

Pleated Paper Bag Skirt

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/projects/pleated-paper-bag-skirt>



This is quick project I thought up to use the remaining half yard of denim from my Monday trousers. I have added a tutorial on it (because it is just that easy!) I was inspired by a skirt from Christian Siriano's (Project Runway!) Sp09 line. (see last photo) All you need to know how to do for this is sew a straight line and make box pleats (easy!)

Materials

half yard of denim, tailors chalk, ruler, needle and thread, pen and pencil/calculator, closure eg zipper.

Step 1 — Measure your fabric

1109

3311

34

2911

17^m

Take a rectangle of fabric. The selvage will be your waist, and the cross grain length is up to you (I had only a 1/2 yard so my skirt is pretty short!)

Measure your fabrics selvage and calculate how many pleats you want and what width you want between them. Choose where you want the fabric to sit on your torso. I chose a higher waist at a point that measured 33".

Subtract the waist length from you total selvage (62"-33")

I wanted pleats that were about 1 inch each (which means I need 2 inches for every pleat.)

I had 29" for pleating divided by 2" for each pleat mean I can have 14.5 pleats in total (round down to 14 because you can't have half of a pleat.)

The space in between each pleat will be equal to the waist length divided by 14+1. ($33/15=2.2$)

Step 2 — Mark your pleats



Now you need to mark your pleats onto the fabric. I made a little guide on a sheet of paper measuring the length of the space between the pleat and then the the pleat itself (2.2", 1" and 1")
I then used it as a guide to go along the selvage and mark.

Step 3 — Hem, Fold and Press



Now you should hem the top and bottom. I double folded the top by about an inch and straight stitched on top (I actually did not hem before I pressed in the photo and had to go back to do so.)

Now you can begin the tedious process of folding and pressing your pleats.

Step 4 — Mark your waist



Now unfold your fabric and lay flat. about 1"-1.75" from the top(hemmed selvage) draw a line parallel to the selvage (perpendicular to your press lines)

Draw another in the same fashion below it. How far below? It depends on how wide you want your waistband. Mine is about 2.5" wide so my second line is 2.5" lower than the first.

This will be your guide for where to stitch in order to get an even and uniform waist.

It is important to use your discretion and personal preference here. Some fabrics are not stiff or light enough for a dramatic paper bag waist.

Step 5 — Stich and press your box pleats



Now you can stitch in between the lines you've made along the press lines. (previous step has a photo with the stitch line already sewn. And press your box pleats back. This is where you may want to secure your pleat, but I did not, my fabric is stiff enough to keep shape.

Step 6 — Sew a Tube



Now you may sew the ends together from the bottom hem (right sides facing) and up until about 8 inches from the top, and insert a zipper.

I pressed my seam allowances apart.

Step 7 — Embellish!



I recommend adding belt loops, "inseam" pockets, a belt in the same fabric to tie a bow or any other embellishments you can think of!!

(I added belt loops, and tried my hand at a scrap fabric sash)

Step 8 — Flaunt It!



Now get dressed, accessorize and flaunt your new skirt!

- i hope this is helpful. This is my first tutorial so I welcome advice, criticism and any other comments! I would be happy to clarify anything that is unclear. I think those with a little familiarity with sewing garments will benefit most from the tutorial** Thanks!

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