

Simple French Seam Skirt Tutorial

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Perfect for
quick upcycle
projects!



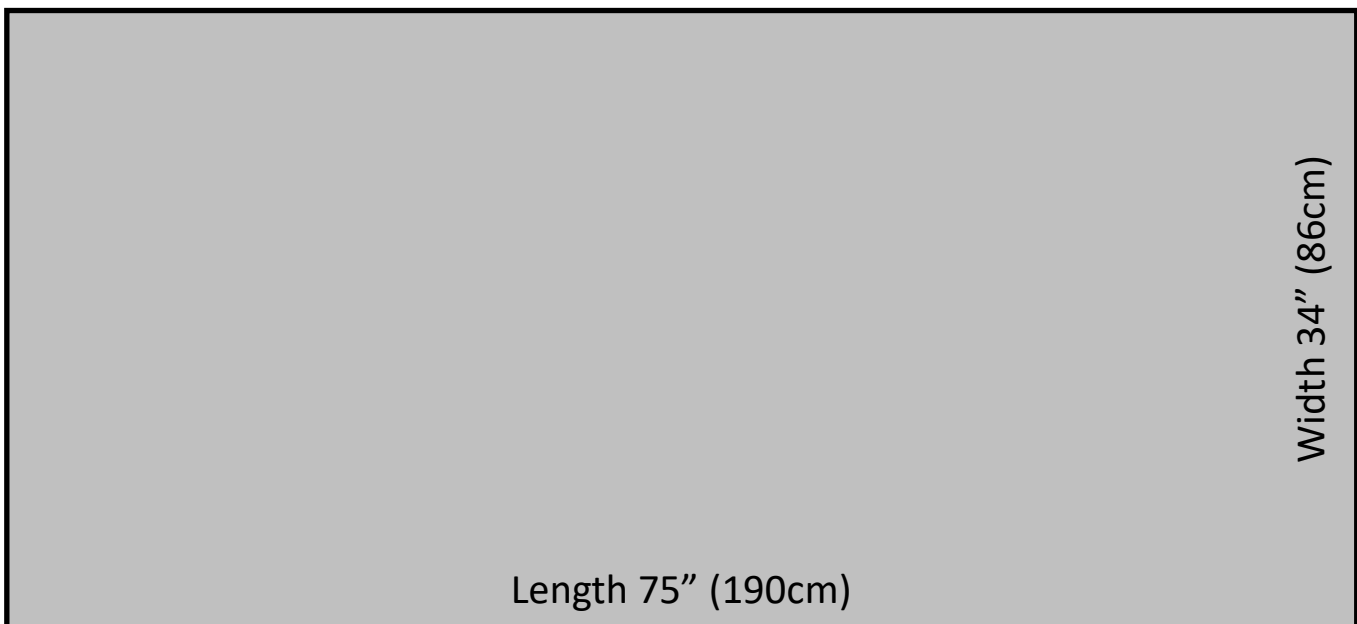
Both these
skirts were made
from old duvet/
doona covers!

Step 1

Cut one rectangle

75" (190cm) x 34" (86cm)

FYI This size rectangle can easily be cut from a single/twin sheet or doona/duvet cover making this a fantastic idea for upcycling old linens!

