Exposed Zipper Skirt
Add an edgy twist by showcasing an exposed metal zipper.

Supplies
- Basic straight skirt pattern (such as New Look 6843)
- Wool tweed fabric (amount according to pattern envelope)
- ⅜ yard of interfacing
- 20”-long metal separating zipper
- Hook & eye
- All-purpose thread
- Pattern paper or tracing cloth
- Rulers: curved & straight
- Hand sewing needle
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. Transfer the left side-slit markings to the center-back seam.

Alter
Close the skirt front and back waist darts; pin or tape in place (1). To create the front waist-facing pattern, trace the front upper edge, truing the curve, and then trace the side and center-front edges for 2¼”. Connect the side and center-front lines with a curved line parallel to the upper-edge line. Repeat to create the back waist-facing pattern. Cut out the facing patterns (2). Trace the original front pattern onto new paper. Use additional paper to add 2¼” to the center-front edge for the zipper facing (3).

Cut
From the fabric, cut one front pair, one back pair, one front waist-facing pair and one back waist-facing pair. From the interfacing, cut one front waist-facing pair, one back waist-facing pair and two 2¼” x 22” strips. Fuse the interfacing facings to the corresponding fabric pieces. Fuse one interfacing strip along each skirt center-front edge.

Construct
Use ⅞” seam allowances unless otherwise noted by the pattern instructions. Stitch the front and back darts according to the pattern guidesheet. Eliminate the center-back zipper. Stitch the center-back seam and slit following the side-slit instructions. Staystitch the skirt upper edges using a ⅛” seam allowance. Fold each skirt center-front edge ¼” toward the wrong side; press, and then topstitch. Or serge- or zigzag-finish each center-front edge. Fold each center-front edge 2” toward the wrong side; press. Place the skirt right front right side up on a flat work surface. Position the zipper right side up over the skirt, aligning the zipper tape upper edge ¼” below the skirt upper edge and the right zipper teeth with the skirt center-front folded edge; pin. Using a zipper foot, stitch ⅛” from the zipper teeth, and then stitch again along the zipper-tape right edge (4). Repeat to stitch the left zipper tape to the skirt left center-front edge, making sure to align the skirt upper edges. With right sides together, stitch the skirt side seams; press open. With right sides together, stitch the facing center-back seam and side seams; press open. Fold the facing lower edge ¼” toward the wrong side; press, and then topstitch. Or serge- or zigzag-finish the facing lower edge. With right sides together, align the facing and skirt upper edges, matching the center-back and side seams; pin. Stitch the upper edge, and then grade the seam allowance. Press the seam allowance toward the facing, and then understitch the facing. Fold the facing toward the skirt wrong side; press. Hand-tack the facing in place along the center-back and side seams. Slipstitch the waist-facing center-front lower edge to the skirt zipper-facing.

Finish
Hand stitch a hook and eye above the zipper upper edge. Hem the skirt according to the pattern guidesheet.
Row of Bows Skirt
Decorate a skirt with a panel of fun and feminine bows.

Supplies
• Basic straight skirt pattern (such as New Look 6843)
• Wool suiting fabric (amount according to pattern envelope plus 6”)
• 6”x24” rectangle of contrasting woven fabric
• All-purpose thread, interfacing & notions (according to pattern envelope)
• Five 1¼”-diameter covered buttons
• Pattern tracing paper or cloth
• Removable fabric marker
• Hand sewing needle

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. Transfer the left side-slit markings to the center-back seam.

Alter
Trace the skirt-front pattern onto new paper. Turn over the pattern, aligning the center-front edge with the traced center-front line; trace again to create a full front pattern. Transfer the markings and darts. On the new front pattern, draw a vertical line 3” from and parallel to the center-front line, and then draw a line 7” from and parallel to the center-front line (5).
Cut the pattern along the center-front line and the two marked lines to create three pattern pieces. Label the large section “skirt right front,” the center section “skirt contrast panel” and the remaining section “skirt left front.” Add ½” seam allowances to each cut edge (6).

