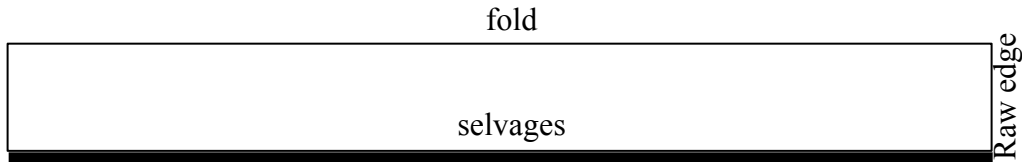


3-Tier Ruffle Skirt

Materials needed: 12 – 16 yards of fabric, 4 – 6 yards of contrast fabric if desired, matching thread, tape measure, chalk, scissors. Pre-wash fabric to release creases, dyes and for shrinkage.

Waistband:

- 1) Fold fabric lengthwise and lay on table or floor



- 2) Measure and mark 4 panels 4" wide on fold of fabric



- 3) Unfold and sew all four panels together lengthwise. Set aside.



Main skirt body:

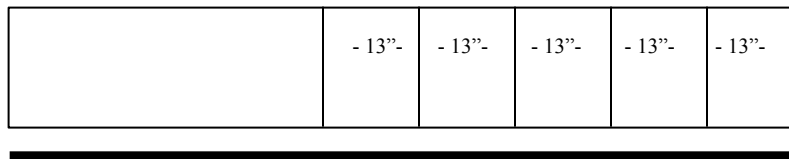
- 1) Make measurement notes:

A – Waist or hip circumference (wherever you will tie & wear the waistband of skirt)

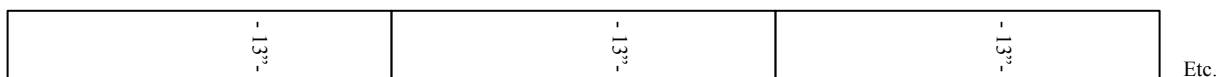
B – Length of waistband to hem, minus 2 inches for waistband

C – Measurement B divided by 3

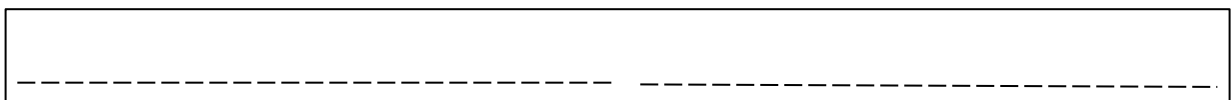
- 2) Cut 4 or 5 panels on fold of fabric _____ inches wide (Measurement C) – example 13"



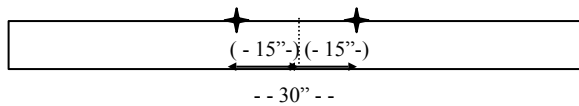
- 3) Unfold each panel and sew short ends together.



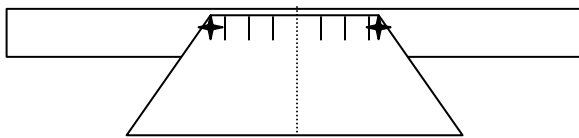
- 4) Put a gathering stitch into long edge of these strips using a ruffler or large basting stitch (for ease in gathering w/basting stitch, I separate stitching at the halfway mark)



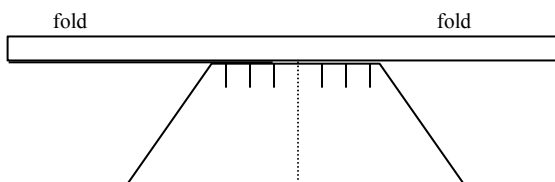
- 5) Divide waist measurement (A) in half and use this measurement on waistband, marking from the center. Example: 30" waist = 15"



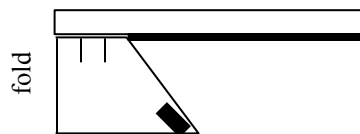
- 6) Gather skirt panel to waistband between marks, wrong side to wrong side



- 7) Flip up waistband; turn under seam allowance on free edge of waistband and press.
 8) Fold waistbands in half lengthwise and top-stitch pressed waistband edges together, catching panel in between. Turn raw edges on the ends inside, press and topstitch



- 9) Sew the skirt panel short edges right-sides together, from bottom edge about 3-5". Triple-stitch this, as this is a high stress point. (This is the back center seam of the skirt)



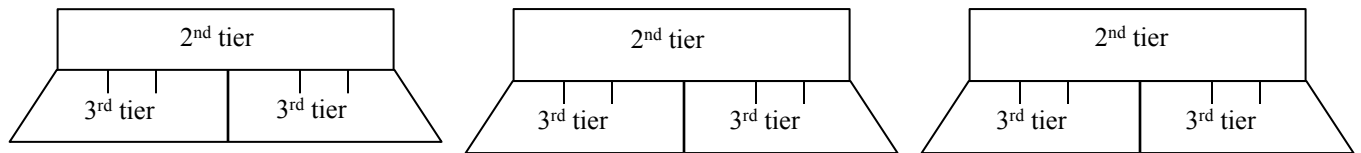
- 10) Tier 2: Cut 8 – 10 panels from fabric on fold _____ inches wide (measurement C). The number of panels is double whatever number the 1st tier was. Set aside.

