

Ponte Skirt Venice



Venice with underskirt and ribbon cinch along the middle seam.

"Ponte" is Italian for „bridge“. The long strips of this skirt create „canals“ and the flounces are as ripples in water. At the beginning of the 20th Century, the casino proprietor Abbott Kinney gambled on „Venice of America“ resplendent with Renaissance buildings, canals and gondoliers on America’s west coast. Since then, Venice Beach has enjoyed a colorful history. Today, roller disco skaters, body builders, drummers, street musicians and all manner of free spirits congregate at Venice Beach. Despite gentification, Venice Beach remains an open-air museum for the Summer of Love, 1969. The unorthodox design of this skirt takes its name from this unorthodox town. Venice made with layers of flounces creates a beautiful, romantic garment. Therefore, I allude very respectfully, as did Mr. Kinney, to the most beautiful city in the world. VENICE may be sewn without flounces into a simple, yet uncommon basic piece. I recommend making a VENICE skirt with a simple underskirt (without strips) and an overskirt with flounces. Then add a ribbon cinch along the middle seam of the overskirt for an interesting effect.

Suggested Fabrics: Cotton percale, voile, batiste, lightweight denim, lightweight fine wale corduroy.

Before starting, please take measurements, especially the hip and hem length. Please note, the hem of VENICE is uneven. The design approximates a calf-length skirt.

Material Requirement

Size (Europe)	98/104		110/116		122/128		134/140		146/152		
Size (US)	3/4		5/6		7/8		9/10		11		
Waist	Finished	48 cm	19 in	50 cm	19 3/4 in	53 cm	21 in	56 cm	22 in	60 cm	23 3/4 in
Waist	pattern	67 cm	26 1/2 in	69 cm	27 1/4 in	72 cm	28 1/2 in	75 cm	29 1/2 in	79 cm	31 in
Length	side	37 cm	14 1/2 in	40 cm	15 3/4 in	46.5 cm	18 1/4 in	54 cm	21 1/4 in	61.5 cm	24 1/4 in
Fabric	55"	140 cm	1 3/4 yd	160 cm	1 3/4 yd	180 cm	2yd	200 cm	2 1/4 yd	220 cm	2 1/2 yd

Notions: Elastic, sewing thread, ribbon for cinch (optional)

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Please read through the instructions thoroughly before beginning. Please consult the online tutorial available from your retailer.

Piece List

Skirt Yoke	2x on fold
Uppermost strip below yoke	2x on fold
Middle strip	2x on fold
Lower strip	2x on fold
Flounce	6x or 8x if flounces to be included in yoke seam

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Cutting the Layout

Trace the pattern pieces and include a seam allowance (approx. 3/8"-5/8", less for searged seams or as you prefer). Please note that the pattern pieces **do not** include a seam allowance. Fold the fabric along the midline. Pin the pattern pieces to the fabric and cut with respect to the grain. To cut the flounces, you may stack 6 (or 8) appropriately-sized squares of material and cut them 3 or 4 at a time. You may use plates or bowls of appropriate sizes around which to cut the flounces, as well.

VENICE is constructed of two matching halves. Each of the Steps 3 through 9 are to be completed for both halves of the skirt.

Sewing VENICE

1. Lay all pieces in order. The halves of the VENICE skirt have a trapezoidal shape. Therefore, the shortest of the strips is the bottom piece. The longer edge of each strip is the upper edge.
2. Finish the outside edges of the flounces with a three-thread overedge rolled hem or method of your choice. Decide if you would like to have the short edges of the flounces tucked into the seam for a rounded finish, or if only the inside edge of the flounce should be inserted into the seam. If you choose the second option, please finish the short edges of the flounces in the same manner as the long edge.
3. Stitch flounces to the lower edges of each of the lower strips. Finish the seam with zigzag stitch or four-thread overedge stitch. Press the flounce in the seam upwards and topstitch.
4. Stitch flounces to the upper edges of the lower strips.
5. Stitch flounces to the upper edges of the middle strips.
6. Stitch flounces to the upper curved edge of the uppermost strip. The flounce will be somewhat long. Trim flounce after stitching
7. Stitch the lower strip+flounces pieces to the middle strip+flounce pieces. Finish the seams. Press the seams with the flounces up and topstitch.
8. Stitch the pieces created in Step 7 to the uppermost strip(+flounce) piece. Finish the seams. Press the seams with the flounces up and topstitch.
9. Stitch the yoke pieces to the pieces created in Step 8. Finish the seam. Press the seams, such that the flounces are up and topstitch.
10. Now, the two halves of the skirt are complete. Stitch the right and left halves together along the middle seams. Pin the two halves together, making certain the point of the yoke aligns. Beginning at the waist, you will stitch down the point of the yoke and along the uppermost edge of the uppermost strip. Finish the seam, press and topstitch.
 - If you have included a flounce in the curved yoke seam, these flounces will be inserted into these middle seams. Please line up the right and left halves of the yoke flounces where they meet in the middle seams. The middle seams in this case will not be topstitched.
11. Fold over the waist edge of the skirt to fit your elastic and press. Stitch a channel. Remember to leave a small opening for inserting the elastic.



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12. Insert the elastic and cinch to the desired fit. Stitch the edges of the elastic together with small zig-zag stitches and trim excess elastic. Tuck the elastic into the channel and close the small opening with straight stitch.
13. Hem the front and back straight edges of the skirt.
14. Put on your new skirt and enjoy the day!

Thank you for your purchase and for sewing VENICE.
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Design & Cover Pape: Nancy Langdon * Mother of Invention Inc. • Redondo Beach, CA • USA eMail: nancy_cest_moi@yahoo.com Pattern Drafting and Grading: Anja Müssig • Instructions: Nancy Langdon Distribution: Europa: Farbenmix • www.farbenmix.de

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