Pencil Skirt 2.0

By Gayle

Introduction

Years ago, I made a video tutorial for making a pencil skirt. It ended up on the front page of ravelry, which was fucking wild.

Anyway, time has passed, I've kept making pencil skirts, and now I'm here with what we'll call Tutorial 2.0. Let's get to it:
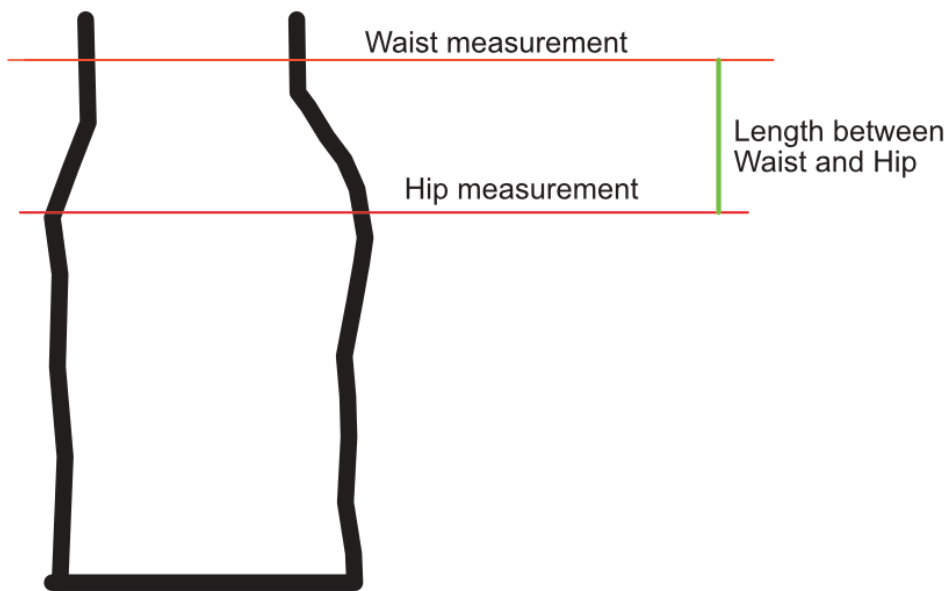
Supplies:

- Yarn
- Hook
- Clear Elastic Cord or woven belting
- Buttons or Zipper

Step I: Measuring

Measure the following things:

- Your waist.
- The widest part of your hips.
- The length between your waist and the widest part of your hips.

For example measurements, I will use my own:

- Waist: 33"
- Hips: 43"
- Length between: 8"

Step 2: Gauge Swatch

A gauge swatch will help you accurately size your skirt. Work a gauge swatch of ten stitches across and ten rows. You can use any stitch you want for your skirt, but I tend to use single crochet for the waistband and double crochet for the body of the skirt. When I do a gauge swatch, I work it in double crochet since that is what I use for the skirt body.

Write down your number of stitches per inch, and the number of rows per inch.

For our example, let's say I get 4 stitches per inch and 2 rows per inch.

Step 3: Make the Waistband

Crochet a chain to the same length as your waist measurement. Work in single crochet rows until the waistband is 1 inch tall. You can work clear elastic cord on the wrong side of the rows to add some stretch to your waistband. You can also work the waistband without elastic and use belting at the end to help hold the skirt in place. [I have an example of belting in this video.](#)

Step 4: Start the Body of the Skirt

Once you have the waistband 1-inch tall, you can start the body of the skirt by completing a row in pattern stitch. Once you've done that, wrap the waistband where you want it to sit, with the open ends at the back.

Step 5: Add Increases

This pencil skirt uses raglan increases. There will be four points on the skirt where you will always increase. You will work 3 stitches into each increase, always placing the next increase in the second stitch of a previous increase.

These increases should shape close to your body to give you the classic pencil skirt fit. For best results, place increases in the same places on either side of the skirt. Line them up with the front curve and back curve of your leg.
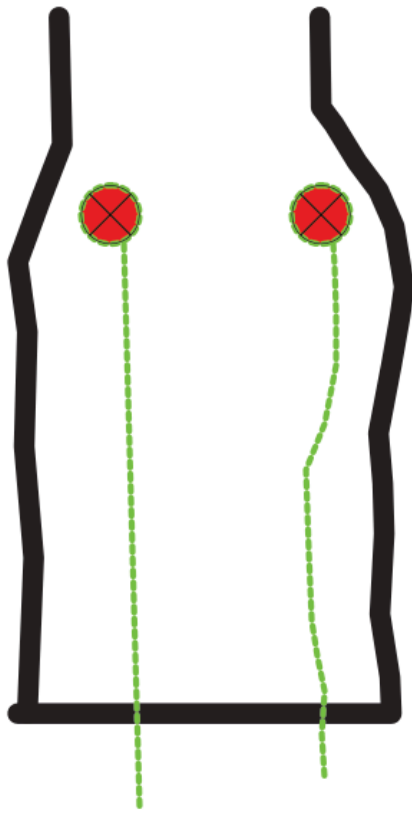
I find it easiest to mark one side of the skirt, then simply count over from the other end the same number of stitches for both increases on the other side.

