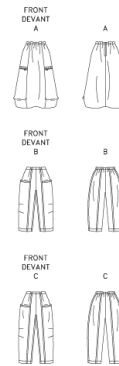


Sewing Secrets

Vogue 8499

Marcy Tilton



What we like: This skirt is very fashionable, fun to wear, and is interesting to make. Depending on the fabric that you choose, it can be part of a dramatic evening outfit, or professional office attire, or a quick and easy Saturday choice. No matter which approach you desire, this is a comfortable way to add a little French designer into your wardrobe.

Timing: This takes more time than a skirt with fewer design elements. Plan to spend at least a day on this.

Fabric selection: Use one of our incredible linens, or a Liberty Cotton! Or, anything soft and drapery. I chose a patterned linen that coordinates with one of our Liberties. What a treat!

Fabric requirements: The fabric requirements on the pattern are quite good. If you decide to cut the pocket on a different grain, or of a different fabric, or something fun like that, just be sure to make the appropriate adjustments in yardage. This is a very long skirt, so if you are shortening it, you will require less fabric. I shortened it by six inches, so my skirt took considerably less fabric.

Fitting: This is a very loose fitting skirt that doesn't require much in the way of alterations or fitting. Choose the size that allows room for your hips and the rest will be fine. Be careful of the length, though. It is LONG! I shortened mine by SIX INCHES! Granted, I'm only five feet tall, but usually I only shorten things by two or three inches, at the most.

The Zipper: The top of this skirt is very straight – so that the waist is the same as the hips before the elastic is inserted. As a result, you can delete the zipper in the back, if you want.

Produced by Melissa Dunning (720 480-3682) for Elfriede's Fine Fabrics (303 477-0132)
Feel free to join us for Sewing on Sundays, if you would like more support and help!

Shortening: If you want to shorten this skirt by six inches, like I did, it is a bit of a challenge, as you will need to ease in the change in width of all of the pieces, making sure that the pocket still fits in place. You can use the lengthen/shorten lines and/or cut some off the top.

The pockets: The way the pattern is designed, you have huge pockets on the side of the skirt. As a result, if you actually plan to use the pockets, you will end up fishing for your cell phone down around your ankles. If you need the extra yoga in your life, go for it! Or, if you don't plan to use the pockets, no problem. BUT, it is quite convenient to have a little zippered pocket for your cell phone, your keys, your small wad of cash, whatever. If you want to insert an additional small pocket, do the following:

- Cut all pattern pieces as indicated out of your fashion fabric.
- In addition, create a new pattern piece, for the pocket lining, by tracing the top ten inches of the pocket piece (#3) onto new pattern paper. Draw a straight line across the bottom and mark it to be cut on the fold.
- Cut two pocket linings out of the new pattern piece, placing the bottom on a fold. A cotton sateen works well for this, although your fashion fabric might also suffice. Press the 5/8 inch seam allowance under on one top of each pocket lining.
- Instead of steps 3 & 4 in the instructions, you will place the zipper at the top of the right side of the pocket piece (#3), with the zipper teeth $\frac{3}{4}$ inch down from the top, and with the face of the zipper down. Then, place the unpressed top edge of one pocket lining on the zipper, right side down, aligning the pocket lining with the pocket piece. Sew at 5/8 inch. Press both fabric down, leaving the zipper to stick up.
- Before step 7, place the remaining zipper tape, right side down, at the correct location on the side front (#2). Bring the folded edge of the pocket lining up close to the zipper teeth, making a sandwich. You can topstitch along the folded edge, or open it up and sew inside for an invisible seam. Then, just ignore step 8.
- Take a look at the sample hanging in the shop if you want a visual.