Cut
From the main fabric, cut one skirt right front, one skirt left front, one back pair, one waistband and five 5” squares.
From the contrasting fabric, cut one contrast panel.
From the interfacing, cut one waistband. Fuse the interfacing to the waistband wrong side following the manufacturer’s instructions.

Construct
Use ⅜” seam allowances unless otherwise noted.
Stitch the darts according to the pattern guidesheet.
To create the first bow, fold one 5” square in half with right sides together. Stitch the long open edge using a ⅜” seam allowance. Turn the bow right side out; press. Fold the bow in half lengthwise. Draw a centered ¼”-long horizontal line ½” from the fold. Stitch along the line to create a pleat. Unfold the bow and press the pleat excess flat; the side with the pleat excess is the wrong side. Repeat to stitch four additional bows.
Mark the contrast panel right side 2½” from the upper edge. Position one bow right side up over the contrast panel, aligning one upper corner with the mark and matching the raw edges; pin (7). Position the remaining bows on the panel, spacing them 2” apart; pin (8). Baste the bow short edges using a ⅜” seam allowance. With right sides together and using ⅜” seam allowances, stitch the skirt right front to the contrast panel right edge and the skirt left front to the contrast-panel left edge. Press the seams away from the contrast panel.
Cover the buttons with the main fabric following the manufacturer’s instructions. Hand stitch one button at each bow center through all layers. Stitch the center-back seam and slit following the side-slit instructions. Finish constructing the skirt according to the pattern guidesheet.
Peplum Skirt

Dress up a simple skirt with a flirty peplum and bejeweled bow.

Supplies

- Basic straight skirt pattern (such as New Look 6843)
- Suiting fabric (amount according to pattern envelope plus ½ yard)
- ½ yard of lining fabric
- ⅜”-wide rhinestone slide-bar belt buckle
- All-purpose thread, interfacing & notions (according to pattern envelope)
- Pattern tracing paper or cloth
- Rulers: curved & straight
- Hand sewing needle

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. Transfer the left side-slit markings to the center-back seam.

Alter

To create the peplum patterns, trace the front and back pattern pieces on new paper ending 12” from the upper edge. Draw a vertical line connecting each dart point to the peplum pattern lower edge (9).

Cut out the peplum patterns, and then cut along each vertical line. Spread the patterns along the lower edges, folding the darts closed (10). Trace the altered peplum patterns onto new paper, using a curved ruler to connect the slashed-area lower edges. Mark 1” from each peplum side-seam lower edge. Use a curved ruler to redraw the side seams, connecting each side seam upper edge to the mark (11). Cut out the peplum patterns and label them “front peplum” and “back peplum.”

Cut

From the main fabric, cut one front skirt and one front peplum on the fold. Cut one back-skirt pair, one back-peplum pair, one waistband and one 1¾”x4½” rectangle.

From the lining, cut one front peplum on the fold and one back-peplum pair.

From the interfacing, cut one waistband. Fuse the interfacing to the waistband wrong side.

Construct

Use ⅜” seam allowances unless otherwise noted.

Staystitch the front and back peplum upper edges using a ⅜” seam allowance. With right sides together, stitch
the peplum side seams. Repeat to stitch the peplum lining.

*With right sides together*, align the peplum and peplum lining, matching the raw edges. Stitch the center-back and lower edges, leaving the upper edge open. Trim the seam allowances, and then turn the peplum right side out; press. Baste the upper edge using a ½” seam allowance.

*Stitch the skirt darts*, seams and center-back zipper according to pattern guidesheet.

*With the right sides facing up*, align the peplum over the skirt, matching the upper edges and seams; pin. Clip to the staystitching if needed. Baste the upper edges together using a ½” seam allowance.

*Finish constructing the skirt* according to the pattern guidesheet.