Step 6: Let's Math it Up!

To make sure your skirt's gonna curve correctly, you need to be sure you can hit the last round of increases you need within the length you have between your waist and your hips. As I mentioned earlier, my waist is 33" and my hips are 43" with an 8" length between. I get 2 rows per inch and 4 stitches per inch.

First, I need to know how many stitches I will need to add to my starting count:

33 (waist measurement) x 4 (stitches per inch) = 132 stitches

43 (hip measurement) x 4 (stitches per inch) = 172 stitches

172 - 132 = 40 stitches

Second, I need to figure out how many sets of increases I need to do to add those 40 stitches. On every row I increase, I add 8 stitches.

40 / 8 = 5 rows of increases.

Third, I need figure out how many rows I have to work to reach the full 8 inches between my waist and the widest part of my hips. I know my waistband is 1 inch. I know the one row of pattern stitch I've completed for the skirt body is ½".

8 inches (total length between waist and hips) - 1-½" (amount of skirt already worked) = 6-½" to work.

I get 2 rows per inch.

2 x 6 = 12 rows

And then 1 more row for the other ½". So, that's 13 rows I need to work, but I only need 5 rows of increases. This means that I can work increase rows, then work a row or two even. This will keep the curve of the skirt smooth. The increase pattern may look like this:

Row 2 of skirt body: **Increase**
Row 3: work even
Row 4: work even
Row 5: **Increase**
Row 6: work even
Row 7: **Increase**
Row 8: work even
Row 9: work even
Row 10: **Increase**
Row 11: work even
Row 12: **Increase**
Row 13: work even

I do recommend working one row even between each increase row. That is 100% a personal preference.

Step 7: Join and Work in Rounds!

After you've completed the final increase round, you can join to the first stitch of the row and work in rounds for the rest of the skirt. This will let you try it on as you add length, so you can see how it's building. When it's the final length you want, fasten off.

Step 8: Waist and Fastenings

If you carried elastic cord on the back of the waistband when you worked the waistband, you can either add a zipper or buttons, depending on what you'd prefer. I like zippers just because I'm bad at buttonholes.

If you did not carry elastic, you can either sew in a strip, or you can use belting to create a stronger waistband that will keep its shape over time. If you choose to use a zipper with the belting, I recommend putting the belting in first because then it can act as extra support for the top of the zipper.

Once you've finished off that way, you're good to go. I bet you look great!

Final Notes:

If you need more than 8 increases per increase row to get your skirt the right hip measurement at the correct point in your hip, you can add more increases. Here's an example:
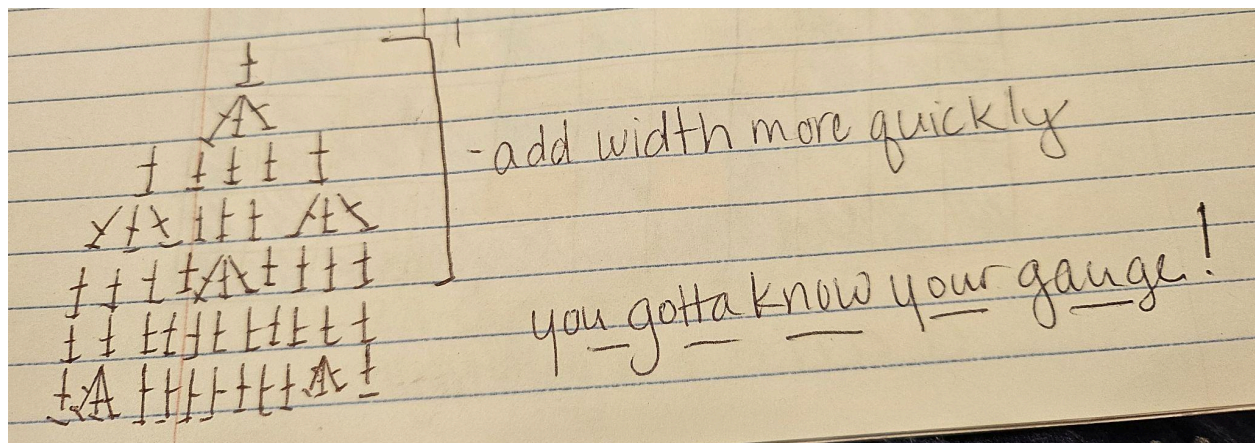
If you want a pencil skirt that is a big snugger in the butt, work an inch without increases, then complete decreases in the same spots you had previously been increasing (You'll decrease over 3 stitches for each decrease to match your increase count). Work a row or two even, try on, and then decrease again if you want to. Repeat as much as you'd like to get a very close fit.

If you keep working increases, you'll get an A-line skirt. You can still join at the end of the final increase you need to hit your hip width and work in rounds after that.

About the Author

Gayle probably crochets faster than you do. They don't know if they recommend trying to catch up. They put up videos on Youtube on a regular basis (youtube.com/@icrochetedthething) and they have an instagram (icrochetedthething) and even a website (icrochetedthething.com).