

A Classic Gothic Lolita Skirt

This article shows you how to make a simple Gothic Lolita style skirt to your own measurements.

The skirt is knee length and has an elasticated waist. Only three measurements are needed, and you should be able to make the skirt with around 1.5m (12/3 yds) of 150cm (54") wide fabric and a piece of 25mm (1") elastic as long as your waist.

The amount of trim depends on your imagination, and how much you want to gather the lace.

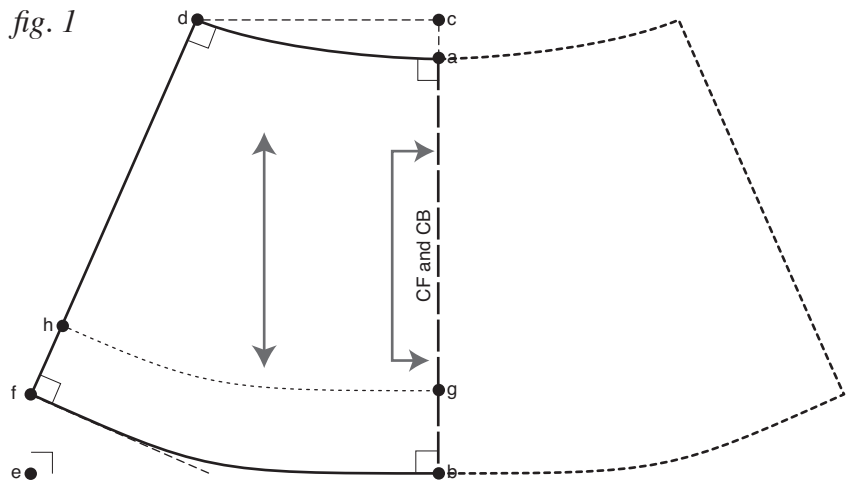
You will need:

- large sheet of paper
- measuring tape
- something with a right angle
- metre/yard stick
- sharp, hard pencil
- calculator (perhaps)

Measurements:

- waist
- hip
- waist to knee

fig. 1



- a-b:** waist to knee; square up
- a-c:** 5cm (2"); square across
- c-d:** 1/2 waist
- b-e:** 1/2 hip + 10cm (4"); square up
- d-f:** waist to knee

Draw lines at right angles to **d-f** at either end and use these as a guide to the curves. Note all the right angles - these are important.

g-h shows a typical place to put some trim. **b-g** and **f-h** are 1/5 waist to knee.

Mark your pattern with the symbols shown. The straight double-headed arrow shows the direction the piece is to be placed on the fabric, and should be parallel to **a-b**. The other indicates that **a-b** should be placed along the fold of the fabric. Also write what the pattern is on it, and a note "cut 2 on fold".

To make waistband pattern:

Measure the curve **a-d**. Multiply by 4 to get the length. The depth should be twice that of your elastic.

Seam allowances:

Add 1.5cm (5/8") to the side seam, and 1cm (3/8") to the waistline. If you are adding lace or other trim to the hem, only 1cm (3/8") is needed, otherwise add at least 3cm (1 1/4") and remember it's a curved hem and will be a pain. The waistband should have 1cm (3/8") on the long edges, and 1.5cm (5/8") at the ends.

Variations:

a-b can be whatever length you want, though if you want a skirt which is much longer than knee length, it will be best to make the pattern as shown and extend the lines **a-b** and **d-f** to the length you want.

