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Charming
ORNAMENTS

Sizes

8-20

MASTERCLASS

Tips and tricks to
**sew sequins
perfectly!**



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Time to **SHINE**

Sew a glamorous stretch sequin midi skirt with elasticated waistband and be party ready, while still feeling comfy!

Project **FIONA HESFORD** Sewgirl



Shopping list

Find a gorgeous range of sequin fabric at www.croftmill.co.uk

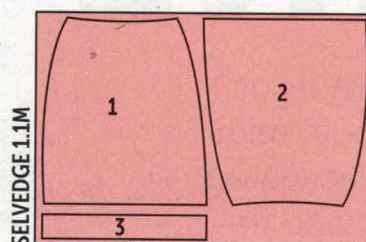


SIZING:

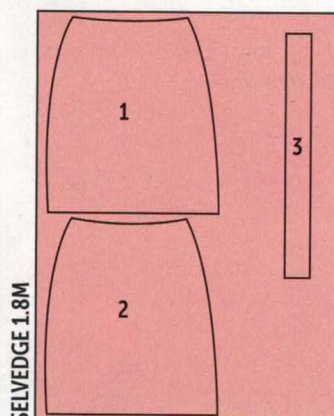
	8	10	12	14	16	18
WAIST	65cm	70cm	75cm	80cm	85cm	90cm
HIPS	89cm	94cm	99cm	104cm	109cm	114cm
FINISHED LENGTH	71cm	72cm	74cm	75cm	76cm	77cm
ELASTIC LENGTH	64cm	69cm	74cm	79cm	84cm	89cm

CUTTING:

52"-wide sequin & lining
(Sizes 8-12)



52"-wide sequin & lining
(Sizes 14-20)

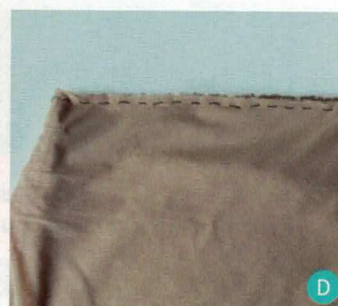


MATERIALS & TOOLS

- 52"-wide stretch sequin fabric: 1.1m (sizes 8-12) or 1.8m (sizes 14-20)
- 1m 162cm-wide net mesh 4-way stretch lining fabric
- 25mm-wide elastic cut to the corresponding length in the size chart above
- co-ordinating thread
- templates downloaded from www.lovesewingmag.co.uk

NOTES:

Insert an 80/12 needle in your machine and use a triple stretch stitch setting or a small zigzag stitch for construction
Use a jersey or ballpoint needle for the lining
Use a 1cm seam allowance unless otherwise instructed
Attach a walking foot to your machine if you have one to evenly feed the fabric under your machine



HOW TO MAKE:

1 Pin the front to back at the side seams. Sew in place and press seams open. (See Pic A.)

2 Trim 2cm off the length at lower edge of each lining piece.

3 Pin the front lining to back at the side seams. Sew in place and press seams open. (See Pic B.)

4 Finish the lower edge of lining with an overlocker, turn up a small hem or leave the raw edge unfinished.

5 Turn up the lower edge of sequin skirt with a 2cm single folded hem and hand stitch into place. (See Pic C.)

6 Pin the lining inside the sequin skirt WST, matching the raw waist edge and aligning the side seams. Tack-stitch by hand all around in contrast thread. (See Pic D.)

7 Sew together the sequin waistband at the short edges RST to make a 'ring'. Press seam open. Trim seam allowance to 5mm. (See Pic E.)

8 Pin one long edge of waistband to the upper waist edge with RST aligning the join with one side seam. Sew all around. Remove the tacking stitches. (See Pic F.)

9 Trim seam allowance to 5mm and press seam upwards.

10 Fold waistband in half WST and pin the upper edge to hold in place.

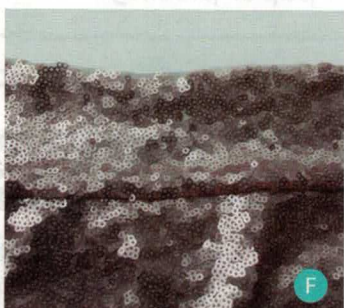
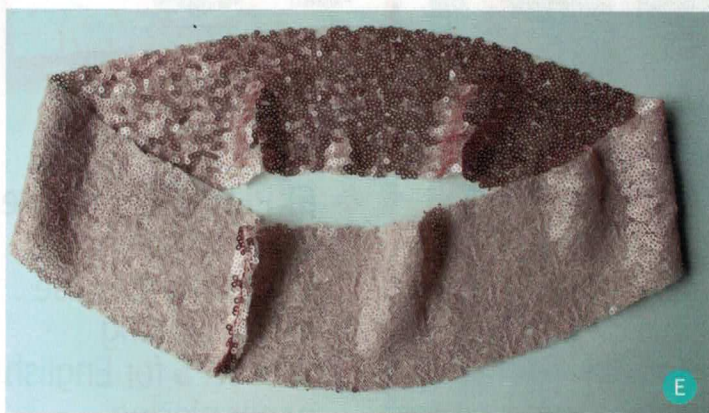
11 Turn under the 1cm seam allowance of the unsewn edge. Pin the folded edge so it sits over the previous line of stitching and encloses the seam allowance.

12 Hand-stitch, leaving 3cm open at one side.

13 Attach a safety pin or bodkin to the elastic and feed into waistband, keeping it flat. (See Pic G.)

14 Pull it out the other side. Join elastic ends with 1cm overlap, adjusting if necessary. Hand-sew the opening to finish.

Top tip
Sequins can melt easily so cover your sewing with a muslin cloth before pressing and set your iron for synthetics



MASTERCLASS SEQUINS

Here's our cheat's guide to constructing your sequin skirt with ease

1 **CUTTING** Use pattern weights and a fresh rotary blade to cut out, with the sequins facing down. Glasses are advisable to prevent renegade sequin shards from pinging into your eyes as you cut!

2 **FILLING** Save a scrap of sequin fabric so you have extra sequins ready to manually fill in any bald spots near the seam lines later on.

3 **MARKING** Mark out all seam lines with a hand basted running stitch in a contrasting thread. Then, with small pointy scissors or a seam ripper, remove all sequins that fall within the seam allowance. This will make for safer stitching and prevent bulky seams.

4 **BASTING** For precision, baste seams by hand before machine stitching. Run seams through your machine slowly and carefully to avoid breaking too many

needles! If you're feeling apprehensive, start by using your hand wheel to sew until you're ready to step on the pedal.

5 **SEWING** If you're working with stretch sequins, avoid the temptation to work on an overlocker – the needles will likely break and you could seriously damage the knife. A lot of unnecessary hassle! A regular zigzag stitch will work just fine.

6 **PRESSING** Remember that sequins are made of plastic and therefore liable to melt under high heat – turn your iron down and use a pressing cloth (ideally a piece of silk organza, but a scrap piece of cotton will do) to protect your sequins.

7 **WASHING** Never pre-wash sequins and dry-clean only! Treat your sequin garments with the same level of respect and perfectionism with which you sewed them.