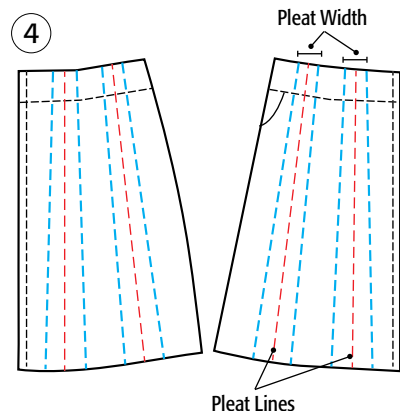
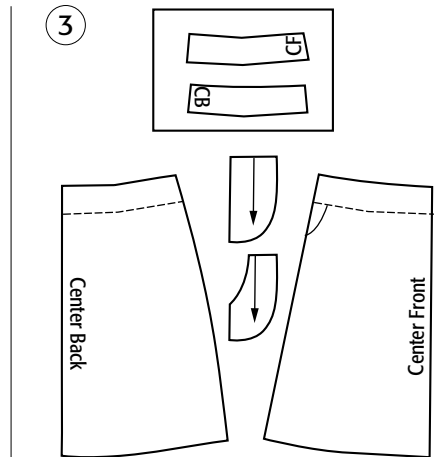
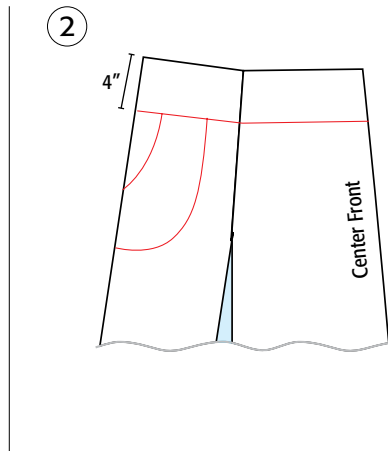
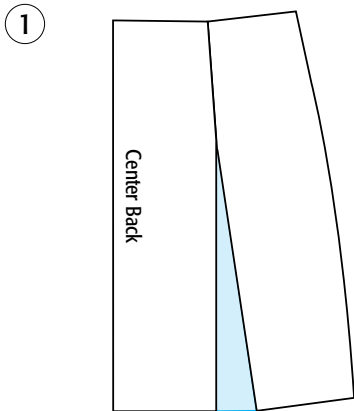




PLEATS TO MEET YOU SKIRT

{ by Ana Jankovic }

Put a stylish twist on a simple skirt by adding pleats that double as belt loops at the waistline.



Supplies

- Basic straight skirt pattern (such as Kwik Sew 2957)
- Woven cotton fabric & fusible interfacing (amount according to pattern envelope plus ¼ yard)
- Invisible zipper & notions (according to pattern envelope)
- Scrap of lining fabric (pocket linings)
- All-purpose thread
- Pattern or tracing paper
- Rulers: clear & curved
- Clear tape
- Premade piping (optional)

Prepare

Cut out the pattern pieces.

Before beginning the alterations, pin-fit or make a muslin fitting sample of the selected pattern.

Make any necessary fit adjustments to the pattern, and then trace a copy on paper, transferring all markings.

Alter

To give the skirt an A-line shape, draw a line connecting the skirt dart points to the lower edge. Slash the patterns along the line and one dart leg. Close each dart, transferring the dart fullness away from the waistline. Fill in the open area with additional pattern paper (1).

On each skirt pattern, draw a line 4" below and parallel to the upper edge to indicate the yoke lower edge. On the front pattern, draw the desired pocket opening and pocket-bag lower edge from the yoke line to the side seam (2).

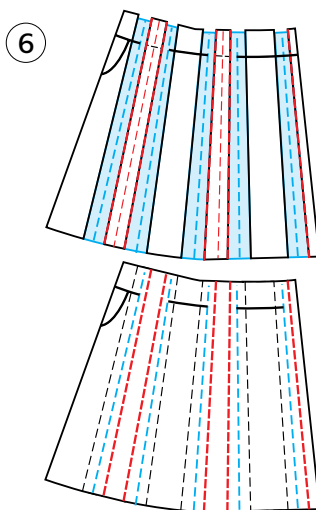
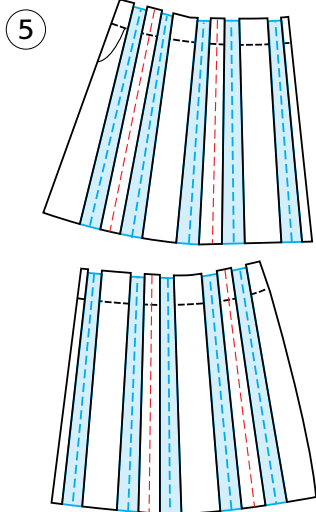
On new paper, trace each pattern section separately: front skirt, back skirt, front yoke, back yoke, pocket and pocket lining. Draw the grainline on the pocket pieces and label the center-front and center-back edges of the skirts and yokes (3).

On the front and back skirt patterns, draw two vertical pleat lines connecting the upper and lower edges, dividing each skirt pattern in three approximately equal sections.

Determine the desired pleat width. The pleats should be narrower at the upper edge than at the lower edge to maintain a flared shape. The pleats on the featured skirt are 1¼" at the upper edge and 2" at the lower edge. Mark the pleat-width lines on the skirt, using the previously drawn pleat lines as centerlines. Mark a half pleat at the skirt center front and center back (4).

