

Cylinder Measuring Guide

for creating your custom skirt block

Though it will make more sense later, we will use the cylinder circumference measurement to set the volume of the draft, how much fabric is included in it, and many of the drafting steps are going to depend on this blocky framework.

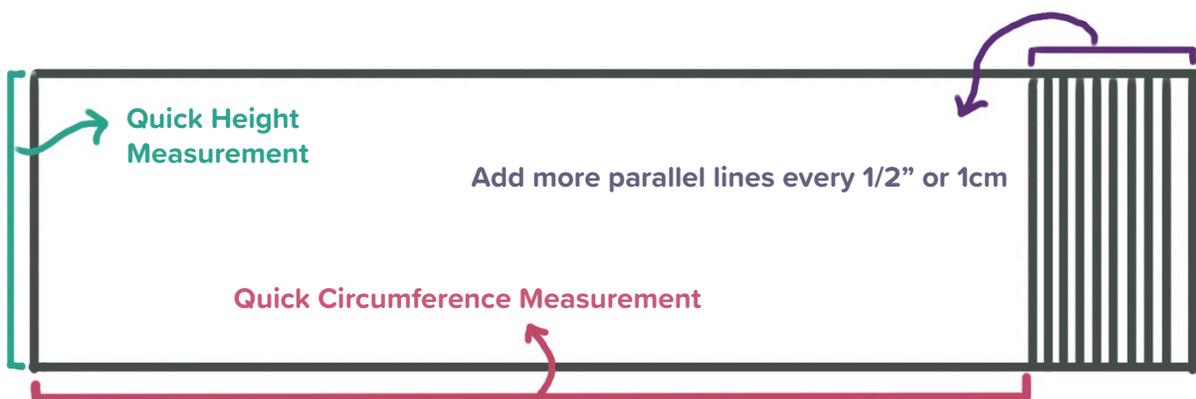
So since this measurement is kinda important, consider taking your time and having fun with this lesson.

Tips for How to Make the Cylinder Measuring Tool:

First you'll take two rough measurements to determine the size to make your tool.

Quick Circumference Measurement: While keeping the tape measure parallel to the floor, roughly measure around your lower body including the fullest part of your backside. It's okay if your belly or your thighs are fuller higher or lower than your tape.

Quick Height Measurement: Roughly measure from the inside of your elbow to your fingertips.



Add additional parallel lines every 1/2" or 1cm beyond your Quick Circumference.

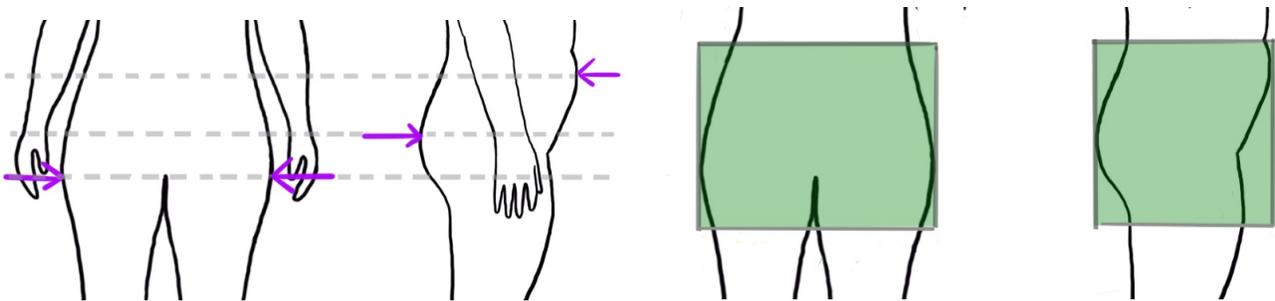
Tips for How to Find your Cylinder Circumference Measurement:

1) Turn your custom rectangle into a cylinder shape with a few paper clips on each edge. Adjust the cut edge to match up with your original line with the additional lines hiding underneath.

2) In front of a mirror, over your close fitting clothing (or just your undies), step into the tool and shimmy it straight up your lower body. Try to keep the paper tool's top and bottom cut edges parallel to the floor and the paper cylinder walls perpendicular.

As you pull the paper cylinder up to the level of the belly button, you may find that it is too tight and wants to shift open. Do some slight adjustments to slide the cylinder open and line your cut edge up with another parallel line that fits better.

Though this is not a perfect experiment, and the paper will likely be too wiggly for you to keep straight on the body, your goal is to wear your cylinder tool like a rectangle drawn around your lower body- that skims the fullest parts of your body's front, back, and sides all at the same time.



Example: Brooks Ann's Goals

Consider drawing a rectangle on your silhouette to see your goals.

