

Adding a Back Vent to the Jenny Skirt Pattern

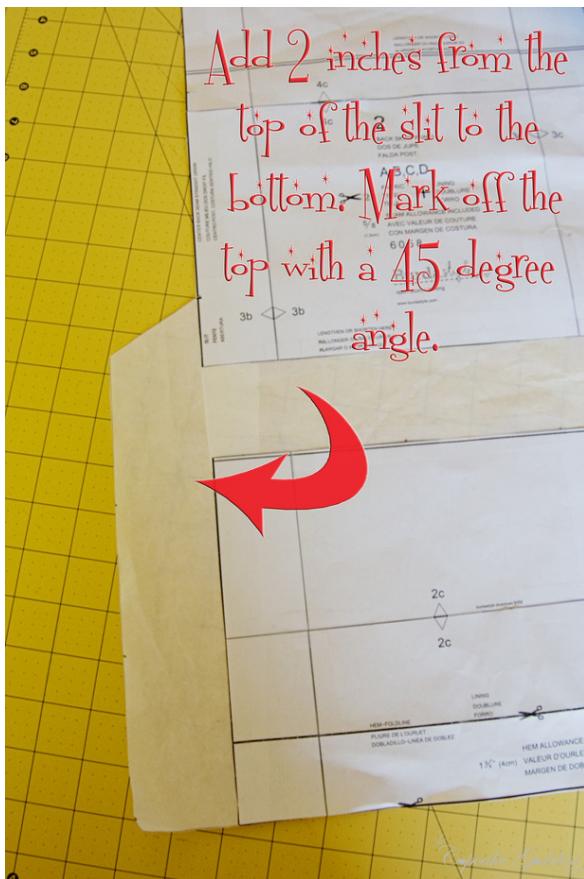
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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/adding-a-back-vent-to-the-jenny-skirt-pattern>



One thing I found when making my Danger! Curves Ahead Pencil Skirt from the Jenny Pattern from Burda Style is that the back had a slit and not a vent or kick pleat. I have strong feelings about slits. Slits, for skirts, belong in the front along one leg, if they belong anywhere at all. That's my opinion and I'm sticking to it. I really feel that adding a back vent or even a kick pleat (kick pleats are closed back vents) adds real value and durability to a garment. Slits are much more likely to tear or distort over time from wear. You might also be surprised that though this little tutorial brings your skirt up a notch, its very easy to do. Weird huh? Usually things that look better on garments are much harder to do. I mean don't you find it a relief to know that this is easy peasy? Come now, let's cheer! OK enough silliness, down to brass tacks. So, this is a tutorial for a pencil skirt that has a slit that you want to convert to a back vent (or front vent, or side or whatever). I used the Jenny Skirt, but this tutorial will work for any skirt or dress pattern that has a slit.

Step 1 — Step 1



OK, ready? Here we go. You'll need the back skirt pattern piece for this or the piece that needs to be converted to a vent. All you have to do is add 2 inches to the back edge where the slit begins and ends. Then, at the top of the slit, give your the extension a 45 degree angle. Ha. You're halfway there. The back skirt piece should now look something like the image above. Please disregard the added length to this piece. I had to add length to my skirt which is why you see added inches along the horizontal cut to lengthen line.

Step 2 — Step 2



So now, we have to sew the thing up. Definitely not hard, however these steps should be done after the invisible zipper, if you are going to do an invisible zipper. You will need to cut both back pieces with the vent. To sew the vent hem and finish the sides of the extension. If you plan to stitch your skirt with a lining, disregard this step and look below for directions.

Step 1 — Step 1

Step 3 — Step 3



After you've finished edges of the extension, stitch from the bottom of the zipper to the edge of the vent extension.

Step 4 — Step 4



Clip the corner where the 45 degree angle begins at the top of the vent.

Step 5 — Step 5



Press the seam above the vent open and press the vent to one side, typically vents are pressed to the left side. Pin the top of the extension to the side.

Step 6 — Step 6



Satin stitch following the seam line of the 45 degree angle along the top of the vent; stitch through all layers. This will create that nice finished look at the top of the vent that you would typically see on most skirts while also keeping the vent to one side. And that is a wrap, if you are working with an unlined skirt. For a lined skirt, please see my tutorial on how to create the lining for a vent.

Step 7 — Step 7



The tailored look of a back vent! Much better and more durable than a slit. And none too hard. xoxo, Sunni
The Cupcake Goddess

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