

It's Sew Easy – Series 800

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Adding a Crinoline Ruffle to a Skirt Lining

An easy way to add vintage-style fullness to a skirt or dress is to sew a crinoline ruffle to the bottom of the lining. Here I'm using a stiff tulle, which doesn't fray so the edges don't need to be finished. (The tulle gets sewn between the dress and the lining, so it won't scratch the wearer's legs or hosiery.) As an alternative, you may wish to use organdy or organza for your ruffle. In this case, you will need to finish the edges with a narrow hem or rolled serger hem.

1. Sew your skirt lining and hem as desired.
2. Measure the entire circumference of the skirt lining. Multiply this number by 2.5 to get the length of your ruffle.
3. Decide how deep you want your ruffle to be. About 7-9" is standard.
4. Cut strips of tulle to the desired width and length of your ruffle. You will most likely need to seam the strips together along the short ends to get your desired length. A French seam is an ideal finish.
5. Sew the tulle strips into a circle, using a French seam.
6. Using the longest stitch setting on your machine, sew a row of stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top of the tulle strip. Break your stitching and start again any time you come to a seam. Repeat this, stitching $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top edge this time.
7. Grasp the bobbin threads and pull the tulle to form gathers. Distribute the gathers evenly until they will fit along the bottom edge of the skirt lining.
8. Or, place a heavy-weight thread (topstitch thread or buttonhole thread) under the presser foot. Pull a long thread tail behind the presser foot and put the spool of thread in your lap.
9. Using a wide zig zag stitch, sew over the heavy-weight thread, being careful not to catch the heavy thread in the stitches. Leave an extra long thread tail at the end.
10. When finished stitching, anchor the heavy weight thread at one end with a pin or stitch over it.
11. Pull the heavy weight thread to draw up the tulle and gather it.
12. Pin the tulle in place so that the bottom raw edge matches the hemmed lower edge of the skirt lining. Pin in place, adjusting gathers as needed.
13. Stitch the tulle in place along the first row of gathering stitches.