

Ruffled Suspender Skirt

By Kelly Crawford

Janome Artisan Kelly Crawford of Sewing in No Mans Land made this adorable Ruffled Suspender Skirt with her Skyline S7 machine for her daughters. This outfit idea is perfect for the fall and looks absolutely darling. Kelly recommends wearing the suspender skirt with a sweater underneath or cute knee socks.



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Instructions:

- For the following widths and lengths, you must be using a 1" wide elastic. If you use a larger elastic, you are going to need more length (to account for the increase in encasing material needed). These numbers are also approximate. At the age of Kelly's daughters, there is a huge range of sizes. Please use your common sense and measure your own cutie before cutting the fabric.

Size	Width	Length
2T	41	14
3T	42	15
4T	43	16
5	43.5	16.5
6	45	17
7	46	18

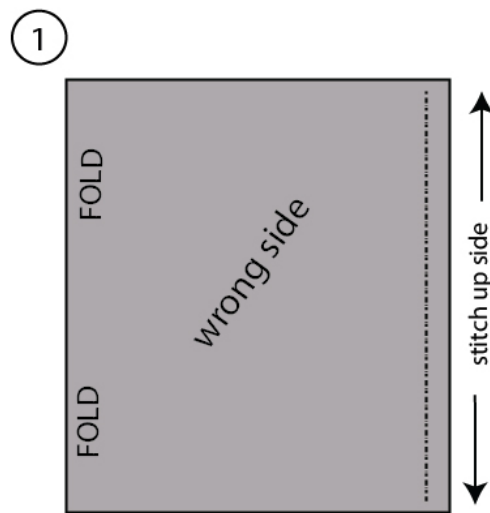
- To make your suspenders, you will need two long pieces of fabric plus your ruffle pattern piece. Use the numbers below as a guide. If you have an extra tall cutie, be sure to add some length to the suspenders. If you prefer thinner suspenders, bring in the width as these are pretty wide. Head over to <http://sewinginnomanslandpatterns.com/product/free-ruffle-britches-pattern-piece/> to download the free ruffle pattern.

Suspenders

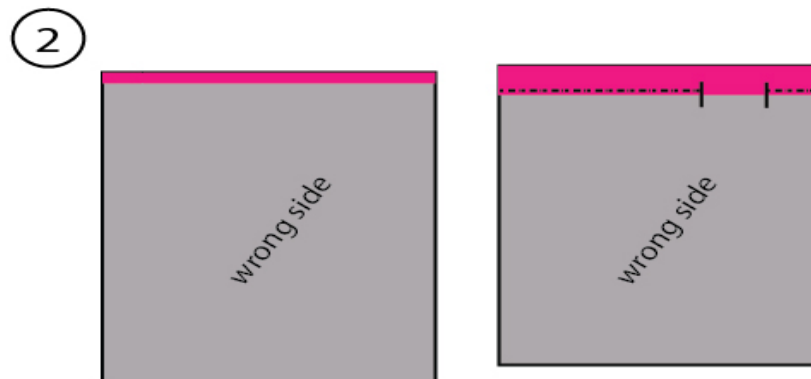
Size	Width	Length
2T	3	20
3T	3	20
4T	3	21
5	3	21
6	3	22
7	3	22

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Step One: Fold your skirt fabric piece in half. Stitch up the raw edge and press open your seam.

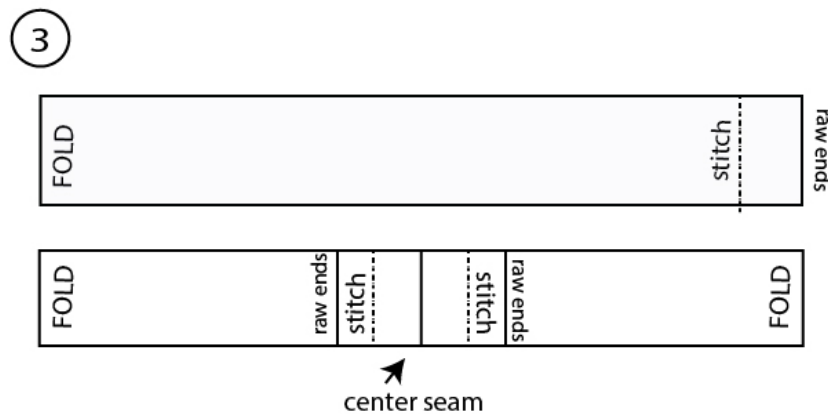


Step Two: Create a hem at the top of your skirt piece by folding over the top edge a 1/4" and then again a 1/2" (these numbers may be larger or smaller depending on the size of the elastic you use). You essentially want it to be just larger than your elastic. Stitch around it, stopping 1" from where you started. To find out how much elastic you will need, measure your cutie's waist and then times that number by 2/3. Add 1/2" to that number for the seam allowance. Using a safety pin on one end, feed your elastic through the opening you left.

