

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

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

(rev: 7/15/2009)

Copyright © 2009 by Donald H. McCunn

- You may copy this Pattern Design Guide for your own individual use.
- You may not distribute or sell copies of the instructions to others including friends, club members, students, or clients.
- You may sell garments made using these instructions without any restrictions.

---

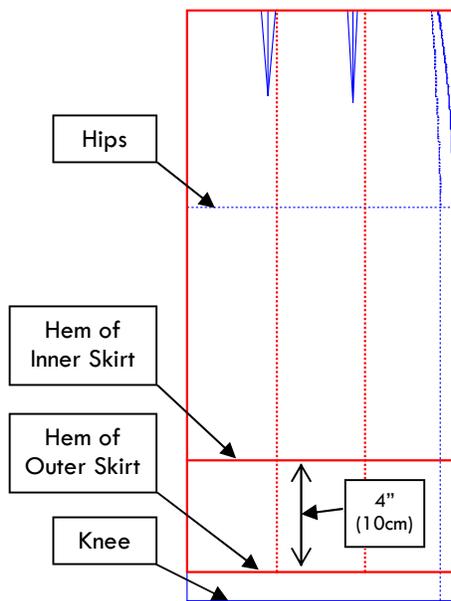
Design Enterprises of San Francisco  
1007 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114  
(415) 282-8813 || Website: [Patternmaking-Classes.com](http://Patternmaking-Classes.com)  
Yahoo Groups: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/How-to-Make-Sewing-Patterns>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Patternmaking-Classes>

# The Bubble Skirt

by Don McCunn

## Contents

Introduction .....	2
The Patterns .....	3
Sewing Instructions .....	4



This version of a Bubble Skirt can be created either from the Lower Torso sloper or from measurements. The Bubble Skirt has an inner skirt and an outer skirt.

The inner skirt is a straight pull on skirt. This means that the inner skirt is a rectangle of fabric that is the hip circumference plus 2" (5cm) of ease.

The outer skirt has fullness added to the hem but not the waist. It is 4" (10cm) longer than the inner skirt. This extra fullness and length is what causes the hem of the outer skirt to have the bubble look. The amount of fullness should be adjusted for the fabric you are using. In the example, the hem has double fullness.

The illustration to the left shows the design lines for this Bubble Skirt as they relate to the sloper pattern. In this case the front and back skirt slopers are the same width. If the patterns you are using are not the same width, use 1/4 of the Hip measurement (#15) and add 2" (5cm) of ease. The pattern has two slash lines added for adding the fullness for the outer skirt.

For this example, I chose to make the skirt a pull on with an elasticized waist so that there would be no need to have a separate closing device, such as a zipper, that would bind the inner skirt to the outer skirt. This means that the skirt will ride on the level of the body based on the length of the elastic used at the waist.

---

## Determining the Length of the Waist Elastic



To determine the level of where the Bubble Skirt will ride on the body, place the elastic to be used for the waist around the body at the desired level as shown in the photo on the left.

Then verify that the skirt will be snug at this location by stretching the elastic a little until it feels comfortable.

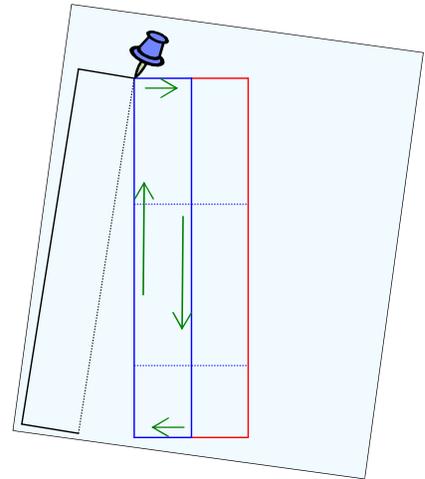
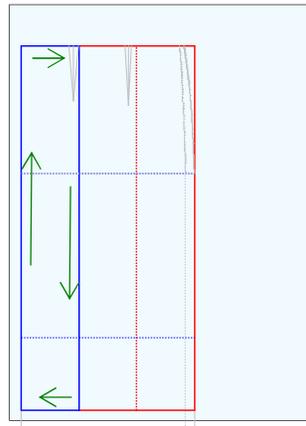
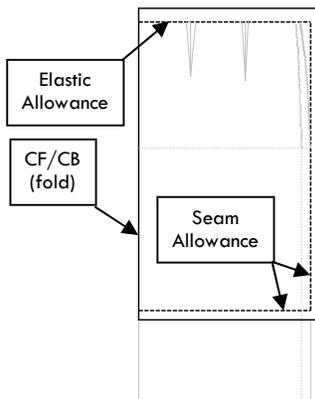
Once you've established this fit, record the length of the elastic.