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✿ Cutting Out ✿

fig. 2

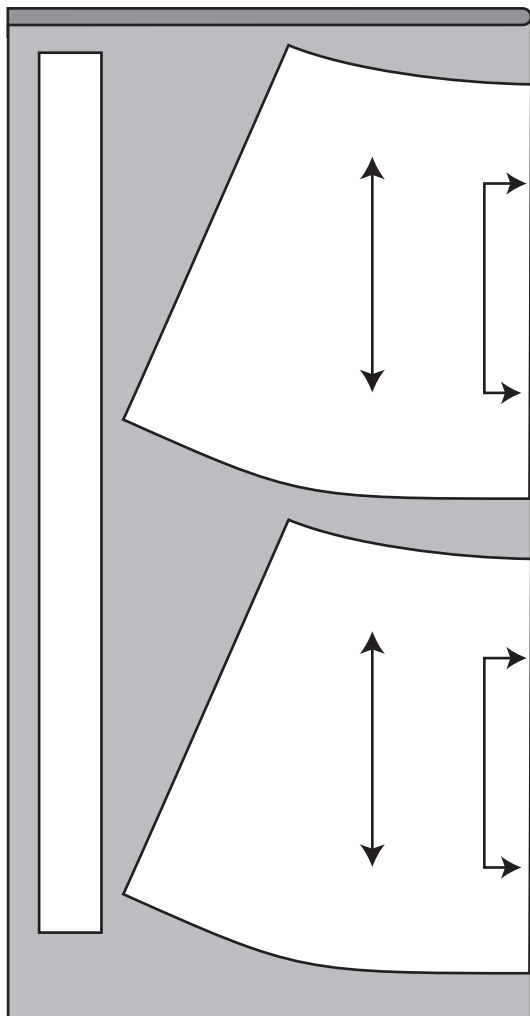


fig. 3

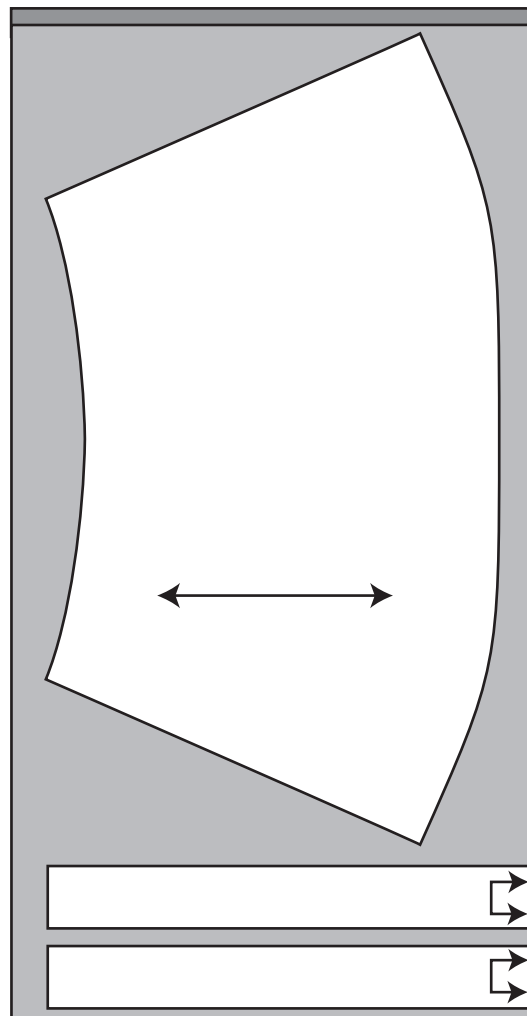


Figure 2 shows how to place your pattern pieces on your fabric, which has been folded in two lengthways. You will need just over twice the length **a-b** of fabric, or the length of your waistband (whichever is longer, although you will get two waistband pieces out of this layout, so you can make it in two halves if you want). If you are using particularly narrow fabric, or are of voluptuous proportions, you can add a seam allowance to the centre front and back (**a-b**) and cut out four pieces on unfolded fabric. You will need a piece of fabric a little more than four times the length **a-b**. Alternatively, mirror your piece (shown by the dotted line on *figure 1*), and use the layout shown in *figure 3*. You will probably need to cut your waistband into two parts (remember to add the seam allowance). This will not work with fabrics which have a strongly directional pattern or weave.

✿ Making Up in Brief ✿

(see any dressmaking book for full details)

Cut out your fabric pieces as shown above, and mark the position of your trim on the right side. With the wrong sides together, pin and sew the side seams. Overlock/serge or zigzag over the raw edges of this seam. Sew your waistband pieces together, if necessary. Fold your waistband along the centre lengthways, with wrong sides together, and press. Press another fold, also wrong sides together, along one edge the depth of your seam allowance (*i.e.* along the stitching line). With wrong sides together, pin the long side of the waistband (the one *without* the pressed edge) to the waist of the skirt and stitch them together. Fold over, and hand stitch the pressed fold to the line of stitching you just made, using a slip stitch. Leave a gap of 5cm (2") or so. Attach a large safety pin to one end of your elastic and thread it through the waistband, remembering to keep hold of the other end. Sew the ends of your elastic together and slip stitch the gap closed. Hem and trim to taste.