- 11) Tier 3**: Cut 16 – 20 panels from fabric on fold _____ inches wide (measurement C + 1 inch for rolled hem) – number of panels is double whatever the 2nd tier was.

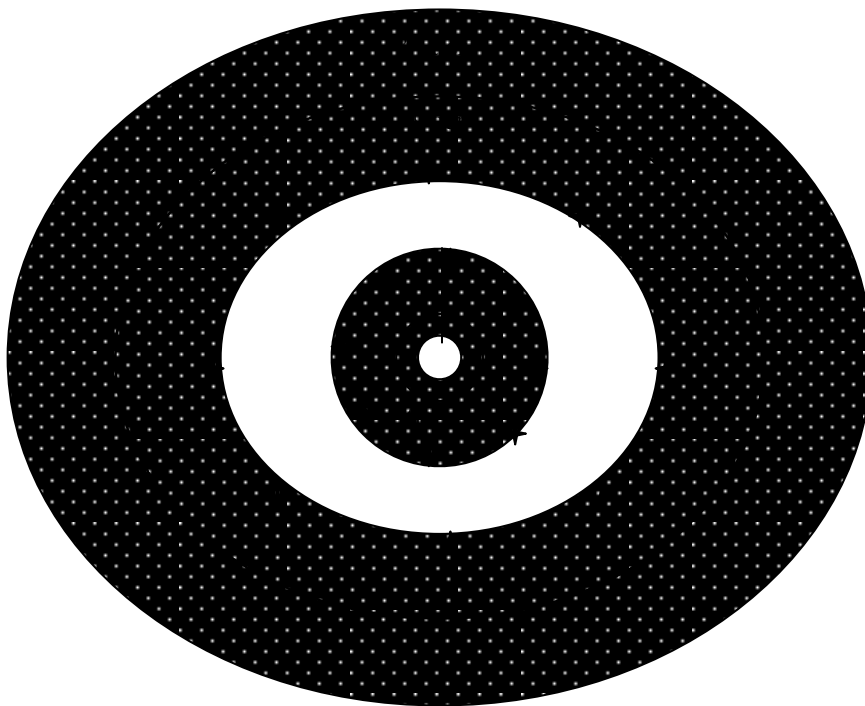
**For separate contrast ruffle, cut panels in duplicate number to 3rd tier, using a measurement 2 – 3 inches shorter than measurement used in Step 11. Sew contrast panel on top of each 3rd tier panel, wrong side to right side, using a narrow seam allowance. Your gathering stitch will go through both layers for step 12.

**A wide contrast ribbon on hemmed edge of 3rd tier works nicely if you don't want a contrast ruffle. Contrasts show off the full ripples of skirt moves.

- 12) Sew all 3rd tier panels together in sets of 2 on short sides, then put a gathering stitch into the top edge and gather each set of two onto a 2nd tier panel.



- 13) Sew all sets of 2nd/3rd tier panels together at side seams to form a tube, then put a gathering stitch into the top edge of the 2nd tier. (when using a basting stitch, break it up into 2-4 sections to lessen the strain on the thread when you pull it) Put a double rolled hem on bottom of 3rd tier
- 14) Gather the 2nd/3rd tier tube to the 1st tier— the easiest way I've found to work with this much fabric is to mark the gathered top edge of the 2nd tier and the bottom edge of the 1st tier in increments of 8. Then lay the 1st tier with waistband spread flat in a circle. Arrange the tube of the 2nd/3rd tier around it and then pin at the marks. Gather from there.



- 15) When finished, this skirt closes with the ties in back. I make “belt loops” on waistband to thread the ties through and bow-tie in the front—this helps support the sheer weight of the skirt on all sides.

NOTE: You may wish to make a waistband with no ties and use hooks instead. I highly recommend AGAINST using an elastic waistband for a skirt of this volume!

- 16) Play with your skirt a lot before performing in it! It takes some time and some beatings to really loosen the fabric up and make it flow nicely.

17) To hold: grab the fabric directly at your sides and follow it down to the seam between the 2nd & 3rd tier. This will give you a nice line and utilize the full range of motion. If you grab too far in front or back, you'll get a funky pull and crinkles. Don't strangle your skirt! Make a firm grip between thumb & fingers, but don't clench your fists. Holding at the bottom seam will give you enough leverage to really make the ruffle whirl. With enough practice, the repetition of grabbing it like this should create a nice crease that makes it more likely for you to grab it in this spot on the fly. (You can also sew a bead or jewel at the grabbing point) If you hold the hem, it makes for nice barrel turns or poses with the edges up over your head.