



GORED SKIRT FROM DIRECT BODY MEASUREMENTS

A skirt can be divided into panels known as gores.

The following pattern cutting technique allows you to draft a gored skirt directly from body measurements.

You will need waist, high hip, hip measurements and the desired skirt length. 1cm ease should then be added to the waist measurement and 2cm to the hip measurements, which should then be divided by the number of gores required.

Use the following table to help you calculate the dimensions you need at each stage.

Text credit: Fiona Griffiths

Body Measurements Required	Measurements in cm	+ 1cm/2cm ease	÷ by number of gores	÷ by 2
Waist (A)		(+ 1cm)		
High Hip (B) (approx. 10.5cm below waist)		(Blend)		
Hip (C) (approx. 21cm below waist or widest part)		(+ 2cm)		
Desired gore width at hem		N/A	N/A	
Desired Skirt Length (D)		N/A	N/A	N/A

1. Begin by drawing a vertical line to the required skirt length. The top of the line will be the waist (mark as A). The bottom of the line will be the hem (mark as D).

2. Measure down the vertical line 10.5cm from the waist and mark; this is the high hip. (B)

3. Measure down the vertical line 21cm from the waist and mark; this is the hip. (C)

4. At A, draw a line at 90° to the vertical line and distribute the gore measurement for the waist equally either side of the vertical line.

5. At B, draw a line at 90° to the vertical line and distribute the gore measurement for the high hip equally either side of the vertical line.

6. At C, draw a line at 90° to the vertical line and distribute the gore measurement for the hip equally either side of the vertical line.

7. At D, draw a line at 90° to the vertical line and distribute the gore measurement for the hem width desired equally either side of the vertical line.

8. Complete the gore by plotting seam lines from A to B to C to D, either side of the vertical line; smoothing lines if necessary.

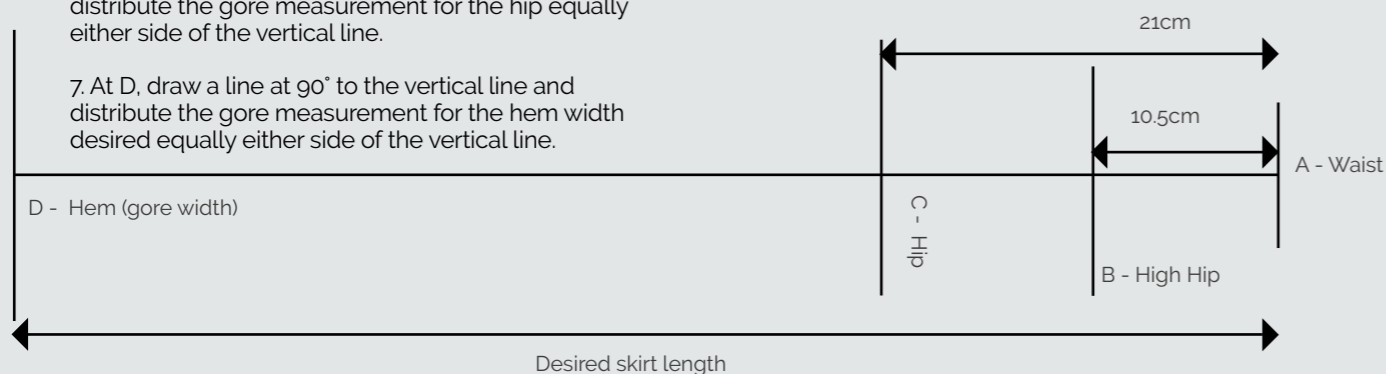
9. On the central, vertical line measure down 0.5cm at A and then again at D. Draw a smooth curved line at both waist and hem lines.

10. Add 1.5cm seam allowance to waist seam, panel seams and hem.

11. Mark the central vertical line as the grain line and label.

12. Make copies of the pattern piece as required. (For example, 4 pattern pieces should be sufficient for an 8 gore skirt, which can be cut as pairs.)

13. Draft a facing or waistband to complete your garment.





S4S – DESIGNING A SENSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CLOTHING

'S4S – Designing a Sensibility for Sustainable Clothing' is a ground breaking collaborative research project funded by the **Arts and Humanities Research Council**. It is co-hosted by academics from the Department of Politics at the **University of Exeter's** Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) in Penryn and the Fashion Department of the School of Art at the **University of Wolverhampton** in the West Midlands.

The **collaboration** has involved **community spaces, NGOs, local clothing brands, local designers and crafts people, film-makers and members of the public**. Between February and October 2018, it engaged **fifty members** of the public in **Cornwall** and the **West Midlands** in a series of **workshops** making fabric, and making, mending and modifying clothes.

A range of **innovative social science and arts methodologies** have been used to explore whether these **workshops** have **encouraged people to think, feel and act more sustainably in relation to clothing**. This set of leaflets shows a snapshot of the processes and outcomes from our **workshops**.

SECOND-HAND AND ETHICAL

To conclude the Cornwall participant workshop series, the group – now armed with a plethora of making skills and inspiration – dove deeper into the notion of ethical clothing and sought more second-hand clothing to design and re-cycle into new garments.

Beginning with a presentation and discussion defining what 'ethical' means in the context of clothing manufacture, retail and life-cycle, everyone was equipped with practical knowledge of how to identify and source garments that have been created with ethical practices embedded in their manufacture. From agricultural destruction, human rights and pollution to carbon emissions, each current issue that contributes to the item of clothing reaching our wardrobes was explored. Alongside an inspired washing powder experiment, charity shop trawl and subsequent skirt making workshop with maker Sue Bamford, the group were able to fully embed their new skills and emergent ideals of sustainable consumption of clothes into practice.

The washing powder experiment was a fun but informative exercise that simply tried a range of 'eco' laundry products against a leading non eco brand on common hard to shift stains. The outcome was predictable in that the non eco brand performed the best and raised questions around laundry 'best practice'. After the charity shop trawl for potential up-cycling clothing, Sue Bamford led an introduction to pattern cutting session in which everyone made a personalised basic skirt pattern block, which could then be adapted for many other styles. Participants agreed that although the process appeared lengthy, the idea that they could adapt the skirt block to create an endless range of styles was both empowering and worthwhile.

'I was thinking, it's not just this series of workshops that has helped me realise that I really want to do something incorporating sustainability.'

'I'm planning to go away and teach a friend how to do it, or like, my mum or a colleague or somebody fairly soon so that I don't forget, because I think I'll remember better if I pass that onto somebody else.'

At the end of the workshops participants expressed their wish to continue to use and share their new skills and values. There was evidence that the journey through our four Cornwall-based workshop series had created lasting and tangible shifts in thinking and feeling about clothing. Many reported that they will continue to take actions that cohere with a more conscious way to buy, use and care for clothes.

Website: sites.exeter.ac.uk/s4s - Twitter: @S4sSensibility - Instagram: s4s_sensibility - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/S4sSensibility> - S4S Shropshire and West Midlands: <https://www.facebook.com/S4sStitchedup>