

Skirt Slits

12.246

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SEW-lutions Guidelines

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The straight skirt never goes out of style—it's flattering to all figures and easy to make for classic appeal. Lengths may change, but one thing never does—the need to have some walking room at the hemline. There's an easy way to accomplish that with a professional looking slit.

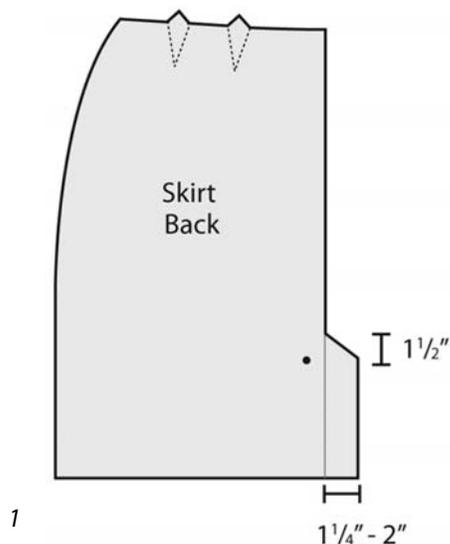
Adjusting the pattern

Begin with a skirt pattern that fits you and is the length you like. If the skirt doesn't call for a slit, hold up the pattern and mark the upper slit opening with a dot. Think about not only modesty issues, but if you will wear a slip under the skirt, and how long it is. The slit can be at the front, side or back of the skirt, but here we refer to it in the back as that's the most common location.

If the pattern has a kick pleat at the center back instead of a slit, you can easily alter it to be a slit. To remove a kick pleat, simply trim the skirt pattern off at the center back cutting line to straighten it and then follow the instructions below.

Making the slit extension

Mark a dot on the pattern at the desired upper slit point. Add tissue and extend the pattern at the center back edge $1\frac{1}{4}$ " to 2" to form the facing. Extend the facing $1\frac{1}{2}$ " above the dot and made a 45° line to the vertical facing edge (1).



Sewing the slit

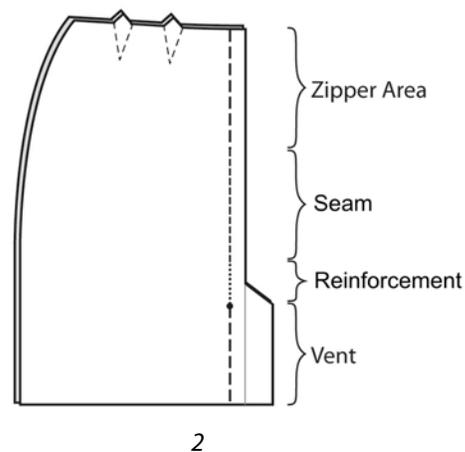
Cut out the skirt with the attached facing extension on both sides of the back.

If the skirt is unlined, finish the seam and facing edges using serging, zigzagging or binding to prevent raveling.

Sew the upper skirt seam, basting the area where the zipper will go, then stitch the seam using a normal stitch length.

Beginning 1" above the slit upper edge dot, shorten the stitch length to 20 stitches per inch and stitch to the dot. Backstitch at the dot.

Change the stitch length back to basting and close the slit along the skirt center back line (2).



The upper edge of a slit is a stress point while walking and sitting in the skirt, so reinforcing it with smaller stitches will help prevent any ripping.

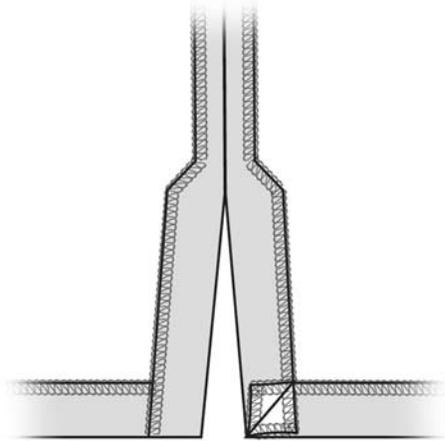
Press the center back seam open and insert the zipper according to the pattern instructions.

Slit finishing

Remove the basting from the slit area. Open out the slit facing and press up the skirt hem.

Finish the upper hem edge with serging, zigzagging or binding.

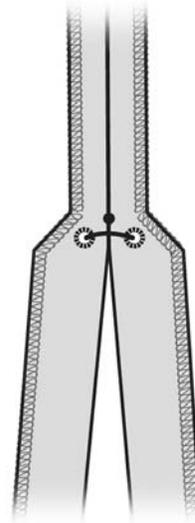
Trim the hem allowance inside the facing width to reduce bulk (3).



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A little extra

To further reinforce the upper edge of the slit, stitch the eye portion of a hook-and-eye closure across the seam (4). The eye takes the strain of walking and sitting to help protect the slit from tears. 🖱



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Hand stitch the hem and facing edges in place.