

30 Minute Mermaid Skirt



If your little girls are obsessed with all things mermaid, this is THE tutorial for you. Whether your daughter likes dress-up or she's searching for the perfect Halloween costume, this 30-minute mermaid skirt tutorial is sure to please.

Skill Level: Beginner

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Supplies:

Baby Lock® Sewing Machine

Baby Lock® Serger (optional)

Less than a yard of stretchy knit fabric (For most children's sizes)

Ball point needles for sewing machine

Baby Lock Ruffling Foot (SA122 - optional)

Tip: For the quickest construction, use a ruffling foot to gather the fabric for the bottom skirt ruffle and a serger to sew the three seams. Of course, you can gather the skirt ruffle without a ruffling foot and you can sew the seams with your regular machine – and still finish in less than 30 minutes. Be sure to use ball-point needles on your machines and a zig-zag stitch if you use a regular sewing machine.

Instructions:

1. You will need two measurements to make the skirt – you child's hip measurement and the length from her waist to her ankle.

- GÈ Cut one piece of fabric into a rectangle for the main skirt portion. The width (the direction of the most stretch) should be the hip measurement minus 2 inches. The length of the rectangle should be the waist to ankle measurement minus 4 inches.
- HÈ Cut a strip for ruffling that is 4 inches by 2 times the width of the skirt rectangle (or 2 times the hip measurement { $\tilde{a} \cdot 2$ inches, and a waistband piece that is 4 inches by the width of the skirt.
- I È Begin by cutting a curve along the ruffling strip and the skirt piece. Fold the skirt in half lengthwise. Fold the ruffling strip in half, bringing the short ends together. Now cut a curve along the bottom (non-folded) corner of both of these pieces. Just eyeball it so that you have a smooth curve rounding off the corners (about 4-5 inches up the side of the skirt piece).
- Í È Now ruffle the long strip. Feed it through your ruffling foot for super speediness. Be sure to leave the threads long on each end of the ruffle to redistribute the gathers to fit the skirt if needed. If you do not have a ruffling foot, stitch a long basting stitch down the length of the ruffle and pull the bobbin threads to gather the strip. Either way, the gathered strip should be the same length now as the bottom of the skirt piece. Match the gathered side of the ruffle strip to the bottom edge of the skirt, right sides together. Pin in place (or don't, just check to make sure the length is the same). Stitch or serge the ruffle to the bottom of the skirt. No need to hem!
- Î È Turn down the attached ruffle.
- Ï È Fold the skirt in half with right sides in and match the two sides. Stitch or serge from the top of the skirt down to where the ruffle seam is – do not stitch the two ends of the ruffle strips together.
- Ì È Set the skirt aside for a moment and grab the waistband piece. Match the two short ends, right sides together and stitch (or serge) to form a tube.
- JÈ Fold the tube in half along its length to form the waistband.
- FÈ With the skirt right side out and the waistband on the outside of the skirt, match the seamline in the waistband to the center back of the skirt. Pin the waistband to the skirt, matching raw edges (the folded edge of the waistband will be facing down toward the hem). The waistband should be the same circumference as the skirt, but be sure that the two are pinned evenly around the whole waistband.

And that is it!! Wasn't it quick and easy? Mermaid Perfect in no time!

For other exciting projects like this one, visit Stefanie's blog, girl.Inspired, or visit our websites at www.babylock.com or www.totallystitchin.net

