

Lace Embrace Skirt

Make this fast wrap style today and wear it tonight

Lace is easy to sew and in the height of fashion. This wrap skirt project has no side seams, simplifying and speeding up construction. The design also features the lovely scalloped edge found on many lace yardages. The selvage is at the hem and appliquéd along the wrap's edges. With curved front edges on the underlay and overlay, you don't need to sew any corners in this wrap skirt. It's also fully lined (try a contrast lining to play up the lace's motif), and a ribbon waistband/tie completes the look.

To make the skirt pattern, you'll drape muslin on your body or a dress form. The recommended fabric amounts are for skirts that fit up to 42-inch hips. For larger sizes, add 3 inches to the fabric length for each additional inch of hip circumference.

SARAH MCFARLAND is an associate editor at Threads.

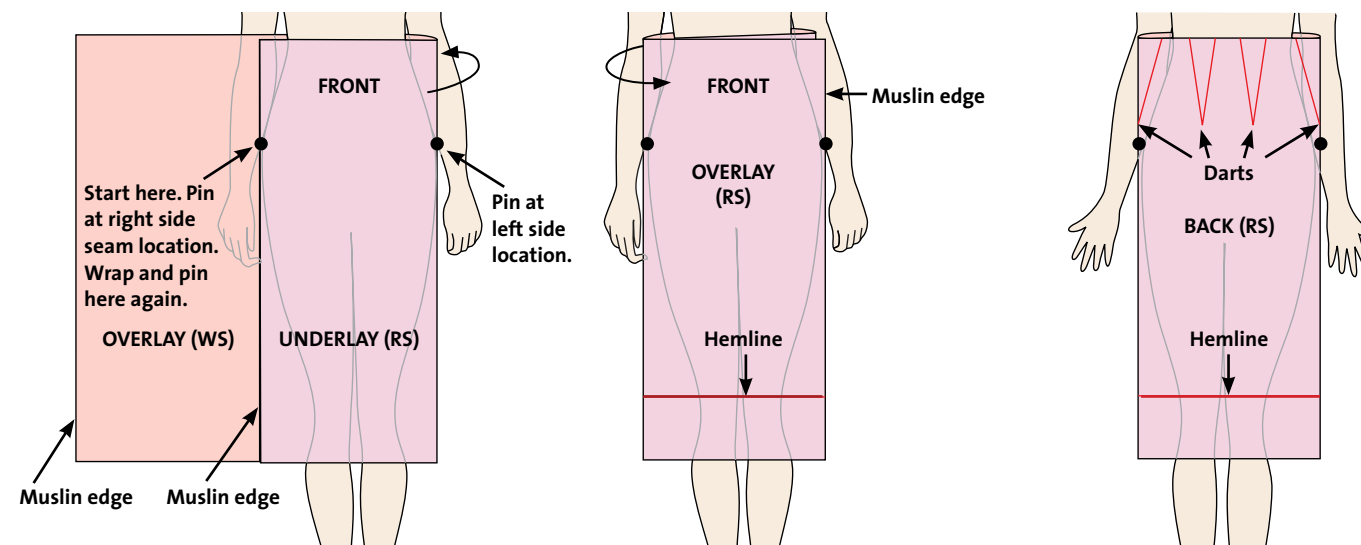
Drape and sew your own lace wrap skirt. This version is in floral-printed lace from MoodFabrics.com.

