

# Skirt Block Fitting Checklist

Work through the steps in order - one at a time....

Remember: A block has no design and will look... block-y.  
Don't worry if it is not your style. It isn't a skirt... yet!

Review your Block-Fit Goals in "Intro to Block Mockup Fitting" and then use this worksheet as a rough guide to take things slowly and one step at a time.

## #1 Cylinder

**A skirt block with a well-fitting Cylinder will:**

...encircle the body's fullest circumference while skimming the most protruding parts and allowing the fabric to fall straight down perpendicular to the floor.

If the fabric follows the body underneath your belly, bum, or hips...  
or if there's way too much fabric in the circumference below your fullest areas...  
*double check your cylinder circumference.* The cylinder determines the volume of the draft and the amount of fabric included in the block. Many of the other measurements and fitting steps depend on your cylinder being correct first.

## #2 Knee and Hip Lines

**A skirt block with a well-fitting Knee and Hip Lines will:**

...show the thread marked Hip Line parallel to the floor in the "hipline zone". The hem will also be parallel to the floor at the middle of the knee.

If your hem and hip are tilting, exploring new lengths from Waist-to-Hip could help level things out. You may need to release some of your darts or other bits of the current waistline shaping to achieve this.

If your hem isn't matching your knee or your hip line isn't in the "zone", first make sure the current waist isn't holding or shifting it somewhere other than intended.



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### #3 Vertical Seams

#### **A skirt block with well-fitting Vertical Seams will:**

...have a Center Front seam in the center front of the body, a Center Back seam at the spine, and Side Seams that divide the body's back and front (often pointing toward the front of the ankle). Each seam is straight and perpendicular to the floor.

If your Vertical seams are tipping make sure to double check #2. If they are wavy, experiment with adjusting the darts or side seams near the areas that aren't straight. If not in the right place, you may want to get them straight and fitting well first- then play with placement.

### #4 Waistline Edge

#### **A skirt block with a well-fitting Waistline Edge will:**

...follow the body's natural waistline with a smooth pleasing curve.

After the previous steps look good, experiment with a new-and-improved waistline edge that matches your body. Adding your waistline elastic could offer guidance.

### #5 Darts

#### **A skirt block with a well-fitting Darts will:**

...have dart intakes (including the Side Seam "dart") that match the body's shaping and circumference at the waist before smoothly blending into the fullest area of the body. The waistline should feel anchored, but not uncomfortably snug.

If your waist-fit is too loose or tight or the darts seem to be fitting oddly, adjust the intakes while keeping in mind where your body has/needs shaping. Comparing your draft to your photo drawings can help with ideas for redistributing your intakes and creating better-fitting darts.

If the waist fit seems okay but the ends are drawing attention to themselves, first double-check your sewing and pressing. Then refer back to your photo drawings to help experiment with shortening, lengthening, or dividing them to better match



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your body. A dart that has a smaller intake compared to its length will follow the body's contours more smoothly and invisibly than one that is short and wide.

## #6 Wrinkles

### **A well-fitting skirt block will:**

...have an absence of obvious wrinkles.

If you've got wrinkles, use critical thinking to release any areas of tension or pick up any excess fabric - without obsessing. Often the wrinkles will point to the areas you will want to release or pick up.

## General Tips:

**Not sure where to adjust?** The Side Seams are a great place to experiment.

**Don't know what to do?** Get started by giving something (*anything!*) a try! You can go right back to your original lines, if you don't like the results. Each experiment will teach you something that may lead you to your next experiment... and your next....

**Custom sewing is a trial and error process.** You will not be successful if you are so afraid of the error that you never start the trial. Just like you wouldn't expect to publish the first draft of a book without doing some editing first, do not expect the first draft of your block to work without doing some work first.

**Ask questions!** I love nerding out on fitting puzzles! If your trial and error experiments aren't getting you where you want to be, send me your work and your photos and call for backup. I'm here to help!



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