Waist Elastic: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Bubble Skirt, cont'd

### Creating the Patterns



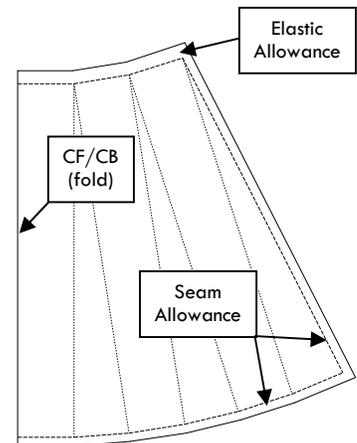
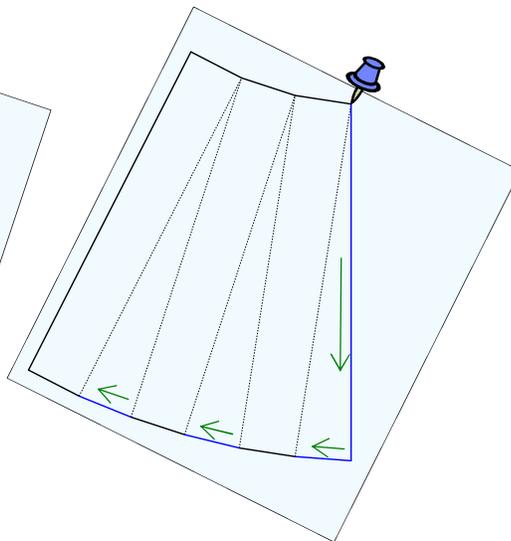
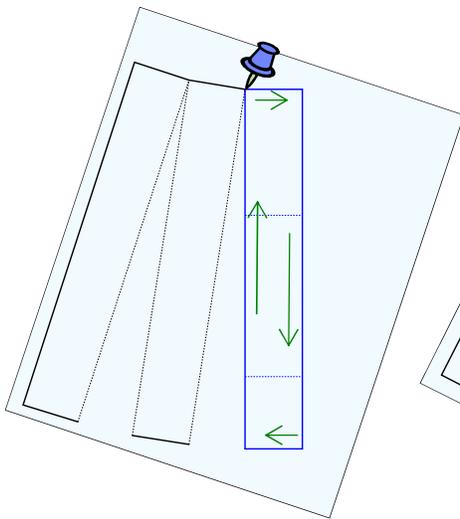
#### Inner Skirt Patterns

1. For the Inner Skirt trace the Center Front/Center Back fold, waist, side seam, and Inner Skirt hem line.
2. Add an allowance at the waist that is the width of the elastic to be used for the waist.
3. Add seam allowances to the side seam and hem.

#### Outer Skirt Pattern

1. Trace the first section of the outer skirt including the center front/center back line, the waist to the first slash line, down the slash line, and the hem.

2. Put a pin where the first slash line intersects with the waist line.
3. Pivot the top design paper so the slash line touches the CF/CB line at the hem.
4. Trace the second section of the skirt.



5. Put a pin where the second slash line meets the waist line.
6. Pivot the top design paper so that the traced slash line touches the second slash line at the hem.
7. Trace the third section of the skirt.

8. Put a pin at the top of the side seam.
9. Pivot the paper so the traced side seam touches the second slash line at the hem.
10. Trace the side seam.
11. Draw lines to complete the hem.

12. Add an allowance at the waist that is the width of the elastic to be used for the waist.
13. Add seam allowances to the side seam and hem.

## Sewing Instructions

### Fabric Selection

Before you can cut out your skirt, you will need to select the fabric. The Bubble Skirt is best made from fabric that has a little body and drapes well. If you are new to sewing a print is nice for this skirt as it will tend to hide minor irregularities in the gathering.

### Waistband Elastic

You will need to determine the length of the waistband elastic by holding a length of it around the body at the level you want the top of the skirt.

### Materials

Qty	Item	
1	Skirt Fabric	2 yds
1	Lining Fabric	1 yd
1	3/4" Waistband Elastic	

### 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. Preshrink the fabric.
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 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.

### Step II. Sew the Skirt

This skirt is made from an outer skirt made from the fashion fabric and an inner skirt or lining that holds up the hem of the fashion fabric to create the bubble.

1. Zigzag the edges of the fabric so they will not unravel.
2. Pin the side seams of the fashion fabric, right sides together, then sew.
3. Press open the side seams.
4. Pin the side seams of the lining fabric, right sides together, then sew.
5. Press open the side seams.
6. On both the fashion fabric and the lining, mark sewing notches on the hem half way between the side seams. Then half way between these sewing notches and the side seams. This divides the hem into 8 sections to indicate where the gathers should fall.
7. On the fashion fabric sew a line of gathering stitches 1/4" (6mm) in from the edge of the hem allowance. Sew a second line of gathering stitches 3/4" (18mm) in from the edge of the hem line.
8. Pull the gathering stitches to gather the hem fairly snug.
9. Put the lining fabric inside the fashion fabric, right sides together, then pin the sewing notches together.
10. Adjust the gathering evenly around the hem.
11. Sew the hem, then press and turn right side out.
12. Press the hem then top stitch the edge of the hem. This will help hold the shaping of the bubble gathers.
13. Pin the waist of the fashion fabric to the waist of the lining, then zigzag the two fabrics together. There should be no gathers.
14. Cut the elastic the length of the desired waistband plus 1" (2.5cm).
15. Overlap the ends of the elastic to form a loop, then zigzag the ends together.
16. Pin the elastic to the inside of the skirt stretching it so it is divided evenly around the waist. The elastic should be just down from the top edge of the skirt.
17. Use a ball point sewing needle to zigzag the elastic to the skirt along the edge furthest from the top of the skirt.
18. Turn the elastic to the inside of the skirt, then zigzag in place.



This completes the Bubble Skirt.