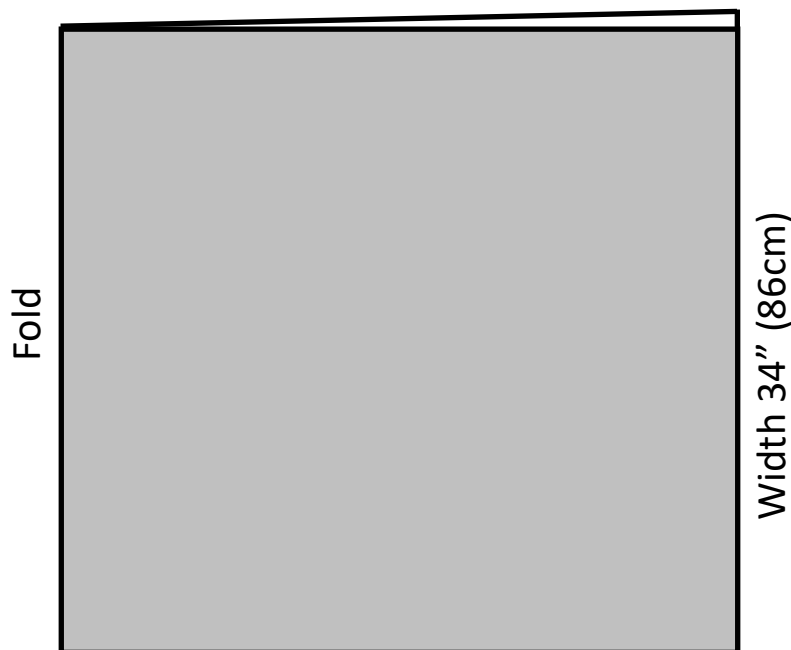


You will also need a length of elastic for the waistband 40" long or less is usually enough. I use 37" but obviously the length of the elastic depends on your waist measurement and the elasticity of the elastic you use.

Sometimes with a directional print you will need to cut two smaller rectangles and sew two French seams on the sides rather than one at the back, to ensure none of the print features are upside down.

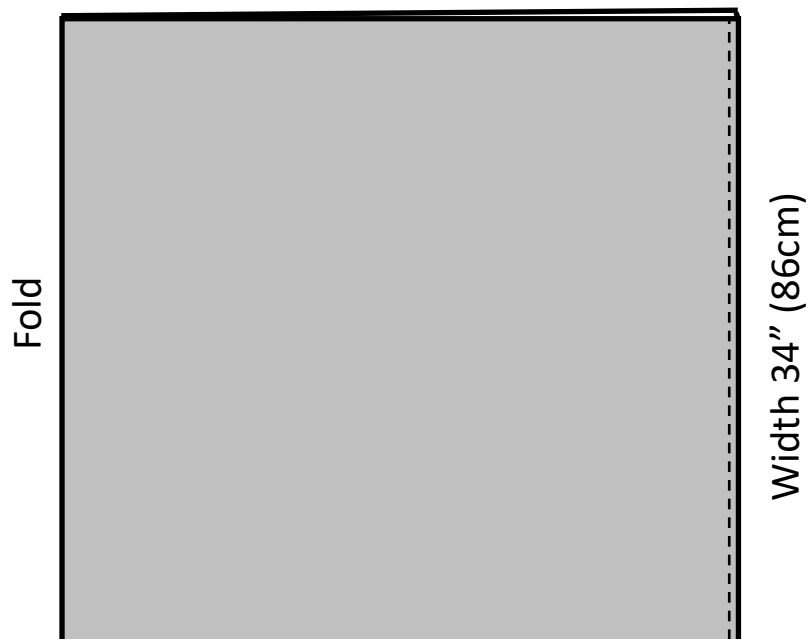
Step 2

Fold the length of fabric in half.