Supplies

- 2 yards 36-inch-wide muslin
- 2 yards, or more, 36-inch-wide lace, scalloped on both selvages
- 2 yards lining (Use silky fabric for a drapey skirt or cotton for a structured look.)
- 2 packages narrow, double-fold binding
- 3 yards 1-inch-wide satin ribbon

Make the skirt pattern

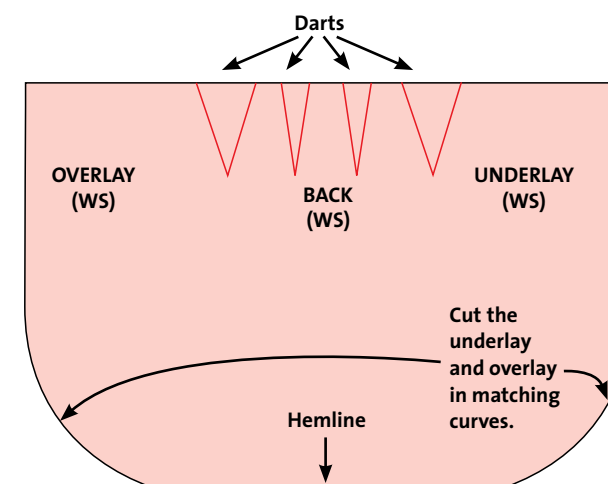
Drape the muslin to make a skirt pattern. This goes faster with a friend's help, so see if you can enlist someone to help you wrap and measure. Wear leggings you can pin into for the draping process. If you have a dress form that reflects your shape accurately, follow these steps to drape the skirt on it instead of your body.



1 WRAP THE MUSLIN AROUND YOUR HIPS. With the selvage at waist level and parallel to the floor, place the muslin's vertical edge along the line where a right side seam would sit on your body. Pin the muslin in place carefully at the level of your widest hip circumference. Wrap the muslin loosely across your abdomen. Keep the selvages parallel to the floor. Pin the muslin at the side seam location on your left hip. Wrap the muslin around your back and pin again on your right hip (just above the first pin).

2 PINCH OUT THE SKIRT DARTS. With a friend's help, fold out the excess waist fabric into four darts from waist to hip: one at each side, and two symmetrical darts about halfway between the sides and center back. Pin through the folds, close to the body. Adjust the folds until the waistline fits and the skirt falls to your hips without puckering. Trace the crease on both sides of each fold.

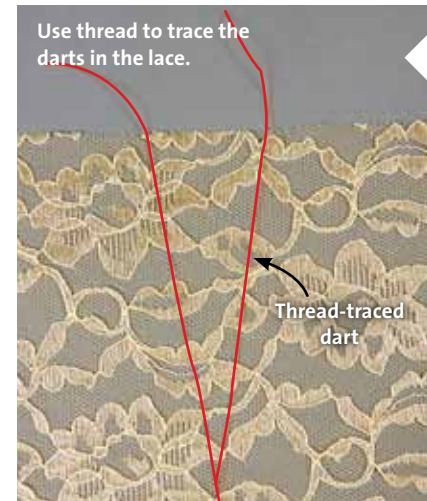
3 REMOVE THE MUSLIN, AND COMPLETE THE SKIRT PATTERN. Trim the muslin at the hemline mark, parallel to the selvage and the waistline. Shape the overlay and the underlay corners into matching curves with a fashion ruler. If you don't have a fashion ruler, try tracing the edge of a large round platter or pizza pan.



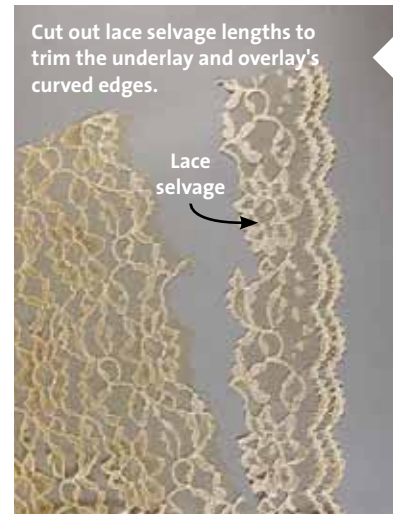
Construct the skirt

First cut the lining and lace, using the muslin as the pattern. These instructions use binding to edge the lining, so it does not require a hem allowance. The pattern also doesn't include side seams, so the construction phase is swift.

