

LET'S MAKE A gathered skirt

FABRIC ON ELASTIC

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- YOU WILL NEED -

1 piece or panel of fabric + 1 piece of elastic, width 5 cm (2")



fabric: [bromelia 012](http://bromelia.012) (www.lottemartens.com)
elastic: [elastic wide orange](http://elastic.wide.orange) (www.aboutblue.be)

width = fabric or panel width
height = height of the finished skirt + 6 cm (2.5")



elastic length = waist - 2 cm (1")



Finish the raw edge of the fabric or panel with
a serger or zigzag or overlock stitch.



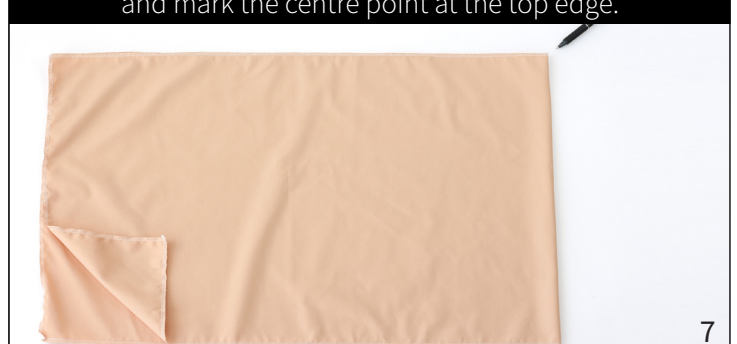
Mark 1 cm (1/4") from the corner on both top edges,
on the right side of the fabric.



Use a removable marker, like a frixion pen or a chalk pencil.



Fold the fabric in half, wrong sides together,
and mark the centre point at the top edge.



Unfold again. Fold the corner to the centre:
put both marks on top of each other. Mark on the fold line.



Repeat on the other side of the fabric.



You have now divided the fabric in 4 equal parts, with left
and right 1 cm (1/4") seam allowance, having put 5 marks.



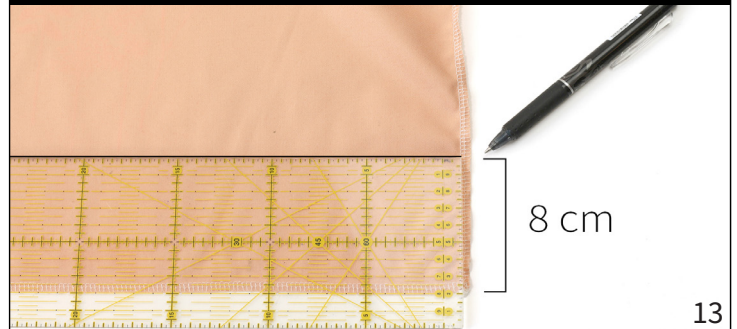
Slightly burn the edges of your elastic
to prevent it from fraying.



In the same way as for the fabric, divide the elastic into
4 equal parts with 1 cm (1/4") seam allowance on both sides.



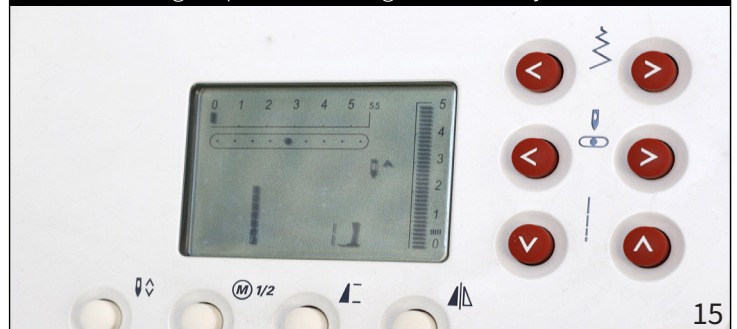
Now press the hem: draw a line on the wrong side of the fabric, with an
erasable marker or chalk marker, at 8 cm (3") from the bottom edge.



Fold the fabric against the line to press a hem
of 4 cm (1.5") into the fabric. Unfold the hem again.