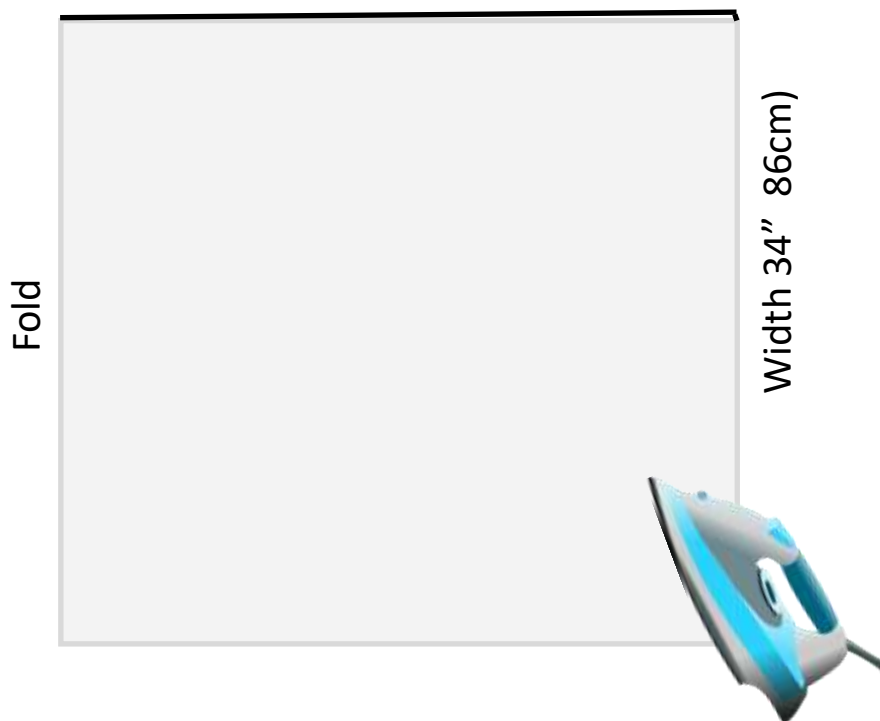
Step 3

Right sides out sew a 1/4 inch (5 to 6mm) seam along the edge as shown below.



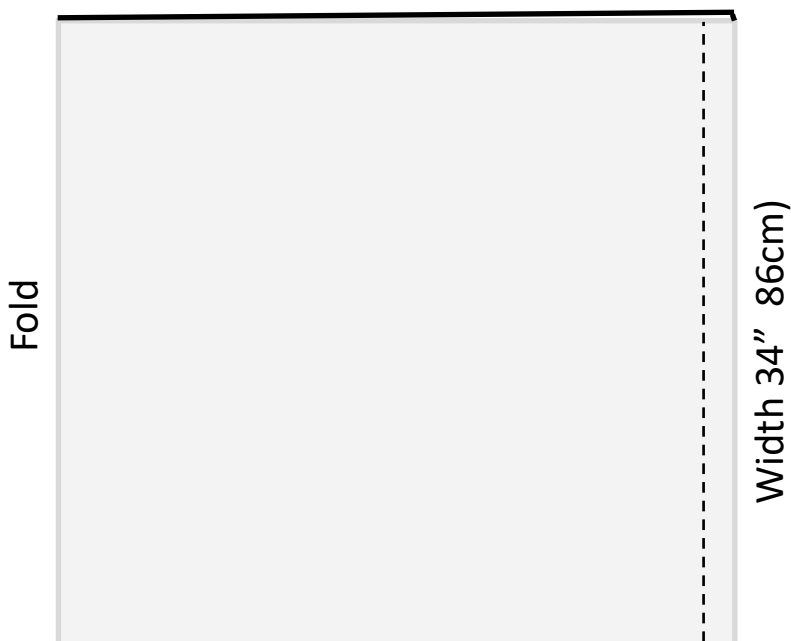
Step 4

Turn the whole project right sides in. Press the seam.



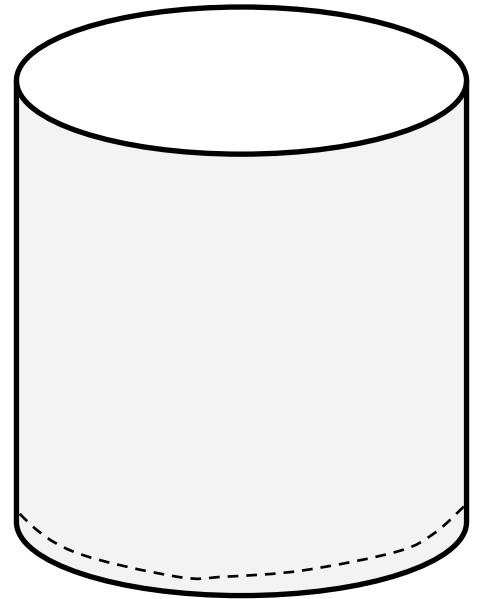
Step 5

Stitch a seam line 1/2" (1.2cm) in from the pressed edge to completely envelope the raw edges within your French seam!



Step 6

You should now have a tube of fabric. Turn right sides out. Hem the bottom edge.

