

How to Make Twirly Shorts

By Stacy at thelandofka.com

Description:

This tutorial is for making a skirt/short combo. It will be a drop waist twirly skirt with attached shorts underneath. You can add the optional pouch if you wish.

What you need:

1 yard fabric, you can decide if you want all one color or combined.

Ribbon embellishments

Snaps, for pouch

How to Make:

Step 1 – Making the pattern and cutting

See if you have a shorts pattern in your stash of patterns. Pull it out if you do. If not, find a pair of well fitting shorts and draft a front and back pattern from it. Or if you have a pants pattern, get that and decide where you will stop the length.

Now, trace the bottom part of the pattern onto tracing paper, art paper, fabric that was given to you that you will never ever use...ever. Whatever you have available. You need to put the top at about 4 inches above where the crotch starts to curve, and then remember to add a seam allowance of 5/8" on each side.



- ✂ Cut 2 of the front
- ✂ Cut 2 of the back

Next, measure the remaining distance on your original pattern piece and the traced piece from the top. Add an inch for seam allowances. That is the height. Now measure the width of the original piece and subtract $\frac{1}{2}$ ". This will be cut on a fold.

- ✂ Cut 2 on the fold, unless you want it lined with the seams enclosed, then cut 4.

Now we need the twirly. Measure the bottom traced piece, top to bottom and add 6 inches or so. Depends on how long you want the skirt. I cut it 12 inches long. Now you have to decide just how twirly you want it. My girl loves to twirl, so I will just cut two pieces this high, the width of the fabric (45").

- ✂ Cut 2 – I fold the fabric so it is a shorter cut. It's easier to keep it in a straight line.

Do you want a pouch for goodies? I'm going to put a removable pouch on the skirt for goodies. These are the pieces you will need:

- ✂ Cut 4 of the pouch body (6" x 5")
- ✂ Cut 2 of the pouch flap (3" x 5")
- ✂ Cut 2 (or one long) piece for the tabs on top (16" x 3" for just one long piece)
- ✂ Cut 2 (or one long) skinny piece to connect the tabs to the skirt

***Note on seam finishing – With wovens you will need to finish the seams or they tend to fray. If you don't have a serger, use a zigzag stitch as close to the edge as you can once you have sewn up the seams. You could also do a French seam (enclosed seam), as well.*

Step 2 – Assembly

The Pouch

Let's do the pouch first.

- ☞ Put the pouch body pieces right side together and sew up the bottom and side seams. Leave the top open. Make one a little smaller than the other.
- ☞ Make the tap for the flap, put the flap pieces right sides together with the tab in the middle at the bottom and sew up the sides – leave the end open. I was just using scraps here for the pocket so the flap was just a leftover piece cut from the crotch of the pattern.



- ☞ Clip corners and turn right sides out. Press pieces. Turn under the hem of top of the body pieces 1/2" and press.



- ☞ Make the tabs for the top. I just cut one long strip (about 16 inches wide). Sew it right sides together and then turn it right sides out. Cut into 4 equal parts.



- ☞ Put one body piece inside the other (the one you made a little smaller on the inside) and put the flap in between the hems on one side. Add the tabs, one on each end. Pin in place and topstitch.





- ∞ Add snaps...after you have sewn the other tabs to the skirt. Then you will know for sure which side you need to put them on.
- ∞ Get the other ready by adding the decorative color snap. I add the snap along the folded edge side. The unfinished edges will be enclosed in the seam.



The Shorts

- ☞ Put the 2 fronts and 2 back pieces right sides together and sew up the middle seam.
- ☞ Put the fronts and backs together and sew up the side seams.
- ☞ Next sew up the inside leg seam with the back and front right sides together.
- ☞ Hem the bottom.





Top piece

- ☞ Put the top pieces right sides together and sew up the side seams. Measure against the top of the shorts and see if the seams match up. If not, adjust so they do.

Ruffle

- ☞ Put the two ruffle pieces together and sew up the side seams.
- ☞ Hem the bottom edge.
- ☞ If you have a serger, you can ruffle with a serger by putting the needle tension at 8-9 and the stitch length at 5. Make sure you have a long trailing thread so you can adjust as needed. Otherwise if you have a sewing machine, use the longest straight stitch you have and go along the top. Then you pull one of the thread and evenly disperse the ruffle along the length you need.

All together now

- ☞ Put the ruffle and shorts right sides out.
- ☞ Place the shorts inside the ruffle.
- ☞ Turn the waist piece wrong side out and place over the ruffle.
- ☞ Pin in place and sew.



- ☞ If you have a pouch, place the tabs between the ruffle and waist pieces before you sew. Make sure you have the decorative snap facing the right direction when the skirt is turned right sides out AND that the tabs are the same width apart as the tabs on the pouch.



∞ Add tabs to the pouch.



∞ Turn out and topstitch.



Elastic Waist

- ☞ To make this easier you can iron this seam before sewing.
- ☞ Turn the top under 1/3" and then again 1" depending on the width of the elastic. Place the elastic over this channel to make sure you will have enough room for the seam.



- ☞ Sew the seam, make sure to anchor (backsew) over the beginning and ending a few times. Leave a 1-2" opening to pull the elastic through.



- ☞ I usually sew a top seam as well. This keeps the elastic in place better.

✎ Cut the elastic 3-4" smaller than the waist and put a big pin in the end.

✎ Pull it through the channel making sure the end doesn't go in while pulling.



✎ Pull the edges out and overlap an inch. Make sure that they are placed together so they will lay flat and they aren't turned at all. Sew together with a zigzag stitch a few times.



✎ Stretch the elastic out into the channel and then close the hole.



ALL DONE!



