

Create Fullness in Skirt Hem

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/create-fullness-in-skirt-hem>



In long full evening dress, sometimes you want fullness in the hem, and can be achieved with layers of petticoats or with a horsehair braid sewn into the hem. Without horsehair or petticoats, the skirt would collapse in towards the feet. Here, we show you two methods of inserting horsehair braid. The first method is easier for beginners and requires encasing the braid in a separate fabric casing, then sewing it to the skirt hem, and is a little different than the method shown in the instructions for Noraâs gown. The second method folds the braid directly to the skirt, with no extra strip.

Step 1



Cut your strip 2.5 wider than your horsehair. Fold over to encase the braid and pin. The foldover should extend about 3/8â beyond the braid. The braid is a movable, malleable thing: try to pin it at itâs natural resting position.

Step 2



Using the machine, stitch right along the edge of the braid. You are trying to sew as close to the braid as possible without actually stitching the braid. We want it to move freely with its casing.

Step 3



Trim the excess, leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance beyond the stitch line.

Step 4



Pin the raw edges of the braid casing to the skirt hem, right sides facing. Stitch right along the first stitch line. (Note: Your skirt hem seam allowance should be $\frac{3}{8}$ longer than you need it for this method.)

Step 5



Working from the wrong side of the garment, fold the braid strip up into the skirt. Press; the seam line should be slightly towards the inside of the skirt.

Step 6



Use a [blind stitch](#) to secure the bias strip to the inside of the skirt.

Step 7



METHOD #2, which sews the braid directly into the skirt. Here, your hem seam allowance should be 2.5x the width of your braid. Pin the braid to the raw hem edge from the right side, with the raw edge lining up to the midpoint of the braid.

Step 8



Still working from the right side, stitch as shown.

Step 9



Now working from the wrong side, turn the braid up into the wrong side of the skirt. The fold aligns with the edge of the braid. Press.

Step 10



Fold up again, press, and pin.

Step 11



Secure to skirt with a [blind stitch](#).

Step 12



We used this method on the underskirt only of [Noraâs gown](#), since the silk shantung of the outer skirt had enough body on itâs own, but we wanted the silk charmeuse underskirt to have itâs own buoyancy.

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