Stiffer paper can offer accurate results more easily. **Awkward uncertainty is to be expected.** In the video, you'll see how I never got my paper to look exactly like my goal rectangle, but I still found my measurement.

3) Measure the new (possibly larger) circumference of the paper tool as your best guess for your Cylinder Circumference.

General Cylinder Measuring Tips:

- You are looking for a neutral Goldilocks fit. Not too tight / not too loose.
- If the tool stays up on your body hands-free, you likely have *not* found your Cylinder Circumference yet.
- If the tool is tipping or splaying open, you likely have *not* found your Cylinder Circumference yet.
- The paper is going to be wiggly. This is an imperfect experiment. Do your best, embrace the awkward, and give it your best guess. We'll be able to fine-tune and improve on the original info in the future.
- Stiffer paper helps. Double up layers to make your paper cylinder thicker for more accurate results.
- After you have a good guess, consider removing the paper clips and taping your tool to match your new measurement. Another try-on might offer clues for improvement or the confidence to move forward.
- The nearest 1/2" or cm is perfect. Resist the urge to get more specific.
- Err on the side of too roomy over too tight.

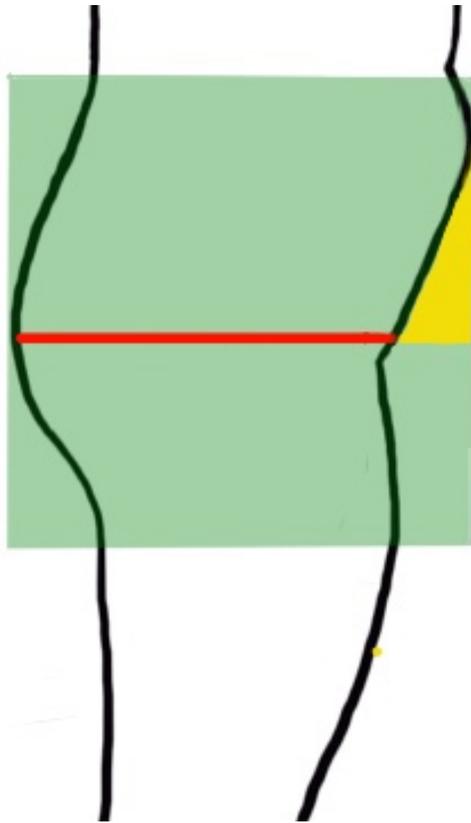
What does this accomplish?

Without getting too far ahead of ourselves, we will use the Cylinder Circumference to determine the volume of the skirt block. This will allow the grain of the fabric to work in harmony with gravity while creating a neutral versatile blocky fit.

We want our fabric fit around the volume of *our body* (not just our "hips"), which often can't be measured with a traditional measuring tape.

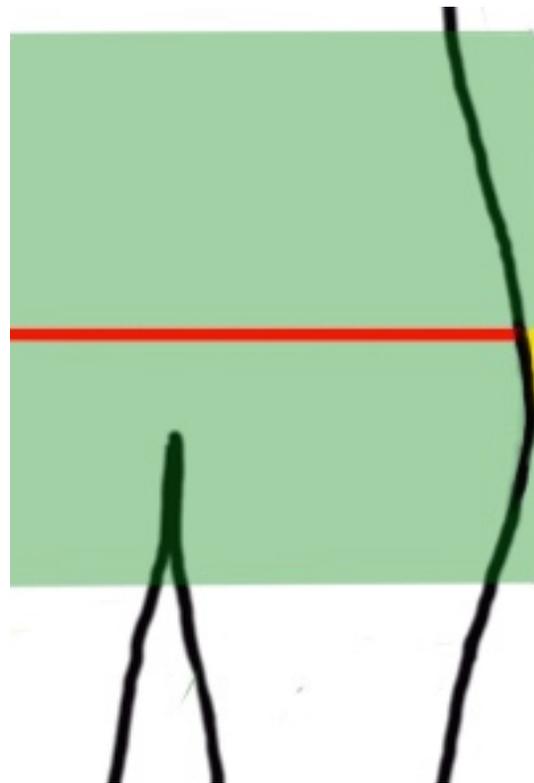
Why did it grow?

On me, the thin red line is where I placed the measuring tape around my bum. The Cylinder Circumference also accounts for the areas highlighted in yellow- which are fuller than where I placed the original measuring tape.



Since my belly sticks out over my pelvis, I need more volume in the front.

Since my sides are fullest below my bum, I also need a little more volume for my sides.



If your body's shaping is also fuller higher and/or lower than where you were able to place the tape for the Quick Circumference measurement, you will likely love wearing skirts based on your Cylinder Circumference.

Hope this helps get you closer to your goals!