

# Circle Skirts - full; 3/4; 1/2; 1/4.

By: mahaila

<http://www.burdastyle.com/projects/circle-skirts-full-34-12-14>

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Ever since my Grandma told me how to make a full circle skirt, I have not been able to stop making them. They are just so easy to construct and so effective! We worked out how to decrease the fullness of the skirt with some simple calculations (e.g. 3/4, 1/2, 1/4). I thought I would share this information so I made up a pdf document which you can find here [How to make a Circle Skirt; Full, 3/4, 1/2, 1/4](#) Let me know how you go:)

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**Step 1 — Page 1**

# Fickle Sense Circle Skirts

www.ficklesense.blogspot.com

## Circle skirts + Mahaila!

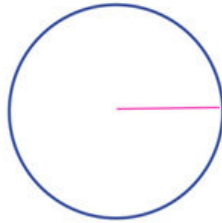
It's no secret that I am a little obsessed with circle skirts. My obsession started when my grandma and I were discussing her sewing ventures. She told me about the many garments that she has made, including the circle skirt. She gave me the dimensions and measurements necessary for making a full circle skirt... now I am unstoppable! Thanks to Michael's mathematical skills (one of the wonderful ficklesense photographers) I now have the formulas for the  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  circle skirts, which you can find below! These different skirts allow me to play with the fullness and silhouette of the skirt:)

Please take note, I am a self taught sewer/pattern maker and I have mostly learnt through problem solving and trial and error. Therefore.. I don't know but perhaps there are better ways of finishing and constructing the garments. In saying this, everything has worked for me... so far:)

## CIRCLE SKIRTS

A circle skirt is developed around the waist measurement, which is the circumference of the circle (c). To measure out the correct waist measurement for the skirt we need the radius calculation (r). The hem is then measured from the waist measurement.

Purple - circumference (c)  
Pink - radius (r)



## Materials required

- The desired fabric
- Interfacing (fusible or sewn)
- Lining (optional)
- General sewing essentials (thread, scissors, seam ripper, tape measure, pins)
- A sewing machine or a healthy hand for hand sewing!
- Paper for making your pattern (optional)
- Fastening for the top of the skirt (hook & eye or button)

Note: I recommend reading through this whole document before you start. That way you can decide which techniques you will use.

Introduction and Materials needed

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## Step 2 — Photos of full, 3/4, 1/2, 1/4 circle skirts

FULL CIRCLE SKIRT



FULL CIRCLE SKIRT



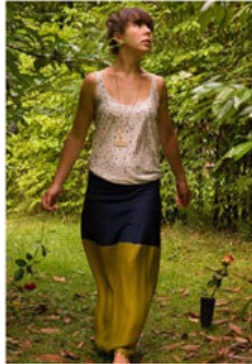
FULL CIRCLE SKIRT



¾ CIRCLE SKIRT



¾ CIRCLE SKIRT



¾ CIRCLE SKIRT



¾ CIRCLE SKIRT











Photos

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### Step 3 — Table of circle skirts

TABLE OF CIRCLE SKIRT DIMENSIONS

Type of circle skirt	Circle Skirt Shape	Formula	Folding Fabric
Full circle skirt		$r = c / (2\pi) = \underline{\quad}$ minus the seam allowance (1cm)	fold 
$\frac{3}{4}$ circle skirt		$r = (1.33 \times c) / (2\pi) = \underline{\quad}$ minus the seam allowance (1cm)	fold  then cut 1/4 of the circle off OR Draw the $\frac{3}{4}$ circle on paper, fold in half.
$\frac{1}{2}$ circle skirt		$r = (2 \times c) / (2\pi) = \underline{\quad}$ minus the seam allowance (1cm)	fold 
$\frac{1}{4}$ circle skirt		$r = (4 \times c) / (2\pi) = \underline{\quad}$ minus the seam allowance (1cm)	 no fold required.

Formulas for full, 3/4, 1/2, 1/4 circle skirts

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## Step 4 — Calculating the radius

### 1. Measurements

Two measurements are required for the construction of the skirt

Waist measurement/circumference (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
Length of the skirt (l) \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Formula : Finding the radius

You now need to calculate the radius for the waist measurement (c). Refer to the above table of formulas to calculate the radius for the desired circle skirt. For example if you have a waist measurement of 26 inches (66cm) .....

Full circle skirt  $r = 66 / (2 \times \pi) = 10.50 \text{ cm}$   
 $\frac{3}{4}$  circle skirt  $r = (1.33 \times 66) / (2 \times \pi) = 13.97 \text{ cm}$   
 $\frac{1}{2}$  circle skirt  $r = (2 \times 66) / (2 \times \pi) = 21 \text{ cm}$   
 $\frac{1}{4}$  circle skirt  $r = (4 \times 66) / (2 \times \pi) = 42 \text{ cm}$

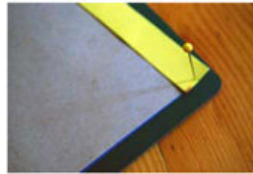
**THEN:** minus 1cm for the seam allowance.

