Alex Marie DIY

Pattern Drafting - The Basic Skirt

Things you will need

- 12-inch Straight Ruler or 2 x 18 inch (5 x 45 cm) clear grid ruler
- L-Square or Set Square
- Vary form curve / French curve
- Pencils, Eraser and Sharpener Carbon Paper
- Tracing wheel
- Scissors (Paper and Fabric)
- Sewing Machine
- 1½ yards/metres of Muslin Fabric (Unbleached Calico/Plain Poplin)
- Roll of Paper (Brown, Dot, Swedish) 30 x 30 inch (75 x 75 cm)
- Metre rule or yard stick (optional)
- Awl (optional)
- Pattern notcher (optional)
- Masking tape/Sellotape (optional)
- Cardboard Paper (Cardstock)

Fraction/Decimal Conversion Table

INCHES		CENTIMETRES	
1/8	0.125	1/10	0.1
2/8 or 1/4	0.25	2/10 or 1/5	0.2
3/8	0.375	3/10	0.3
4/8 or 1/2	0.5	4/10 or 2/5	0.4
5/8	0.625	5/10 or 1/2	0.5
6/8 or 3/4	0.75	6/10 or 3/5	0.6
7/8	0.875	7/10	0.7
		8/10 or 4/5	0.8
		9/10	0.9

Basic Skirt Measurement and Calculation Sheet

Measurements

Waist		$\frac{1}{4}$ Waist			
Hip		$\frac{1}{2}$ Hip		$\frac{1}{4}$ Hip	
Hip Depth					
Apex		$\frac{1}{2}$ Apex			
Across Back		$\frac{1}{4}$ Across Back			
Length (Waist to Knee)					

Darts

Front waist = $\frac{1}{4}$ Waist + $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm)	
Back waist = $\frac{1}{4}$ Waist - $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm)	
Front hip = $\frac{1}{4}$ Hip + $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm)	
Back hip = $\frac{1}{4}$ Hip - $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm)	
Front Dart = Front Hip – Front Waist *Divide answer into 3 parts. One-third will be the Dart, and two-thirds will be for the Shaping*	= Dart =____ Shaping = ____
Back Dart = Back Hip – Back Waist *Divide answer into 3 parts. One-third will be the Dart, and two-thirds will be for the Shaping*	= Dart =____ Shaping = ____

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NB – When working out the dart and shaping calculations, round off your answers to the nearest eighth inch or millimeter. We want only figures that can be found on your ruler. For example, 0.875 on a ruler is the same as 7/8 inches, so that is a usable figure, but 0.833 is hard to pinpoint on a ruler.

Therefore to avoid odd fractions, 2.5 inches can be divided in two ways.

(a) 2.5 = 1 + 1.5 ; or

(b) 2.5 = 0.875 + 1.625

Either of these measurements will do the job as they are easily found on a ruler. We are simply trying to spread out the dart excess evenly along the waist line to create a smooth shape.

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SAMPLE

Basic Skirt Measurement and Calculation Sheet

Measurements

1	Waist	34.5	¼ Waist	8.625		
2	Hip	46	½ Hip	23	¼ Hip	11.5
3	Hip Depth	9				
4	Apex	8.5	½ Apex	4.25		
5	Across Back	16.5	¼ Across Back	4.125		
6	Length (Waist to Knee)	25.5				

Darts

1	**Front waist** = ¼ Waist + ⅜ inch (1 cm)	8.625 + 0.375 = 9
2	**Back waist** = ¼ Waist - ⅜ inch (1 cm)	8.625 - 0.375 = 8.25
3	**Front hip** = ¼ Hip + ⅜ inch (1 cm)	11.5 + 0.375 = 11.875
4	**Back hip** = ¼ Hip - ⅜ inch (1 cm)	11.5 - 0.375 = 11.125
5	**Front Dart** = Front Hip – Front Waist *Divide answer into 3 parts. One-third will be the Dart, and two-thirds will be for the Shaping*	11.875 – 9 = 2.875 Dart = 1 Shaping = 1.875
6	**Back Dart** = Back Hip – Back Waist *Divide answer into 3 parts. One-third will be the Dart, and two-thirds will be for the Shaping*	11.125 – 8.25 = 2.875 Dart = 1 Shaping = 1.875

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