

How to Make Even Gathers

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/how-to-make-even-gathers>



My Mom taught me this trick. It's great for when you're gathering a skirt into a waistband, or a ruffle into a skirt, or a sleeve into a cuff. The gathers come out very even, with less effort.

Step 1



This tutorial begins at the point in your pattern where you gather one piece and attach it to another. So you'll have the shorter piece (like a waistband) and the longer piece (like a skirt or ruffle). The longer piece will have two rows of gathering stitch on it, as shown here.

Step 2



Lay your shorter piece flat, with any side seams to the sides. Place a pin at each end.

Step 3



Now, lay the piece flat again, but match up those pins in the center this time.

Step 4



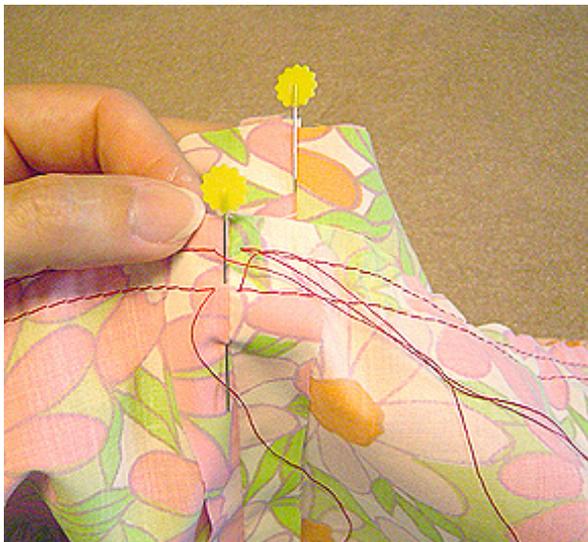
. . . Now you've divided this piece into four equal parts.

Step 5



Repeat Steps 2-4 with your longer piece, so it's also divided into four equal parts.

Step 6



Starting at a side seam, match the four pins on the short piece to the four pins on the long piece.

Step 7



. . . Now you have the two pieces pinned together at equal intervals. And it's time to begin gathering!

Step 8



It's so much easier to gather fabric evenly across shorter distances. So you just gather between one pin and the next. Adjust your gathers evenly, and then move to the next section.

Step 9



I like to make one continuous set of gathering stitches on my longer piece. Then, when I need to continue my gathers to the next pin, I just pull up the thread a bit, and then keep pulling it to continue the gathers.

Step 10



It's also a good idea to tie up your gathering threads at each of the pin-points, so they don't pull out.

Step 11



And there you are! An evenly-gathered skirt/ruffle/cuff. This technique works great for straight seams as well as circular pieces. Just fold the flat pieces in half, and place a pin at the center of each. Join the pins, and then gather in sections between the pins.

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