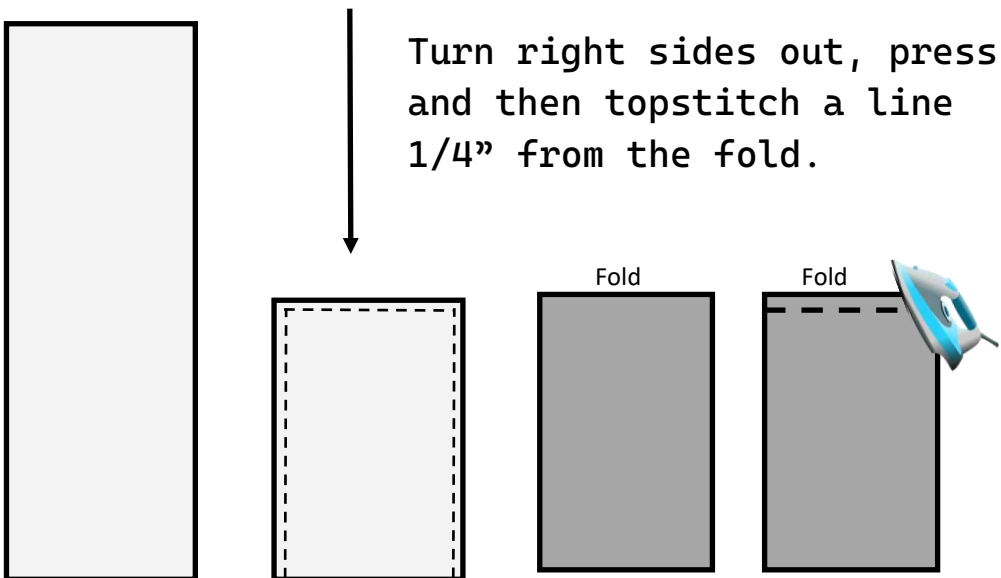
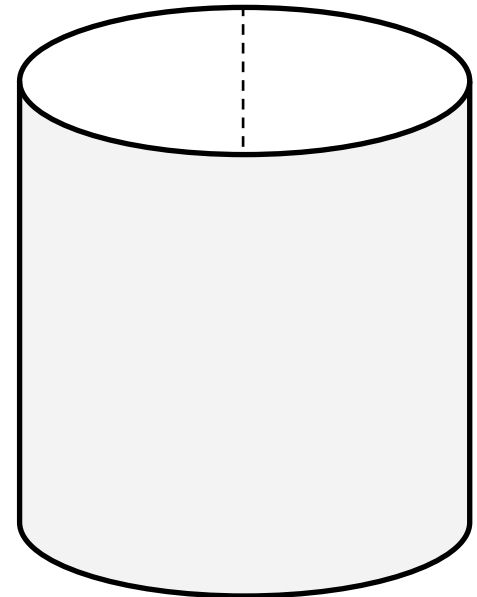


Step 7

The French seam is designed to be at the back of the skirt running down the middle.

If you choose to add a cell phone pocket cut a rectangle about 18" (46cm) x 5" (13cm)

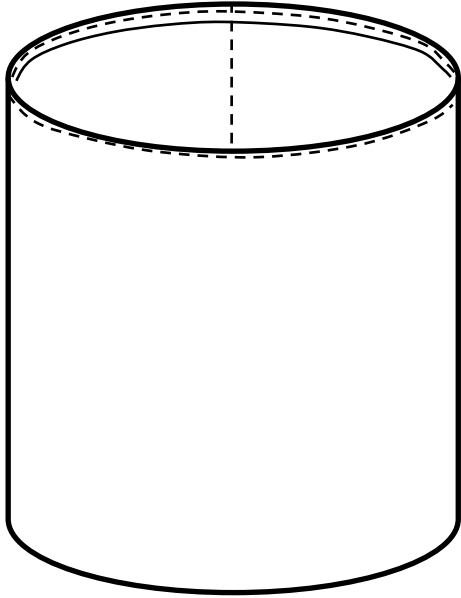
Fold the fabric in half lengthwise right sides in. Sew a seam around 3 sides as shown leaving one end open.



