

To be graceful the skirt must have length in proportion to width. For this no formula can be given; a study must be made of each individual figure, and this study should be made before deciding on the particular pattern that shall be used. Having decided, try the pattern on the person, and make any necessary alterations before placing it on the material; also study the material, to know how to place the pattern. For instance, if there is a flower in the design, it should appear to grow upwards; if a stripe, one should be placed in the centre front and one in the centre back; if velvet, the nap should run upward, but in cloth downward; if a plaid, it should be matched and follow a line straight around the figure. In all cases, the warp thread should run lengthwise. In cutting, a good rule to follow, when possible, is to begin by placing the wide end of the gore to the raw edge of the material. When placed in this way, pieces fit into one another and leave little waste.

In basting, place the parts together evenly at the top and pin. If a bias edge is to be basted to a straight, as in a gored skirt, place the parts together on the table with the bias on top and back; this will prevent that fullness so objectionable in seams

One edge being bias, the edges may not be even at the bottom. This is not necessarily a fault, provided the same seam on the opposite side of the skirt comes out exactly the same; failing this, you will have a crooked skirt, seams will twist, there will be more fullness at one side than the other, and although the skirt may be turned evenly around the bottom when made, it will have a tendency, when worn awhile, to droop at one side. All this may be prevented, then, by having the seams perfectly even at the top, and coming out exactly the same on each side at the bottom.

Next, try on the skirt to see that it fits and that the lines are good.

Stitch, press and finish the seams; next make the placket. The kind of placket will depend on the kind of skirt. The chief point to bear in mind is that it must be concealed, unless the fastening is with buttons and button-holes. Placket facing should be cut with the warp threads running lengthwise; this rule should be observed also in making bands as the warp is the stronger thread and will not stretch.

A skirt should hang from the waist. It should never be so tight that it clings to and hangs from the hips. It should fit smoothly, but never tightly, about the hips, else all the stitching and fastening you may put on it will never perfectly conceal the opening, because of the strain that is there.

The band should be placed next. The skirt should be slightly larger around the top than the size of the band. Holding the skirt