### 3. Measuring out the radius

Use the radius measurement to measure the waist and hem. See steps below



1. Now that you have the waist radius you can use your measuring tape, or measure the radius on another piece of tape (as I have).



2. Place your pin through the tape on the corner



3. With the tape pinned at the corner, move the tape around and mark out the waist radius



4. Now place your ruler or measuring tape on the waist radius and move it around to draw out the hemline



5. Cut out your pattern

Working out the radius from your waist measurement

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## Step 5 — Folding

There are a number of ways that you can make these skirts



**1. PATTERN**  
Create Pattern the pattern



1. Measure out the entire pattern to create your own paper pattern (I have done this for each, so that I can use the circle skirt repeatedly)



**2. FABRIC**  
Measure directly on fabric



2. Work directly with your fabric and measure it out (I have done this for full and half circle skirt)



**3. WAIST CIRCUMFERENCE**  
Draw out the circle waist measurement. Measure the hem line from here.



3. Draw the circle and then measure the fabric out from there (I do this for  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  skirt)

**4. Folding and cutting the fabric**

Refer to the 'table of circle skirt dimensions' for pictures (p.3)

Full circle skirt	$\frac{3}{4}$ circle skirt	Half circle skirt	$\frac{1}{4}$ circle skirt
Fold the fabric in half, then fold in half again. On the corner measure out/place your pattern	You can fold it like the full circle skirt. Then cut $\frac{3}{4}$ of circle to produce the $\frac{3}{4}$ skirt.  OR  Fold fabric once and place your waist circumference $\frac{3}{4}$ circle in half on fabric fold	Fold fabric once.	Don't fold fabric. Place pattern on directly.

Cut your fabric. Now you are ready for the waistband and zip!

folding

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## Step 6 — Making the waistband

### 5. Create the waist waistband

2 measurements are required for the waist band

Width of the waistband \_\_\_\_ + 1 cm seam allowance

Length of the waistband \_\_\_\_ + 2 cm seam allowance (add a little more to allow for error)

-  waist measurement
-  seam allowance



1. Measure out the waistband on the desired fabric as well as the interfacing.

2. Iron the interfacing to the wrong side of the waistband. Fold the waistband length ways, with wrong sides together (interfacing not showing)



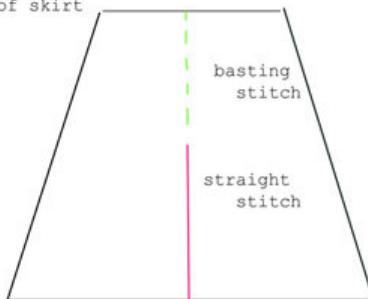
3. Pin the waistband to the skirt with right sides facing, with a 1cm seam allowance. Sew the waistband to the top of the skirt.

Try the skirt on and check that it fits. Make any required alterations. With right sides together, pin the back section from the waist to the hemline, ready to sew the zipper.

### 6. Insert the zip

I find that the best way to insert a zip is to sew the whole back section together with a basting stitch and a straight stitch. Sewing the zip on, then unpick the basted stitches to expose the zipper.

Back or side of skirt zipper



waistband

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## Step 7 — Inserting the zip and hem

## 6. Instert the zip (cont)

a) Turn your skirt inside out. Place the zipper where you want it. Mark where the end of the zipper is. Now take the zipper away

b) Stitch from the waistline to the bottom of the zip mark with a basting stitch.

c) From the end of the zipper mark to the hemline use a normal sized garment stitch

d) Press the seam allowance outwards with an iron

e) Place the zipper where you want it and pin. Make sure that the zipper teeth run straight along where you created the basting seam.

f) Place the pins on the horizontal so that you can sew over them

g) Attach your zipper foot on and sew from the top left side, rotate, stitch along the bottom, rotate, and stitch back up to the top right side continuously.

h) Now that the zip is sewn unpick your basting so that you can zip and unzip the skirt.

i) Attach the hook and eye or button.

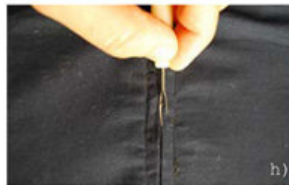
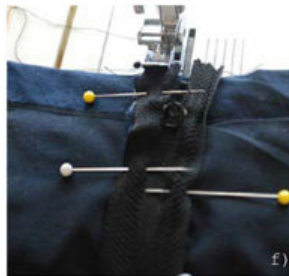
### FINISHING

Try the skirt on to check that the hem falls nicely. You can leave it to hang for a few hours so that you can be more certain of its fall. You can then hem it from the ground. Factors which might effect the fall include:

- the back might be shorter then the front (due to our buttocks)
- fabric choice
- bias of the fabric

Finish off the garment by hemming it.

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zip and hem

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# BurdaStyle

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