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Leena's Pattern Drafting Lessons: Drafting patterns for women's basic skirt

➤ [Metric conversion table](#)

This lesson shows how the patterns for the basic skirt are drafted according to the Scandinavian pattern drafting system. Follow the pictures as you read the instructions.

MEASURING

➤ [Click here](#) to move to the measuring page. Read the measuring instructions carefully. To draft skirt patterns, you have to take the measurements listed in the table below. To keep the pictures clear and readable, the measurements are given only in centimeters. You can change centimeters to inches using formula 1 cm = 0.4 inches.

ADDING EASE

You would not be able to wear the skirt if the patterns were drawn exactly to your body measurements. Therefore you have to add ease to some of the measurements. The basic skirt usually is a tight fitting garment and therefore only a small amount of ease is added.

ADD TO THE WAIST CIRCUMFERENCE: 2 cm
 ADD TO THE HIP CIRCUMFERENCE: 4 cm
 Do not add any ease to other measurements.

Write down the measurements in the table below.

	Body measurement	Body measurement + ease
WAIST CIRCUMFERENCE	*	+2 cm=
ABDOMEN CIRCUMFERENCE	*	
HIP CIRCUMFERENCE (if your abdomen circumference is more than your hip circumference, use it for your hip circumference)	*	+ 4 cm=
ABDOMEN HEIGHT	*	
HIP HEIGHT	*	
SKIRT LENGTH FROM WAIST TO HEM	*	

DO THE FOLLOWING CALCULATIONS:

Round the measurements up to the nearest 0.5 cm.

	Body measurement + ease	Divided by 2	Divided by 4	Divided by 10
Waist circumference	*	*		*
Hip circumference	*	*	*	

DRAFTING THE PATTERNS

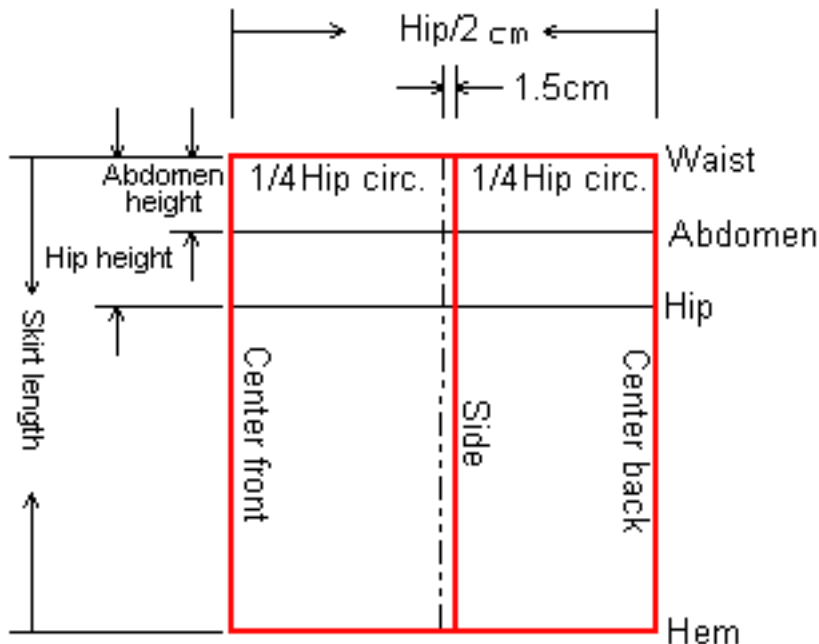
Draw a frame first.

- 1) Start by drawing a vertical line that corresponds to the length of the skirt. This is the center front line of the skirt.
- 2) Draw a horizontal line at the top of the vertical line. This is the waist line of the skirt.
- 3) Draw a horizontal line at the bottom of the vertical line. This is the hem line of the skirt.
- 4) Measure down from the waist line a distance equal to the abdomen height and draw a horizontal line. This is the abdomen line.
- 5) Measure down from the waist line a distance equal to the hip height and draw a horizontal line. This is the hip line.
- 6) On the waist line, measure $\frac{1}{2}$ of Hip circumference to the right from the

skirt's front center line and draw a vertical line from there down to the hem line. This is the center back line of the skirt.

7) On the waist line, measure $\frac{1}{4}$ hip circumference and 1.5 cm to the right from the skirt's front center line and draw a vertical line from there down to the hem line. This is the side line. The side line is thus moved 1.5 cm towards back to prevent it from being seen from the front.