Prepare for sewing gathering threads.
Use the longest possible straight stitch on your machine.



Choose a needle that does not damage the fabric: the second gathering thread will be sewn through the visible part of your skirt.



16

Choose a contrasting thread colour for easy removal of the threads. Start with a long piece of thread.



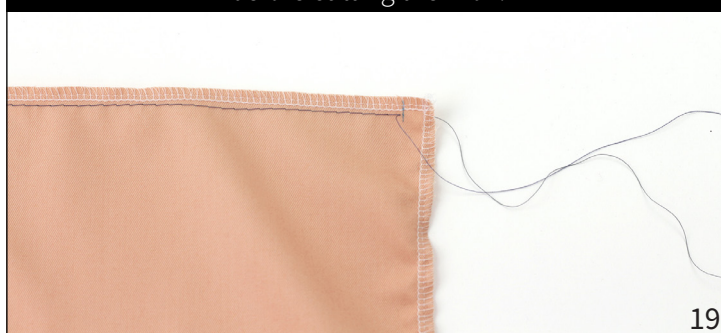
17

Start sewing at the 1 cm (1/4") mark. Don't backstitch at the beginning or end. Stitch on presser foot width along the entire top edge of the fabric.



18

Leave long lengths of thread at the end too, before cutting them off.



19

Stitch a second gathering thread in the same way, 2 cm (1/2") below the first one.



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Pull the top threads gently to slide /gather the fabric along. Gather from both sides towards the middle.



21

Gather until the fabric is 10 cm (4") wider than the total width of the elastic.



22

Tie the gathering threads together and cut them, at both sides. Now the width of the fabric can no longer change.



23

Pin the fabric on the elastic: Line the 5 marked points on the elastic with the 5 marked points on the fabric. Make sure the elastic covers the first gathering thread.



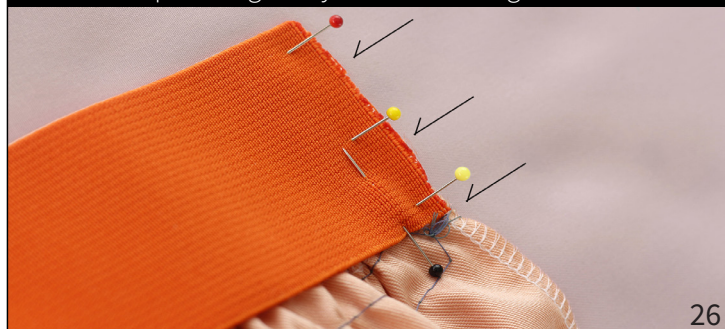
24

The fabric is covered for about 1.5 cm (1/2") by the elastic.



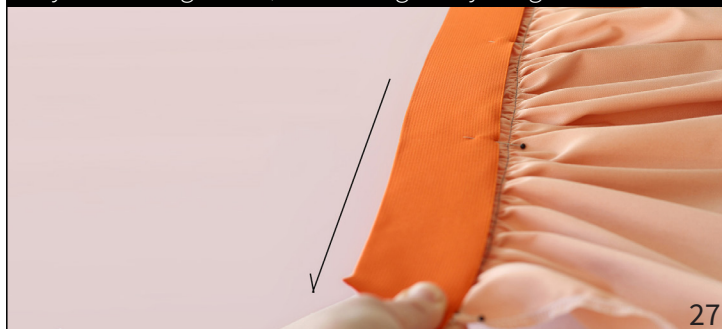
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Pin one side of the elastic to your ironing board: Put the pins diagonally into the ironing board cover.



26

Pull at the other end and stretch the elastic along the length of your ironing board, to the length of your gathered fabric.



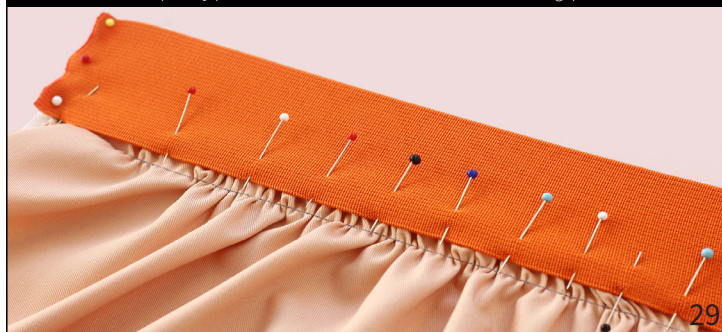
27

Distribute the gathers evenly over the elastic.