*To create the waistband bow*, fold the fabric rectangle in half lengthwise with right sides together. Stitch the open edges using a ¼” seam allowance, leaving a 1½” opening along the long edge for turning. Turn the bow right side out, and then slipstitch the opening closed. Slide one bow short end through the buckle; center the buckle.

*Position the bow on* the skirt waistband above the right front dart; hand stitch in place.

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**Peek-a-Boo Lining Skirt**

**Supplies**

- Basic straight skirt pattern (such as New Look 6843)
- Suiting fabric (amount according to pattern envelope)
- Lining (amount according to pattern envelope plus 6”)
- All-purpose thread, interfacing & notions (according to pattern envelope)
- 1½ yards of ½”-wide flat lace
- Pattern tracing paper or cloth
- Hand sewing needle

**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. Transfer the left side-slit markings to the center-back seam.
Alter
On new paper, trace the front and back patterns, shortening each by 3”.
To create the exposed lining-band patterns, trace the front and back pattern lower edges for 5” (12). Cut out the new skirt and lining band patterns.

Cut
From the main fabric, cut one front skirt on the fold, one back-skirt pair and one waistband.
From the lining, cut the following pattern pieces on the fold: one original skirt front and one front band. Cut one original back-skirt pair and one back-band pair.
From the interfacing, cut one waistband. Fuse the interfacing to the waistband wrong side.

Construct
Use ⅝” seam allowances unless otherwise noted.
Stitch the skirt darts, seams and center-back zipper according to the pattern guidesheet.

Maxi-Mini Skirt
Use sheer fabric to create an eye-catching overlay skirt for a trendy look.

Supplies
• Basic straight skirt pattern (such as New Look 6843)
• Suiting fabric (amount according to pattern envelope)
• 2½ yards of 44”- to 45”-wide sheer silk fabric (fabric amount may vary according to hip measurement)
• All-purpose thread, interfacing & notions (according to pattern envelope)
• Pattern tracing paper or cloth
• Hand sewing needle

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.
Transfer the left side-slit markings to the center-back seam.

Alter
On new paper, trace the front and back skirt patterns, shortening the skirt length 18”.

Cut
Note: The finished overlay length is 42”; lengthen or shorten as desired.
From the main fabric, cut one skirt front on the fold. Cut one skirt back pair and one waistband.
Use the following calculations to cut the overlay rectangles. Measure your hip at the widest point; record. From the silk, cut one front overlay rectangle measuring 44”x the recorded measurement plus 2”. Cut one back overlay rectangle measuring 44”x
the recorded measurement plus 4”.
Cut the back overlay rectangle in half lengthwise. For example, for a 36” hip measurement, the front overlay is 38”x44” and the back overlay is 40”x44”, and then cut into two 20”x44” rectangles.
From the interfacing, cut one waistband. Fuse the interfacing to the waistband wrong side.

**Construct**

* Use ⅝” seam allowances unless otherwise noted.

Stitch the skirt darts, seams and center-back zipper according to the pattern guidesheet.

**Stitch the overlay center-back seam**
using a French seam, ending 1” below zipper lower-edge mark. To stitch a French seam, align the back skirts with wrong sides together, and then stitch the center-back edge using a ¼” seam allowance; press. Fold the skirt with right sides together along the seam. Stitch the center-back seam again, using a ⅜” seam allowance to encase the raw edges.

**Stitch the overlay side seams**
using a French seam.

Double-fold the overlay zipper-opening edges ¼” toward the wrong side; press, and then slipstitch the first fold in place.

Set the machine to a long gathering stitch. Stitch the overlay upper edge using a 3/8” seam allowance, leaving long thread tails. Stitch again using a ½” seam allowance. Gently pull the lower threads to gather the overlay upper edge. With right sides facing up, position the overlay over the skirt, and then evenly adjust the overlay gathers to match the skirt upper edge and side seams; pin. Baste the upper edges.

**Finish constructing the skirt**
according to the pattern guidesheet. Use a narrow hem to finish the overlay lower edge.