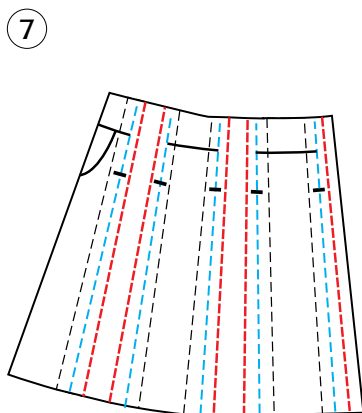


Look for a basic straight skirt pattern, such as Kwik Sew 2957.



Measure the skirt length from the waistline to the hemline; record. Using the recorded length and pleat width measurements, cut 10 trapezoids from pattern paper. Mark each trapezoid centerline. Cut the skirt patterns along the pleat lines, and then tape a trapezoid in each cut area, aligning the upper and lower edges (5).

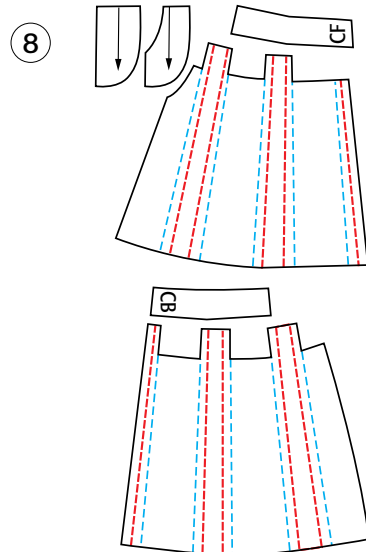
Trace the skirt patterns onto new paper, transferring the pleat foldlines. Transfer the inverted pleat area in red ink and the stitching lines in blue ink (6).



On each stitching line, mark a notch $2\frac{1}{2}$ " below the yoke seamline to indicate the stitching end (7).

Trim the yoke area away from the front and back skirt patterns, leaving the pleat areas intact to become belt loops. Not that the center-front pleat doesn't extend into belt loops. The final pattern includes the front skirt, back skirt, front yoke, back yoke and pocket pieces (8).

Add $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowances to all new cut edges.



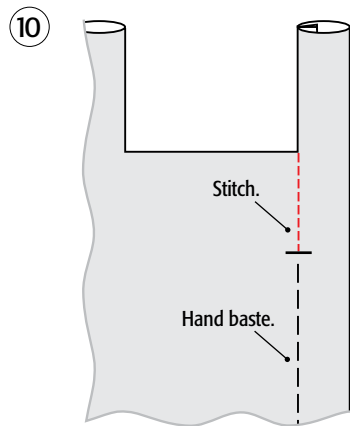
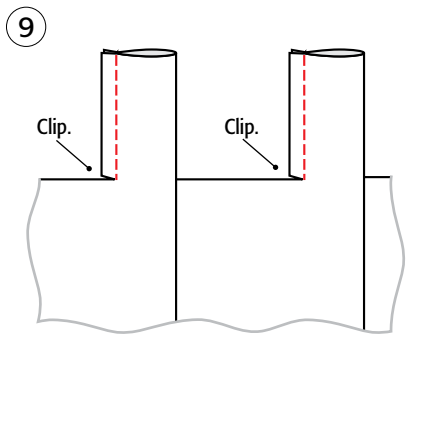
Cut

From the fabric, cut one front skirt, one back skirt, two front yokes and two back yokes on the fold. Cut two pockets.

From the lining fabric scrap, cut two pocket linings.

From the interfacing, cut two front yokes and two back yokes on the fold. Fuse one interfacing yoke to each corresponding fabric yoke following the manufacturer's instructions.





Construct

On the front skirt, fold the first belt loop in half with right sides together. Stitch the belt loop from the upper edge to the yoke seamline. Clip into the seam allowance at the yoke seamline, being careful not to cut the stitching (9). Press open the belt loop seam. Repeat to stitch each belt loop on the front and back skirts.

Turn the first belt loop right side out. With wrong sides together, fold the pleat in half, and then hand baste the pleat in place. Stitch the pleat from the yoke seamline to the notch. Repeat to stitch each remaining pleat (10).

Flatten each belt loop and pleat centering the stitching lines; press.

With wrong sides together, stitch each pocket lining to the front skirt along the pocket-opening seamlines. Understitch each seam, and then turn the pocket linings toward the skirt wrong side; press.

With right sides facing up, position the pockets behind the front-skirt pocket openings, aligning the pocket and pocket-lining curved inner edges; pin, and then stitch. Baste the pockets along the front-skirt side and yoke edges.

With right sides together, stitch one front-yoke lower edge to the front-skirt upper edge, folding the belt loops out

of the way. Press the seam allowances upward. Repeat to stitch one back yoke to the back skirt.

With right sides together, stitch the right side seam; press open. Insert the invisible zipper into the left side seam following the manufacturer's instructions, and then stitch the remaining left side seam.

With right sides together, align the remaining front and back yokes with right sides together to create the yoke facing. Stitch the right side seam; press open. Fold the free short edges $\frac{3}{8}$ " toward the wrong side; press.

Pin the belt loops in place to the yoke. With right sides together, align the yoke-facing upper edge and side seam with the skirt upper edge and side seam; pin. Stitch the upper edges, catching the belt loops. Understitch the seam, and then turn the facing toward the skirt wrong side; press. Slipstitch the facing short-edge folds to the zipper tape.

Remove the basting from the pleats. Hem the skirt lower edge according to the pattern guidesheet. If desired, topstitch the pleat folds on the right and wrong sides for a crisp look. ➤

SOURCE
Kwik Sew carries 2957: kwiksew.mccall.com.

TIP: To highlight the pocket and yoke details, stitch coordinating readymade piping into the seamlines.

