

PETITE PLUIE D'ÉTÉ



A super sweet linen skirt with top stitched appliqued circles randomly scattered across the skirt. This Tutorial provides instructions for a simple elastic waist skirt for your favourite little girl.

petite pluie d'ete : French for Little Summer Rain, the circles and fabric colours provide fond memories of gentle rain showers to relieve the summer heat.

SIZES

Made to Measure

FABRIC

1m x 1.3m wide linen, approximately, washed + pressed
0.2m x 1.0m wide medium weight fusible interfacing

EQUIPMENT

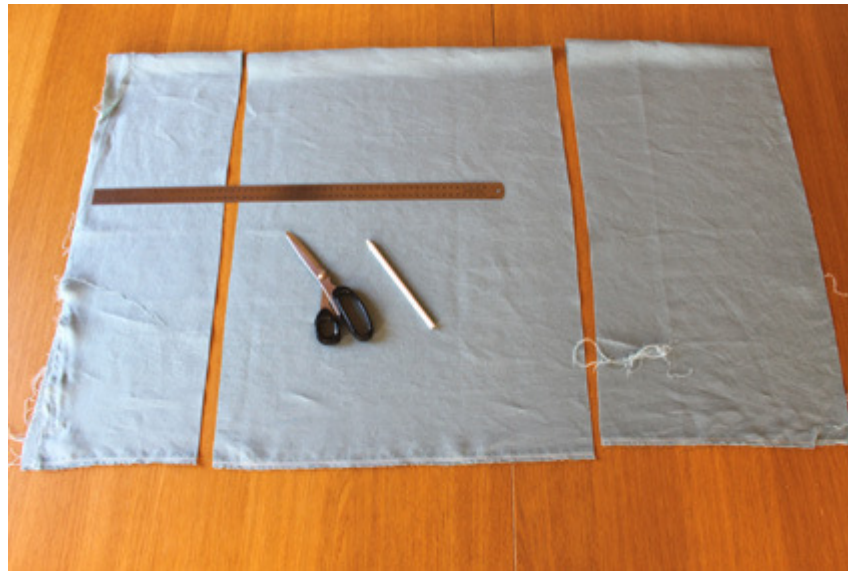
Scissors
Chalk Pencil
3 x circle templates (or use different size crockery like I did!)
Pins
Sewing Machine
Thread, matching + contrast
25mm wide non-roll elastic
Needle, for handsewing

NOTES:

1. Other fabrics would look fantastic but not as 'summery' – I think fine pinwale corduroy works brilliantly with the textural contrast but I would suggest keeping it to plain colours ie not using fabric printed with patterns
2. Using this method for circles across the skirt of a tunic dress would be gorgeous.
3. And yes, definitely, a skirt for yourself would be beautiful!
4. I choose to machine wash my skirt on the "handwash" setting to limit fraying although it is certainly a design feature of this skirt.

METHOD

1. **Skirt length:** Measure child's waist and then from waist to knee + note this on a handy scrap of paper (or in a sketchbook for future use) ie if child is 35cm waist to knee, you will cut 35cm long piece of doubled fabric - this will end up shorter with hem and waistband so will sit a few centimetres above child's knee upon completion. Alternatively, if you have a favourite skirt – measure the overall length of it and ADD 5cm for waist + hem.
Note: 35cm works perfectly for my 5 year old daughter.



2. **Skirt Cutting:** Lay fabric out on flat surface, folded in half with selvages together. Cut your desired length of fabric from your prepared doubled piece of fabric. *Tip: I made 2 skirts from 1m length of fabric hence the fabric pictured above with lengths from Left to Right: 20cm (for interfaced circles), 50cm length for skirt for a 10 year old, 35cm length for skirt for my 5 year old.*



