

Making a Convertible Cosplay Skirt with Grommets

By Cheryl Sleboda of Sew Much Cosplay

Materials Needed:

- Skirt made from Simplicity pattern 8159 view A – stopped before putting in the stays
 - Dritz Grommet Pliers
 - Dritz Grommets in Antique Brass - Item #: 1-38
 - Ribbon at least 1 ½ inch wide
 - Ruler at least 12 inches wide
 - Dritz Water Erasable Marking Pen
1. Start by making your skirt as directed in the pattern and stopping before you put in the hardware. You will be putting in grommets instead.
 2. Determine the front of your skirt, and lay out on a table so the front panel is flat. Measure about 12 inches down from the waistline and 6 inches in from the seam on the side. Mark a small dot where the first grommet will go. Continue marking a dot every 2 inches down the side seam of the skirt.
 3. Do the same to the opposite side of the skirt. Double check that both lines of markings are fairly even with each other in relation to the dots. You don't want one line of grommets to be higher or lower than the other side.
 4. Using the grommet pliers with the punch attachment inserted, punch a hole over each dot. You may have to bunch the fabric up in the jaws of the pliers.
 5. Once your holes are punched on each side, change the attachment on your pliers to the grommet setting attachment.
 6. Place your grommet with the male side so that faces on the right side of the skirt. The female end, which the male end is formed over, should be on the back side of the skirt. Using the grommet pliers, squeeze to form the grommet. Try not to catch any fabric into the grommet, be sure it's smoothed out before you squeeze the pliers. Any fabric bunched inside will be hard to remove.
 7. Set each grommet using the pliers.
 8. Now it's time to sew in your ribbon. Using a matching thread to your fabric, cut a double length of ribbon that is about the same length as the line of grommets, plus 4 inches. Fold your ribbon in half so you have two long trails of ribbon. You need one set of these for each side.
 9. Turn your skirt inside out so you are sewing from the wrong side of the fabric. Place your folded edge of the ribbon about an inch above the first (top) grommet and sew it to the wrong side of the fabric. One single seam should hold the ribbon in place.
 10. Once you have both sides of ribbon sewn on, you can weave the ribbons in and out of the grommets. Once at the bottom, you just pull on the ribbons to scrunch out the fabric, and use the ribbons as ties. You can make the skirt any length you like using this method!

For more information and inspiration, visit

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