Darts

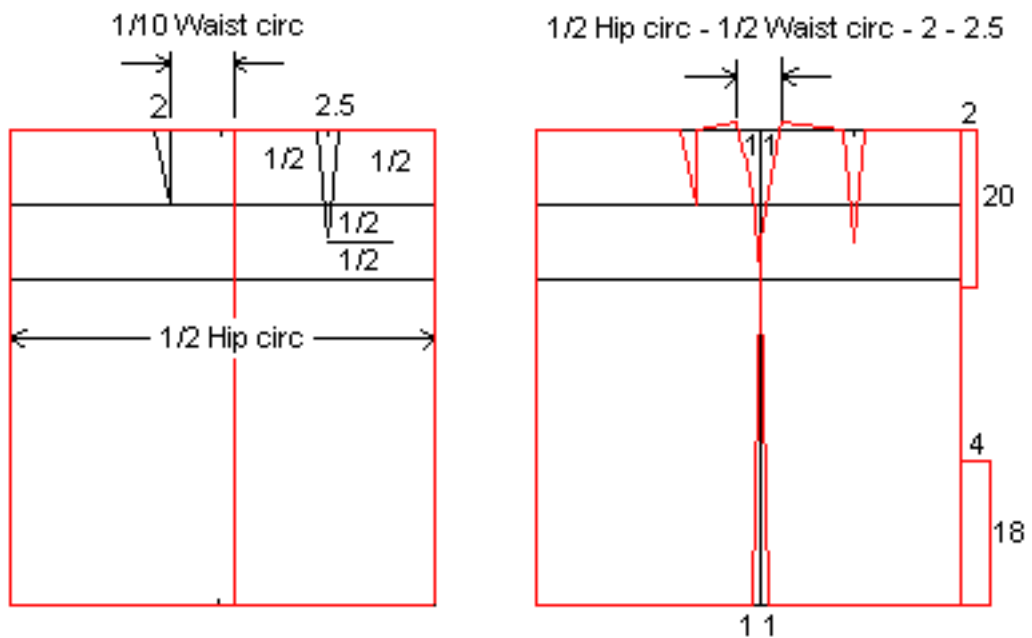


8) On the waist line, measure $\frac{1}{10}$ waist circumference to the right from the skirt's front center line and start the front dart from there. Make the dart 2 cm wide. The dart extends from the waist line to the abdomen line. Draw the right side of the dart so that it forms a right angle where it meets the abdomen line.

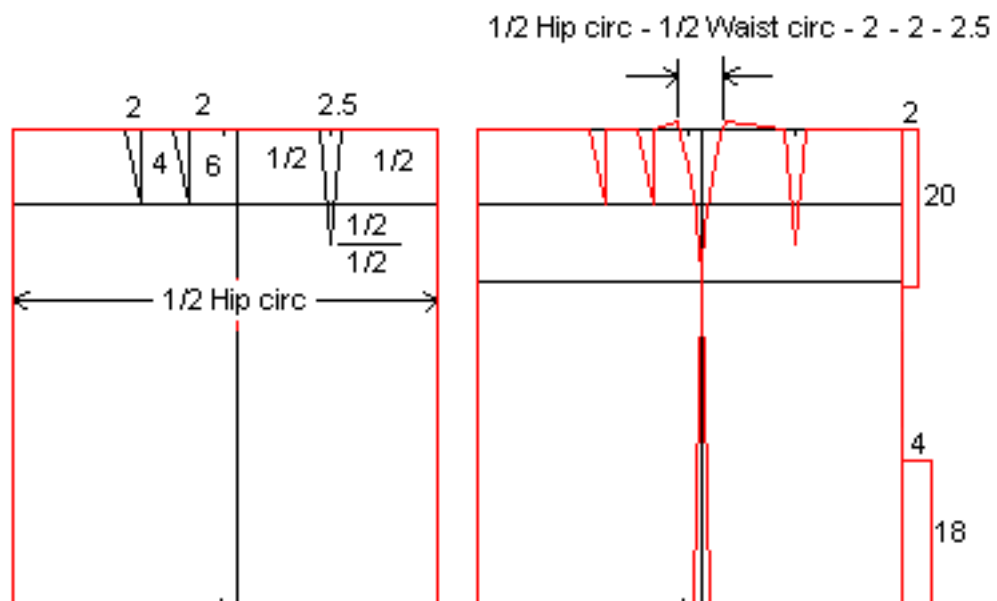
Back dart is 2.5 cm wide. Center it at the

midpoint of the back waistline. Vertically, the back dart extends to the midpoint between the abdomen and the hip height.

9) Mark the waist side points according to the picture. First, calculate the amount of width you have to remove on the waist line. Subtract $\frac{1}{2}$ waist circumference (+ease) and the widths of the darts (2 and 2.5 cm) from $\frac{1}{2}$ hip circumference (+ease). Measure $\frac{1}{2}$ of this amount to the right and to the left from the top point of the side line. Finally, raise front and back waist side points 1 cm.



If the difference between your hip circumference and your waist circumference is 25 cm (10") or more, draw two front darts. Measure 6 cm from side line to the left and start one dart from there. Place the other dart 4 cm to the left of the first dart. Make the darts 2 cm wide.



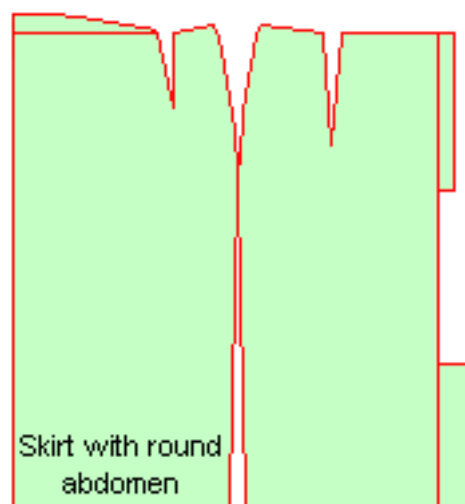
Round abdomen

If you have a round abdomen, raise the front center by 2-3 cm to make more room for it.

Raised waist

Remove ease from the waist measurements. Draft the raised waist to the skirt's waist mirroring darts to it. Draft facing pieces copying them from the skirt's raised waist as in the picture. Move and rotate the pieces to form whole facing pattern.

2-3 cm



Facing front



Facing back