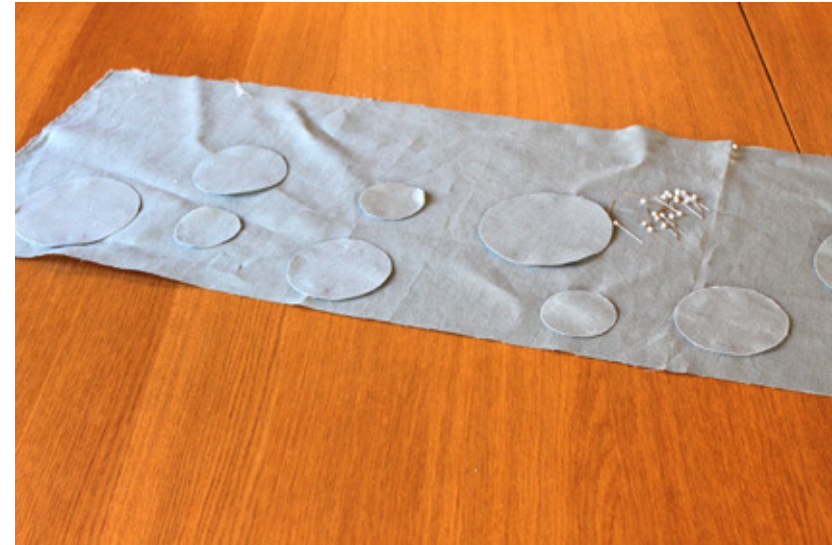
3. **Interfacing:** Affix fusible interfacing to remaining length of fabric (approx. 20cm length) using a hot iron (adjust heat of iron to suit your chosen fabric). Fold interfaced fabric in half with Right Side (RS) out and selvages together.



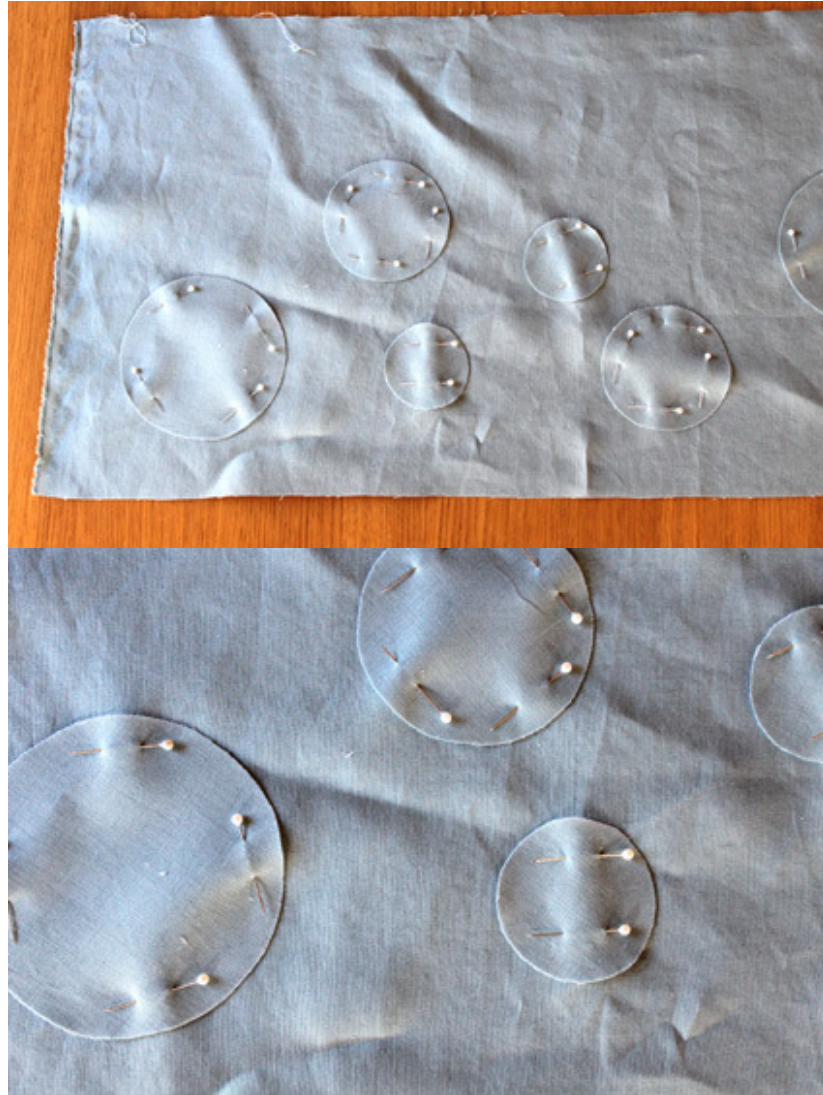
4. **Circles:** Choose 3 circle templates (or different sized crockery elements!) and trace around using the chalk pencil.