Turn right sides out, press and then topstitch a line 1/4" from the fold.



The pocket will be added in Step 10.



Step 8

Fold over 1/4 (5 to 6mm) and stitch around the top edge of the skirt so that the raw edges will be secured inside the skirts elastic waistband once completed.

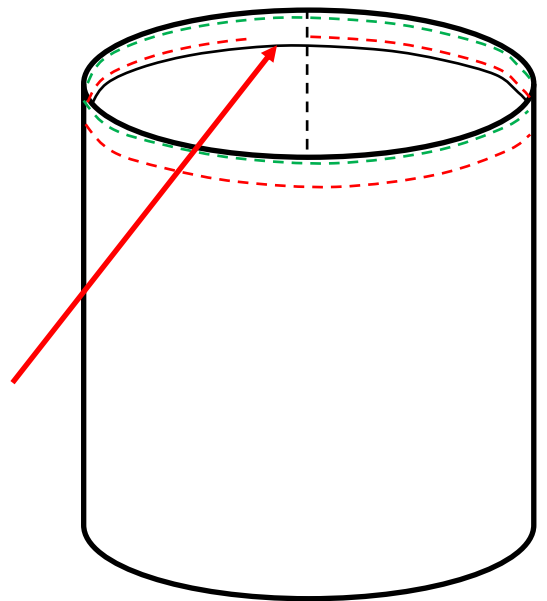


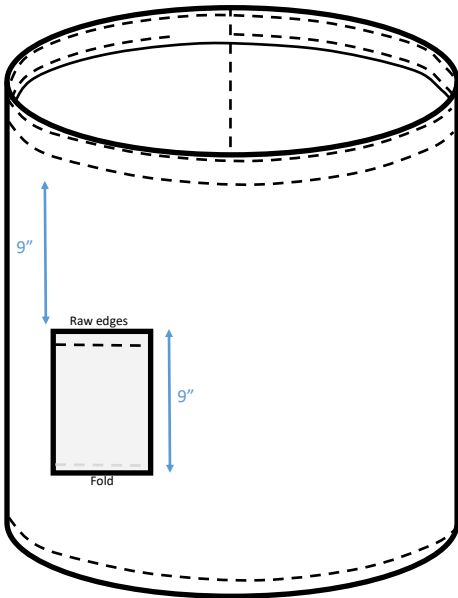
Step 9

Fold the top of the skirt 1.5" (4cm) and stitch two lines to create the waistband as detailed below.

Line 1 Topstitch around the entire skirt 1/8" (3 to 4mm) from the fold.

Line 2 Start at the French seam and sew around the skirt at the edge of the waistband that you have folded down. Stitch until you are 5cm from the French seam (this opening is how you will insert the elastic later).





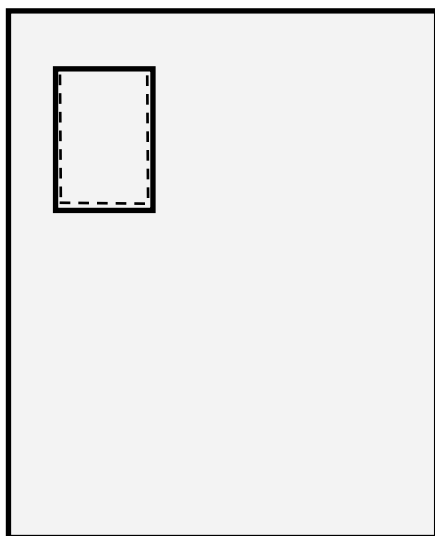
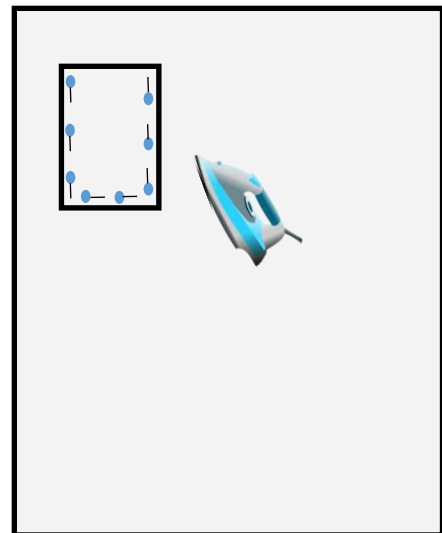
Step 10

To add the cellphone pocket stitch the raw edge onto the skirt in a position at least pocket depth below the waistband (this ensures raw edges are inside the pocket once complete).