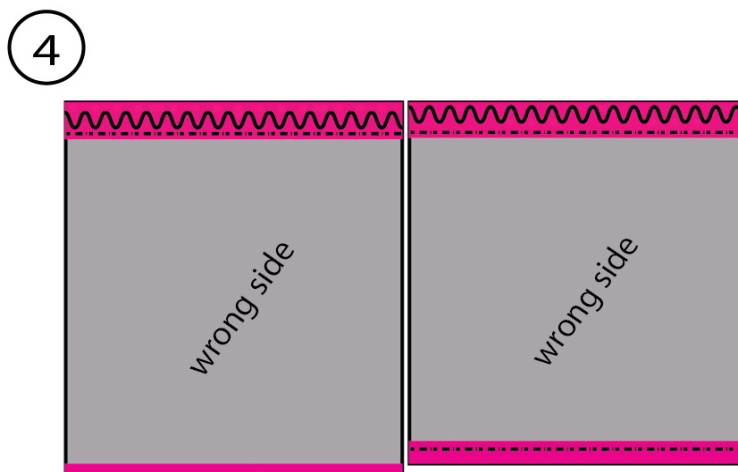


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Step Three: This next step is easier to think of if you think of the elastic being outside of the hem (it must be inside). Match up the raw ends of your elastic. Be sure that none of the elastic is twisting anywhere along the waistline. One 1/2" from the end from the top of the bottom. (Kelly suggests doing this several times.) Once you are done, press open your seams. Now, stitch both seam allowances in place so that the seam allowance is kept open. All of this is done while the elastic is fed through the waistline. It can be a bit tricky keeping the waistline fabric out of the way, but it is important that none of it gets caught in and sewn.

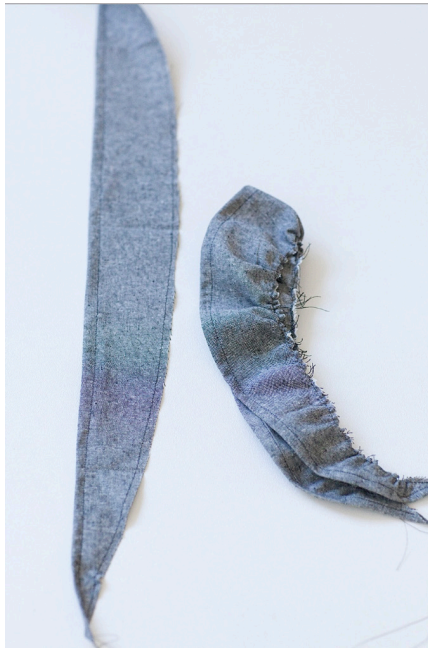


Step Four: Once you are done, let the elastic slide back into the waistline. This will make the fabric bunch. Topstitch your opening closed.



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Step Five: Hem the long straight edge of your skirt with a scant hem. Stitch a wide, loose gathering along the curved edge of your ruffle. Then, gather up to create the ruffle.



Step Six: To create your britches, with the wrong side up, press both long raw edges so that they meet in the center. Press very well and trim off an angle at the end. Fold over your raw ends and press well. Now fold the entire britch in half lengthwise so that the right side is now facing out. Press well down the entire length of the britch.

Step Seven: Slide the raw, gathered edge of your ruffle into the folded opening of your britch. Pin in place and continue past the ruffle to pin the opening shut. Stitch across the short end on one side. When you come close to the end, with your needle lowered, lift your foot and swivel the fabric so that you can now stitch down the long end. Lower your foot and stitch all the way across the long side. Again, stopping and swiveling when you get to the end.

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Step Eight: Lay your britches next to each other, both with the ruffles on the outside. This is now your right and left britch. Mark the front of each of the britches with a pin. Using your machine buttonhole maker and your two selected buttons, create three different buttonholes on the front bottom of your right and left britches. Using your seam ripper, carefully open the buttonholes.



Step Nine: Turn your skirt inside out. Top stitch your back right and left britches (the ends that do NOT have buttonholes) onto the skirt, 1 1/2" from the center back. You will want to do this at a slight angle so that the britches will crisscross when they are raised. With the skirt still inside out, attach two buttons on the inside of your skirt front, both at least 1 1/2" from the skirt front center.

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