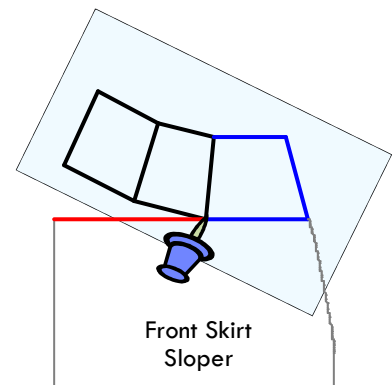
The patterns for the facing can be drawn by placing a fresh sheet of paper on top of the sloper patterns then tracing the lines from the fitted slopers. For the illustrations that follow, this fresh sheet of paper for the design is shown with a light blue background.



Front Skirt Sloper



Front Skirt Sloper

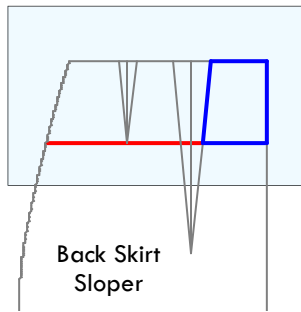


Front Skirt Sloper

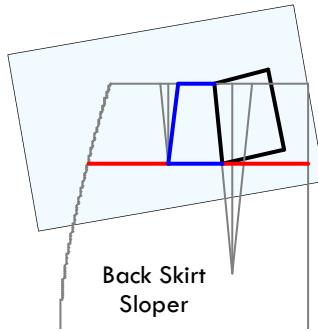
Front Facing Pattern

1. Trace the first section of the facing pattern as shown by the blue lines above. This includes the center front, waist, edge of the first dart, and new facing line.
2. Put a pin where the first dart intersects with the design line for the facing.
3. Pivot the top design paper so that the first dart edge is on top of the opposite dart edge.
4. Trace the second section of the skirt facing. This includes the waist, the closest edge of the second dart, and the new facing line.
5. Put a pin where the second dart intersects with the design line for the facing.
6. Pivot the top design paper so that the traced dart edge is on top of the opposite dart edge.
7. Trace the third section of the skirt facing. This includes the waist, the side seam, and the new facing line.

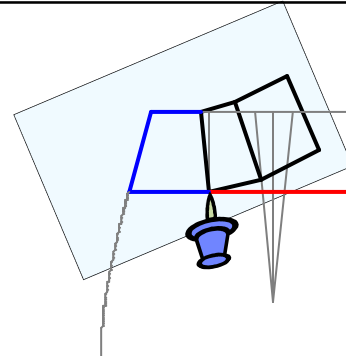
The Fitted Skirt, cont'd



Back Skirt Sloper

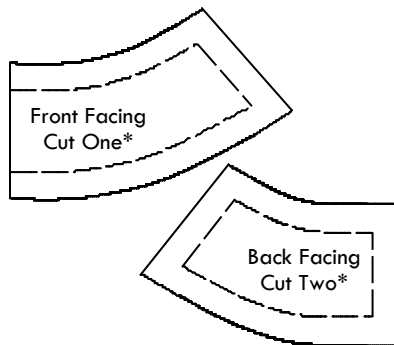


Back Skirt Sloper



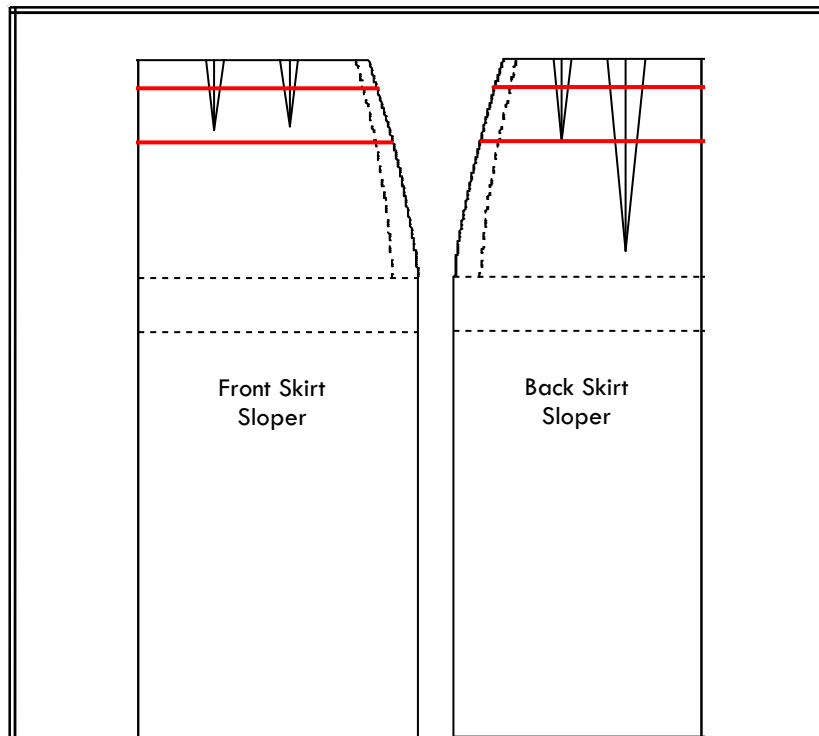
Back Waistband Pattern

1. Trace the first section of the facing pattern starting at the center back as shown by the blue lines above. This includes the center back, waist, edge of the first dart, and new facing line.
2. Move the design paper so that the traced dart edge is on top of the opposite dart edge.
3. Trace the second section of the skirt facing. This includes the waist, the closest edge of the second dart, and the new facing line.
4. Put a pin where the second dart intersects with the design line for the facing.
5. Pivot the top design paper so that the traced dart edge is on top of the opposite dart edge.
6. Trace the third section of the skirt facing. This includes the waist, the side seam, and the new facing line.



