

SAORI SKIRT PATTERN

(p1 of 2)

designed by Heather Walters 2014



Designed to display handwoven saori cloth, no cutting (other than 1 cut before joining fabric), zero-waste and simple construction. Example garment was woven at 40 cm wide with a sett of 5 epcm (= 12 epi). Cloth was hand washed and steam pressed before making skirt.

I have used selvages and warp end fringe where possible and incorporating movement in the skirt. With handwoven cloth at this relatively open sett, any stress on seams can cause the weave to open up.

To ensure this garment wears well, I would recommend fully lining the skirt (with a light, but firmly woven lining fabric) or adding reinforcement in areas that may be under stress when the garment is worn. I did not line the example skirt, but added reinforcement to the inside waist and around the back waist darts.



Finished skirt centre back length is 79cm, with front draped sections hanging longer. At 170cm tall this length suits me and works well with knee high boots and a belt.



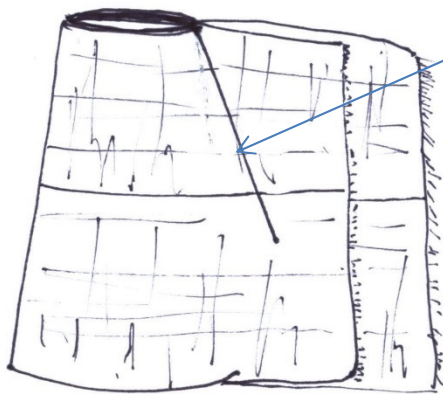
This can be worn with the flounce centre front or off to the side for an asymmetric look. You could vary this pattern by using a narrower fabric (for a shorter skirt). These pattern steps are a guide only and presume prior sewing experience!

Materials needed:

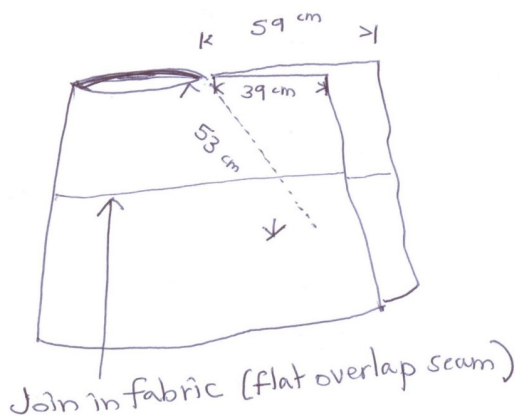
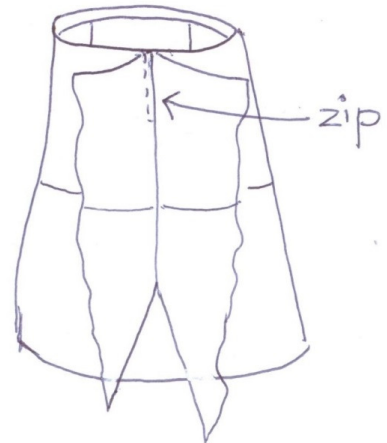
- *Cloth 40 cm wide x 400 cm length*
- *Zip (16cm)*
- *Hook & eye (to secure top of zip)*
- *Elastic for waist band reinforcement (3cm wide)*

Method:

1. Fold cloth in 1/2 crosswise and machine sew 2 parallel lines, 1cm apart at half-way point.
2. Cut straight down between these 2 lines, resulting in 2 equal size pieces of cloth.
3. Decide which piece you want at the top half of the skirt, which at lower half etc, considering colour and pattern balance. One side can be longer than other – see dwg. Below. This makes a more interesting flounce.
4. Join these 2 pieces by overlapping 1cm and stitch along length of cloth to create a single, large rectangle. Cloth selvages naturally form both waist and hem.
5. Fit cloth to your body measurements and determine centre front and centre back.
6. Pin and sew back waist darts an equal distance from centre back (e.g. 21 cm apart), making them each approx. 11cm long. You may need to reinforce dart area with interfacing.
7. After pinning centre front, insert zipper.
8. Continue seam below zipper approx. another 33cm.
9. Attach waist elastic, using a long zig-zag stitch, to reinforce inside of waist area. This can be sewn directly onto the inside selvedge of the cloth.
10. Stitch hook & eye to the elastic at waist above top of zipper. This ensures there is no pressure on fabric or zip.
11. Wear it and enjoy !



Angled stitch line extends below zip. Fabric is open below this stitching.



above: showing positioning of zip – hidden in folds of flounce when skirt is worn.

left: Rough sketch including measurements of example skirt.