5. **Cut out the Circles:** Pin the circles through all fabric layers and cut out circles (to half the work required)



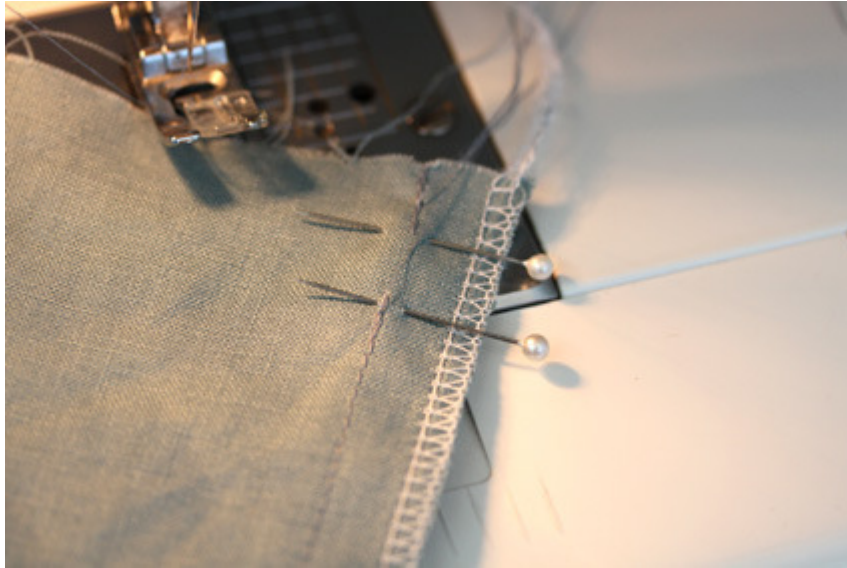
6. **Position circles onto fabric.** Lay skirt fabric out flat and take your time here to balance large/medium/small circles across the skirt panel. Consider the location of the side seam, waist and hem. *Tip: I chose to place circles at least 15cm below top waist edge, and above hem by 5cm*



7. **Pin circles in position:** I placed my circles at a 45 degree angle to weave of skirt for subtle textural interest. You may choose to baste your circles to the skirt fabric (not me – I’m all for a quick sewing result!)



8. **Stitching Circles:** Thread your sewing machine with a contrast thread and bobbin. Use edge of presser foot to align stitching a consistent distance from edge and slowly stitch each circle using standard sewing stitch, leaving long threads to tie off. *Tip: ensure needle is down in the fabric as you lift the pressure foot up every few stitches to re-align with circle edge.*
9. **Finishing Circles:** After stitching all circles, take thread ends to wrong side of the fabric and tie off neatly. I then threaded the ends and hid them inside the ‘pocket’ created between the fabric and each circle.



10. **Side seam:** Change thread on your sewing machine to matching thread. Pin selvedge edges together and stitch 1cm to top edge only, leave a space of 15-20mm, then stitch again to bottom hem (this leaves a small space to thread waist elastic into casing). Press seam open.
11. **Waistband casing:** Fold fabric 5mm then again 30mm to top edge. Stitch waistband casing at 25mm from top edge of skirt. Press.
12. **Hem:** Fold fabric 5mm then again 15mm to top edge. Stitch hem at 10mm from bottom edge of skirt. Press.



13. **Finishing:** Cut length of elastic to waist measurement and feed into waistband casing opening. Stitch ends of elastic together once through. Insert sewn ends into opening and use needle and thread to stitch opening closed.



14. **Dancing:** yes, your skirt is ready for some fine twirling!



Kirsten Johnstone is an Architect based in Melbourne, Australia who uses the mediums of built form and interior space to create refined designs. She also uses yarn, fabric and photography to explore her modern aesthetic on a smaller scale.

She has an eye for flattering forms that are deceptively simple yet frequently transformable, designs with a distinctive urban edge yet elegantly wearable.

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