7. Add seam allowances to all the pattern pieces. Common seam allowances are 1/2" or 5/8". But you may also make the side seams wider, 1" or 1-1/2", to allow for body changes. To add a back opening at the hem, use a 1" (2.5cm) CB seam allowance. Add a 2" allowance for the hem.
 - The center front line is a fold line.
 - Add sewing notches to the hip line.
 - An opening can be added to the center back seam 8" high.

* A nice detail is to trim 1/8" off of the top seam allowance for the facing. This will cause the top seam of the skirt to roll to the inside of the garment.



If you want to drop the waist from the waistline established for the sloper, add a design waistline to the slopers. The example above drops the waistline by 1".

Follow the exact same procedures as described for the facing pattern except you will trace this new design waistline rather than the waistline of the sloper.

Sewing Instructions

Fabric Selection

Before you can cut out your skirt, you will need to select the fabric. The fitted skirt will work with a variety of fabrics such as wool, denim, or cotton. The fabric you select will depend on where and when you plan to wear it. If you are new to sewing, I would recommend using corduroy.

Zipper Closure and Hem Tape

A 7" to 9" zipper and a hook and eye are used for the closure. An invisible zipper is a good option to consider. To install the zipper, you may choose to follow the instructions included here which are also shown on the class video or the ones included with the zipper.

Materials

Qty	Item	
1	Skirt Fabric	2 yds
1	Interfacing	1/4 yd
1	Zipper	
1	Hook and Eye	

Step I. Cut the Fabric

There are a variety of factors that may be involved in cutting the fabric. The steps below are the most common.

1. If the fabric is to be washed, preshrink it.
2. Press the fabric to remove wrinkles and ensure the lengthwise grain is at right angles to the crosswise grain.
3. Straighten one end of the fabric. To do this, pull a single crosswise thread, then cut along the line that is left.
4. Fold the fabric wrong sides together.
5. Place the pattern pieces on the fabric. The front patterns should be aligned with the fold of the fabric.
6. Pin the pattern pieces to the fabric.
7. Cut the fabric keeping the fabric as flat as possible. Cut notches as required to align the front and back sections during sewing.

Step II. Sew the Zipper

The body of the skirt is sewn the same way the test shell for the sloper is sewn except you can leave an opening at the bottom of the center back seam.

1. Zigzag the edges of the fabric so they will not unravel.
2. Mark, then sew the back hip dart.
3. Pin the center back seam together.
4. Sew the center back seam from the hip to the hem. If you want an opening at center back, stop 8" from the hem instead of sewing all the way to the hem.
5. Machine baste the center back seam from the waist to the hip. Use a long stitch.
6. Clip the excess thread from the machine basting at the hip but not at the waist.
7. Press the center back seam open.
8. Close the zipper and pin the pull tab of the zipper 1/4" below the waist seam line.
9. Hand baste the zipper to the center back seam. Keep the zipper centered over the center back seam. Keep the hand basting close to the teeth of the zipper.
10. With the zipper foot in your sewing machine, sew the zipper. When you look at the right side of the fabric, this will appear as top stitching around the zipper.
11. Remove all the basting.
12. If you are NOT adding an opening at center back, proceed to Step IV.

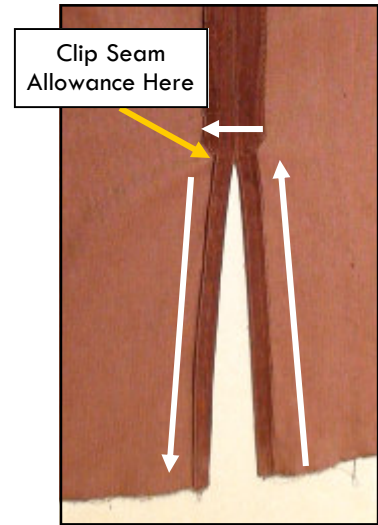


Sewing Instructions, cont'd

Step III. Sew the Center Back Opening (optional)

To leave an opening at center back at the bottom of the skirt, follow the steps below.

1. Turn under the center back seam allowance leaving it 1/2" wide.
2. Top stitch around the folded edge of the seam allowance from the hem up 8", then across the folded seam allowance and back to the hem along the other seam allowance. See the white arrows in the illustration.
3. At the corner of the top stitching, clip the seam allowance.
4. Unfold the seam allowance from the opening up to the waist.



Step IV. Finish the Skirt



1. Sew the front darts.
2. Pin the side seams of the skirt, right sides together, then sew.
3. Press open the side seams.
4. Turn under the hem, then machine baste in place.



5. Sew the hem with a machine hem stitch, or hem by hand.
6. Pin the side seams of the facing, right sides together, then sew.



7. Press open the seam allowances of the facing.
8. Turn under the bottom seam allowance of the facing and top stitch in place then trim.



9. Pin the facing to the skirt along the waist seam, right sides together, then sew.



10. Turn the facing to the inside of the skirt and hem the bottom of the facing to the body of the skirt.
11. Hand sew the center back edges of the facing to the body of the skirt.