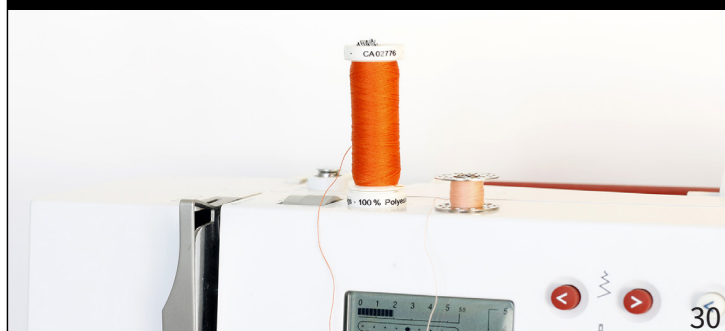
28

Pin the fabric to the elastic with a lot of pins. Put your measuring gauge or something like a ruler between fabric and ironing board, to avoid pinning them together. When the elastic is completely pinned to the skirt, remove the first 'stretching' pins.



29

When the elastic is fully tightened, loosen the "clamping pins". Choose an upper thread in the colour of the elastic, and a bobbin thread in the colour of the fabric.



30

Choose a zigzag stitch or, even stronger, a stretch zigzag, like in this photo: a zigzag consisting of small stitches.



31

Stitch the elastic to the fabric while stretching it piece by piece. Stitch a few mm (1/16") from the edge of the elastic.



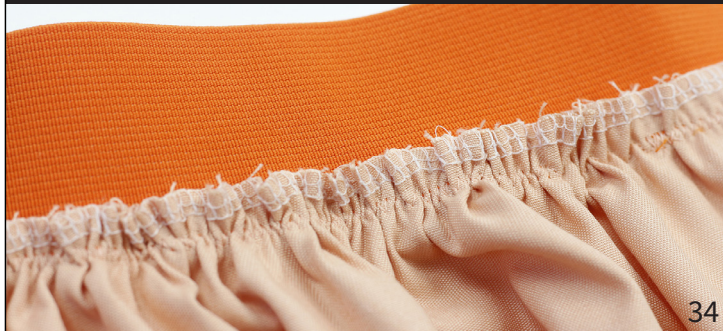
32

Remove both gathering threads with your seam ripper.



33

This is what the back looks like



34

Pin the short sides of the fabric right sides together. Start at the elastic: make sure the transition from elastic to fabric on both side seams overlaps perfectly.



35

Sew the centre back seam at 1 cm (1/4").



36

Press the seam open. Iron the hem back into place.



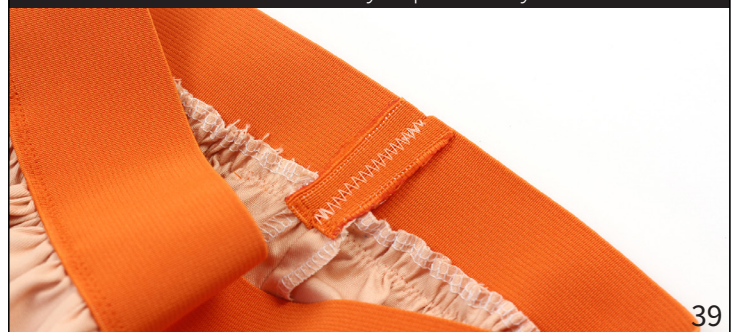
37

Stitch across the elastic seam with a wide zigzag stitch, use the seam as the centre.



38

At the back this ensures the elastic stays open nicely.



39

Stitch the hem with a straight stitch
or a blind hem foot and blind hem stitch.



Iron again ... and done!



Wear the skirt with the seam as the centre back seam ...



... or as a side seam!



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