

Flounces/Circular Ruffles

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Londa's Creative Threads
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Flounces or 'circular' ruffles are all based on the same mathematic principle and are SO very easy - especially using today's knit fabrics that everyone loves to wear as the edges need not have any hem or finish. Londa shows how simple it is to draft a flounce for anywhere on a garment, and how to style and apply it with ease.

Showcase of garments featuring flounces

At hems, down fronts, finishing jackets, covering entire bodices...to circular skirts, flounces abound and are known as the 'big girl's ruffle' as they are very flattering to every body type.

Math Simplified

Measure the location of a flounce attachment to a garment or on the body. Subtract 1" and divide by 6. Round to a common sewing fraction. It is THAT easy!

Londa shows that you come up with the same measurement for the inside radius of the 'circle' or 'donut' that creates a flounce.

Divide measurements that are excessive as there will not be any 'ripple' to VERY large inner circumference measurements. Example shown: on a jacket: back neck measurement = 1 flounce which is seamed at the shoulders to an additional flounce for each shoulder to hem edge at the fronts of the jacket.

To draft a flounce to be placed down the center front of a Knit Top.....

1. 16" long at center front less 1" = 15" divided by 6 = 2.5". This is the radius of the center of the circle.
2. Fold a large piece of tissue paper into fourths. From center of folded edges, measure and mark out 2.5". Connect the marks.
3. Decide on width of the flounce desired. Be sure to cut wider than desired as it can always be cut smaller. Measure that amount out from the marks just made. Example: 2.5" wide. Connect and draw the outer arc.
3. A seam allowance is needed in order to attach it to the garment, so measure back towards the center fold point the desired seam allowance (.5").
4. Cut along innermost arc and outermost arc and open - see the circle or 'tire'.
5. It is important to always intersect the folds of the tissue at right angles for the last 1/4" in order to not have points on the pattern. Example is shown.

6. Stay stitch at seam line determined (1/2") from the inner arc. Slash through 'tire' from outer to inner circles along a straight grain. Clip into stay stitching to allow the circle to straighten for attachment to the garment.

7. Pin right side of flounce down to center front of garment. Stitch through both layers along stay stitching. Trim very close.

8. Flip the flounce over into place and topstitch to enclose scant seam allowance.

9. Optional: shape edges of flounce. Londa shows tops with edges shaped - or not.

10. Knits need no outer edge treatment other than clean rotary cutting. Woven fabrics require outer edge finishing to prevent raveling. Londa shows lined flounces and a narrow hemming technique if time allows.

11. If time allows, a child's full circular skirt is shown including how to slash the 'tire' and decrease fullness if desired.

Materials:

Easel paper and marker for math

Tissue paper for pattern creation

Measuring tools

Cutting tools

Regular sewing thread, etc.

['Flirty Flounces'](#) is Londa's creative pattern featuring several variations of this basic technique that has been used to create the garments shown.



