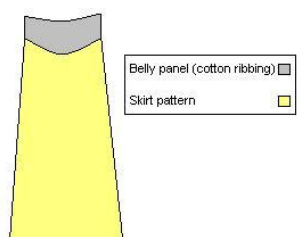


Turning a "normal person" skirt pattern into a maternity skirt

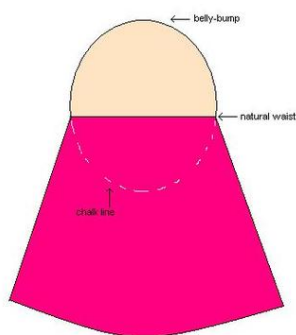
By: ashtreed

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/turning-a-normal-person-sk>



Tired of the maternity clothes sold in the mall, I made a few modifications to an existing pattern and created a simple tutorial. also available at my blog <http://www.gigiandxavi.blogspot.com>

Step 1 — Sizing up your belly



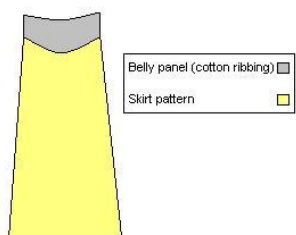
1. Follow skirt pattern, skipping zipper insertion (just seam up where that zipper would go), and stopping before the waistband step 2. Pull on skirt, inside out if possible (you may need to rip a few seams) 3. Standing in front of a mirror, use the chalk to outline the bottom of your belly. At the side seams, mark the top of your hip bones 4. Return to your work station and using your straight edge, make sure your curve is centered and relatively symmetrical and adjust as needed. Also check your hip marks— make adjustments so they are also symmetrical 5. Using the chalk, extend the belly curve to the two hip marks you made, so you have a solid chalk line from the right side seam to the left side seam, with the lowest point being in the exact center 6. Flip the skirt over and, using the straight edge, extend the chalk line across the backside from

hip mark to hip mark

Step 2 — Create the "belly tube"

7. 1" above the chalk line you just created, trim excess fabric 8. Fold and press the top edge 1/2", then fold and press again at the chalk line. Baste the edge so that it is secure when you attach it to the stretchy belly fabric Now we are going to work on the belly panel for a bit: 9. Pull the cotton ribbing (ribbing should be vertical) tight around the widest portion of your belly and mark it with your chalk 10. Creating a seam allowance of 1/2", cut the ribbing using the measurement you just took (mine was about 32" + 1/2" + 1/2") 11. Fold and press the cotton ribbing in half from top to bottom, trimming the raw edge so that the piece measures between 6 1/2" to 9" from raw edge to folded edge. That is, the height of the panel should, when stretched, be able to extend from your pubic bone to the top of your belly (using a tape, my measurement from pubic bone to top of belly is about 12", but my panel is about 8" and I have a very long waist) 12. Baste the edges of the fabric here. This creates the long tube that will form the belly panel 13. Seam the cut edges of the fabric. Now you have a complete belly panel!

Step 3 — Attaching the belly tube, and finishing



14. Pin the basted edge of the belly panel to the wrong side of the skirt, along the skirt's edge that you have folded and basted. Using a zigzag stitch (or whatever you prefer to use with knits), seam the belly panel to the skirt. Seam it one more time since this is an area of stress. The skirt should gather a bit when you're through since the circumference of the belly panel should be smaller than that of the skirt 15. Press and trim seams as needed. Finish the pattern as indicated: probably just the hem is left. Voila!

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