

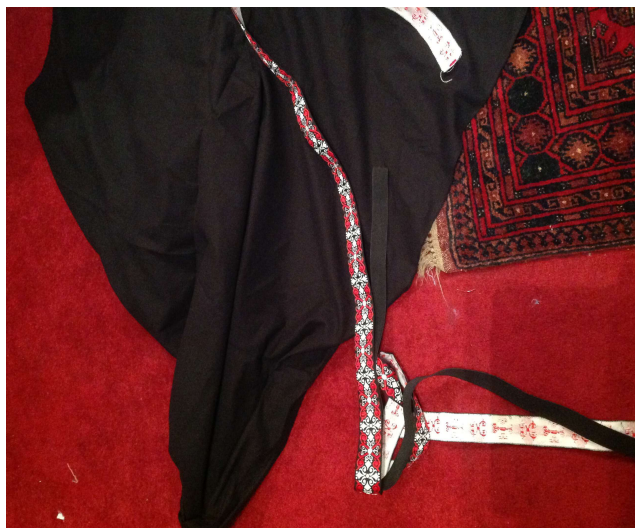
Ten Minute Tutorial – the four seam skirt



Skirts are fabulous. You can wear them with a tunic, you can wear them under your robe or gown for extra warmth, you can hide all manner of thermal undergarments under them. This is officially the easiest skirt you'll ever make, and it looks pretty swish too. The elasticated waist is proudly non-historical for ease of wearing but if you're a purist just replace it with a drawstring.

You will need:

- at least 2m of fabric about 40 inches wide (this makes a good long skirt on me at 5 ft 6 – if you are taller or smaller you could use narrower or wider fabric, or cut/tear a strip from the edge of your fabric to get it to the desired width). Something with a good body to it works well – wool for a cosy one, cotton flannel for a multipurpose one or a decent midweight cotton or linen. Not one for polycotton or anything too lightweight.
- at least 2m of interesting trim – try searching for “jacquard trim” on eBay, or looking in the curtain section of your local fabric shop. This stuff was about £2 a metre and I think is meant for curtains.
- Thread to match the edges of your trim, thread to match your fabric
- Some good stretchy elastic. About 3m, elastic is cheap and the extra length will make your life easier
- A safety pin



Making it

- Fold your fabric lengthways, right side to right side, and sew down the cut edge (the 40 inch side with raw edges). You have made a tube with a selvage at the top and bottom. One of these will be your hem!
- Optional: Arbitrarily select which side will be the bottom, and hem it as shown below. If your fabric has a nice dense selvage and you don't think it'll fray, then don't worry about this step.



- Turn it the right way out, and put your trim so it is sitting on top of the bottom edge of your skirt. Topstitch through the trim and the hem at the very bottom, all the way round your skirt, like this:



- Then, when you are nearly back to where you started, fold the last little bit of trim over so it covers both its own raw edge and the raw edge of the end you started at, and stitch it down.



- You can then turn the fabric through 90 degrees and topstitch down close to that folded edge until you get to the inner side of your trim – and guess what, you're going to stitch that to your skirt, all the way round until you are back to where you started!
- Now turn your attention to the top of your skirt. With the wrong side facing you, fold over the top edge, and make a casing wide enough to slip your elastic through. I'm using wide elastic, so you can see that the casing is quite wide. Sew all the way around until you are nearly back where you started, but leave a little gap.



- Put your safety pin through the end of your elastic, and work it all the way through your casing until you have two ends of elastic sticking out of the casing. This process is made less annoying if you have quite a lot of elastic, as it doesn't ping out so readily. If you're going to do this more than once, consider investing in a thing called a loop turner, which is basically a hook on a long bodkin which lets you pull elastic through casings without losing your mind.
- Step into your skirt, pull your elastic up until it feels snug and then tie or stitch it together. Generally err on the side of tighter rather than looser, as you don't want it to fall off. That said, it needs to be comfy.
- And there you have it. A useful and attractive addition to your lrp wardrobe for less than £15 made in less time than it takes to watch an episode of Buffy.



Hungry for more?

- Try another ten minute project and make an apron to go with your new and awesome skirt!