Cut the layers



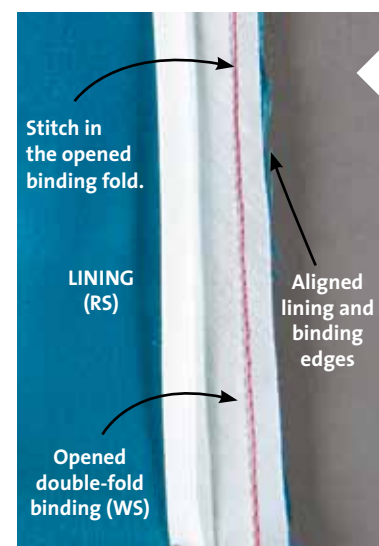
1 CUT THE LACE, AND THREAD-TRACE THE LACE DARTS. The lace hangs slightly below the lining on the finished skirt, so align the muslin on the lace with a scalloped selvage $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 1 inch beyond the muslin's hem edge. Cut the lining along the muslin's edge. Mark the darts on it with an air-soluble fabric marker.



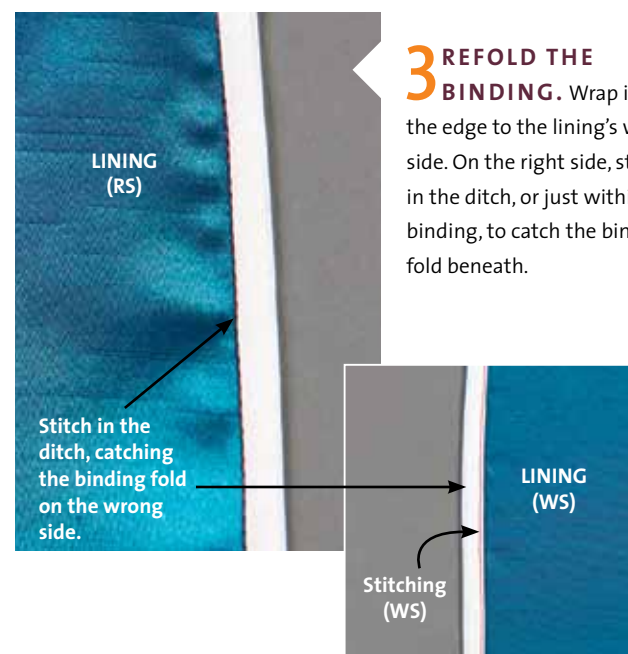
2 CUT THE LACE OVERLAY EDGING. The lace overlay's curved edge is trimmed with appliquéd scalloped selvage cut from the opposite selvage on the lace yardage. Cut a generous length and width—you can trim the edging after matching the motifs and stitching it in place.

Sew the lining

1 FOLD THE LINING DARTS RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER. Sew the darts, stitching from the waistline to the points. Press the darts toward center back.



2 BIND THE LINING'S HEM AND CURVED EDGES. The double-fold binding has one side that is slightly narrower; open the binding along this fold. With right sides together and starting at the waistline, align the binding's raw edge to the lining's. With the binding on top, stitch in the fold.



3 REFOLD THE BINDING. Wrap it over the edge to the lining's wrong side. On the right side, stitch in the ditch, or just within the binding, to catch the binding fold beneath.

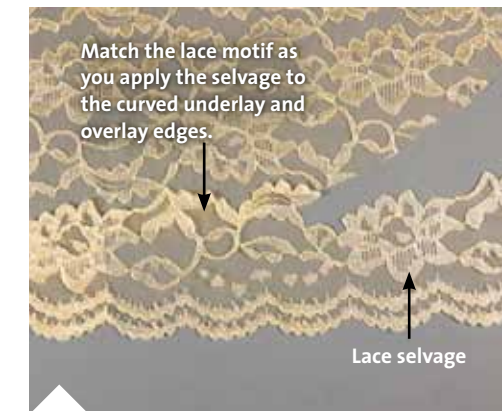
tip TEST YOUR LACE

Test-sew your lace to see if it requires a stabilizer. If the lace is very open and/or soft and pulls down into the needle plate, try Stitch & Ditch Stabilizer by ThreadPro. It comes in 3-inch-wide rolls. Just place a length between the lace and the feed dogs, stitch, and tear away the stabilizer later.