Step 11

Fold the pocket upwards and press. Pin.

Be sure to only sew through the front of the skirt NOT the back as well, this is a little tricky now your skirt is a tube but it is easier ensure you are mounting it in the right place once you have completed your waistband.





If I add the cellphone pocket, it is great to try to print match the pocket fabric so that the pocket blends in with the print on that part of the skirt.



CUTE!



Careful pocket placement!

Sometimes with a directional print you cannot perfectly align the print for the two French side seams. When that happens consider placing the pocket on the misalignment to hide the imperfection!



Two partial dogs hidden inside the pocket!

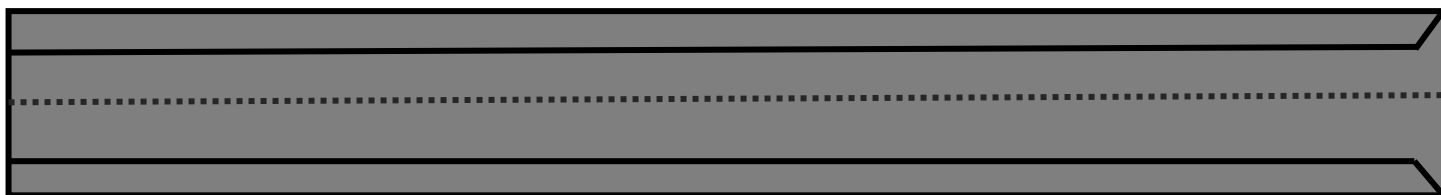
Optional Step 12 (Faux Drawstring)

Drawstring Construction

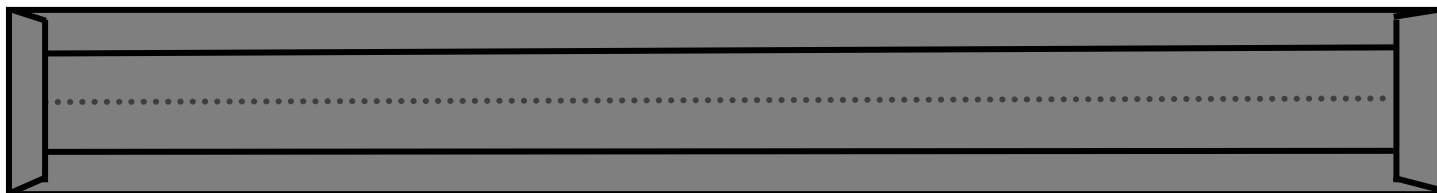
Cut one rectangle at least 2 inches wide and 24 inches long.

Fold in half lengthwise and press then re-open

Fold 1/2 inch of the lengthwise edges in towards the centre fold



Fold up to 1/2 inch of both ends over, press, if the end is a selvedge that looks neat and tidy you can skip this step:



Fold in half lengthwise, pin as needed. Raw edges will be enveloped inside the strap



Stitch close to the folded edges all the way around to close the strap.



Your strap is complete!

Fold the drawstring in half to find the centre. Now stitch that centre line onto the elastic waistband at the front of the skirt. This helps you to always know where the front, centre of the skirt is when dressing etc.

Step 13

Thread elastic through the waistband, join the two ends of the elastic ensuring the elastic lays flat in the waistband. Sew closed the hole which you used to thread the elastic into the waistband.

Optional: See my Youtube video about securing the elastic in the waistband:

<https://youtu.be/B6JXijBa7Ao?si=3ErTJpRIzuVvaE0>



**Comfortable to
wear and easy
to make!**



**Perfect neat
elastic waistband!**



I live in these skirts all spring, summer and autumn!
They are comfortable and reasonably inexpensive to make!