Sew the lace

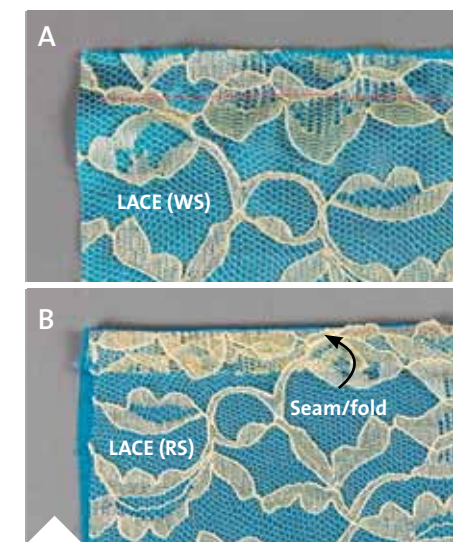


1 LAP AND SEW THE DARTS IN THE LACE. Cut the lace darts at center, from the waistline to the point. With the top layer moving toward center back, overlap the dart sides until the thread tracings align. Stitch each lapped dart from waistline to point with a narrow zigzag. Use stabilizer to manage the lace, if necessary. Trim the excess lace, and remove the thread tracings. Staystitch $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the waistline.

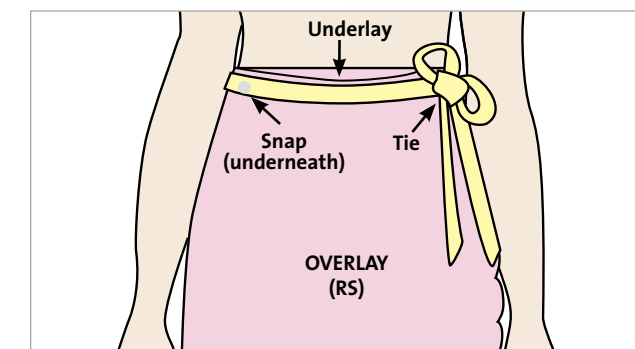


2 CAREFULLY ALIGN AND TRIM THE SCALLOPED LACE SELVAGE TO FIT THE OVERLAY'S EDGE. Use a narrow zigzag to stitch the trim to the overlay's edge, keeping the motif matched and intact as much as possible.

Put the skirt layers together



1 LAYER THE LINING AND THE LACE RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER. Align the layers at the waistline. The lace layer should be slightly longer at the hem and overlay edges. Pin, then stitch together with a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance (A). Flip the lace and lining right sides out. Press along the waistline seam (B).



2 STITCH THE WAISTBAND RIBBON TO THE SKIRT. Leave a yard of ribbon loose (to tie), then align the ribbon just within to the waistline seam/edge on the overlay's right side. Stitch through the ribbon and skirt very close to the edge. Stop stitching at the left side dart. Don't cut the ribbon, but pivot with the needle down and stitch back to the overlay edge, along the ribbon's other edge. Tie and trim the ribbon ends.

3 ADD A BUTTON OR SNAP. Place it at the right side of the waistband to connect the underlay and overlay. For security, add a snap at the right side, too, beneath the overlay where it is tied to the skirt back.



Highlight a delicate lace with contrast lining.

PHOTOS: SLOAN HOWARD, STYLIST: JESSICA SAAL, ILLUSTRATIONS: EMILY BRONSON, STYLING CREDITS: (P. 28) TOP—(MADEWELL.COM); (P. 31) TOP—(MADEWELL.COM), SWEATER—(TARGET.COM), NECKLACE AND GLASSES—(ANTHROPOLOGIE.COM), SHOES—(STEVE MADDEN (MACYS.COM))