

Dirndl Skirt Kitchen Towel

The gathered skirts and rickrack trim of this flouncy kitchen towel will make you want to dance. Made from thirsty layers of textured cotton, this cook's companion works hard, plays hard and then works again. Cue the polka music!

Finished Size

11 x 19 inches

Materials

- 1 fat quarter or ¼ yard each red floral and orange print
- ½ yard monk's cloth
- Coordinating thread
- 2 (4-inch) pieces hook-and-loop sticky-back tape
- ¼-inch-wide basting tape
- 1 package each coordinating ½-inch-wide and 1½-inch-wide rickrack
- 2 flat buttons each 1 inch and ½ inch in diameter
- Basic sewing supplies and equipment

Fabric Choices

Substitute any of these utility fabrics for monk's cloth:

- Waffle weave
- Huck toweling
- Terry cloth*
- Diaper cloth

**Terry cloth comes in a wide variety of colors that can be coordinated with your print.*

Cutting

From red floral:

- Cut 1 each Top Tab and Bottom Tab using patterns provided on pages 35 and 36. Transfer all markings to fabric.

From orange print:

- For lining, cut 1 each Top Tab and Bottom Tab using patterns provided on pages 35 and 36. Transfer all markings to fabric.

From monk's cloth:

- Cut 1 (16 x 20-inch) rectangle for towel bottom layer.
- Cut 1 (12 x 20-inch) rectangle for towel top layer.
- **Note:** Because monk's cloth is a very loose weave, finish all raw edges with zigzag stitches to prevent fraying during construction.

Sewing Techniques*

Machine stitching:

Straight stitching
Topstitching
Gathering
Edgestitching
Zigzag stitching
Double-turned hem

Hand stitching:

Slip stitch

*Refer to *The Basics of Sewing* on page 3.



Assembly

Use a ½-inch seam allowance and stitch right sides together unless otherwise indicated.

1. Apply hook-and-loop tape pieces to Top Tab lining where marked. Topstitch around all four sides of both hook-and-loop tape pieces to secure.



2. Stitch Top Tab and Top Tab lining together leaving the straight edge open. Repeat with the Bottom Tab and Bottom Tab lining (Figure 1). Trim corners at an angle to reduce bulk (Figure 2).

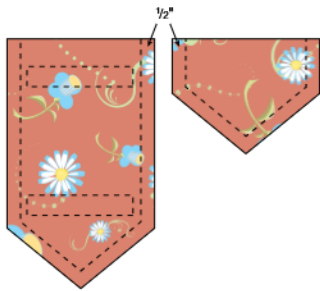


Figure 1

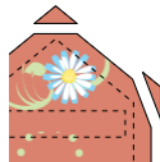


Figure 2

3. Turn tabs right side out, gently pushing out corners, and press edges flat. Turn the open ends of the tabs to inside ½ inch and press flat.
4. Center large button on right side of Top Tab at marked point. Place small button on top of large button and stitch through both buttons and Top Tab to secure.

Time-Saver Tip

Eliminate cutting and hemming fabric for the towel by substituting a plain white cotton tea towel. Use the width of the tea towel and simply cut two lengths: 14½ inches and 11½ inches.



5. Stitch ¼-inch double-turned hems in one long side and both short ends of both monk's cloth rectangles referring to Sewing Techniques, Double-Turned Hems on page 10 in *The Basics of Sewing*.

6. Position and pin ½-inch rickrack on towel top layer, just above the 20-inch side hem stitching. Stitch through the middle of the rickrack to secure (Figure 3a). **Note:** Instead of using pins, apply basting tape to wrong side of rickrack and then position on towel edge.

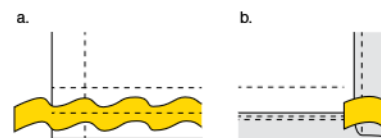


Figure 3

7. Turn ends of rickrack to wrong side and hand-stitch to towel hems using a slip stitch (Figure 3b).

8. Position and pin 1½-inch-wide rickrack on towel bottom layer, centering it over the 20-inch side hem stitching. *Note: The rickrack will show below the hemmed edge.*

9. Edgestitch along the top edge of the rickrack (Figure 4). Turn ends of rickrack to wrong side and hand-stitch to towel hems using a slip stitch, referring to Figure 3b.

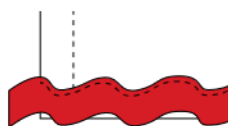


Figure 4

10. Pin-mark 2 inches in from each side and gather the remaining long edge of one towel rectangle between the pins to approximately 10½ inches referring to Gathering Edges on page 35. Repeat for the second rectangle.

11. Layer and pin together top and bottom layers with right sides up and matching raw edges. Fold towel sides inward to wrong side until top raw edge measure 4⅜ inches wide (Figure 5). Hand- or machine-baste all layers together.

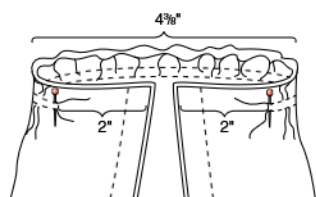


Figure 5

General Tip

This Dirndl Skirt Kitchen Towel can easily move around the room with you. Attach and reattach to knobs or handles with the help of sturdy hook-and-loop strips.

12. Layer Bottom Tab orange print side against towel top layer side matching raw edges, and stitch (Figure 6).



Figure 6

Stitch Technique Tip

To stitch a seam that is thick, like the towel Top and Bottom Tabs, lengthen the stitches. Raise the presser foot, position the beginning of the seam under the needle and lower the needle.

Fold a scrap of fabric the same thickness as the seam and place the folded scrap behind the seam beginning. Lower the presser foot and begin stitching, holding out the thread tails.

13. Insert and pin the towel unit into the pressed opening of the Top Tab. Cover the towel seams with the Top Tab opening edges with hook-and-loop-tape side facing the Bottom Tab, referring to Figure 7. Hand-stitch Top Tab to towel top using a slip stitch to complete. ■



Figure 7

Gathering Edges

- Set stitch length at the longest length available on your machine. Thread machine with contrasting-color thread in needle and bobbin.
- Referring to Figure A, sew two rows of gathering stitches at $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from fabric edge to be gathered, leaving long thread tails at both ends. Start and stop gathering stitches at least the width of the seam allowance from the edges.

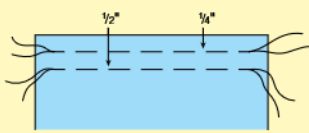


Figure A

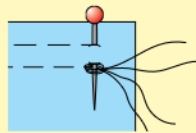


Figure B

- Place a pin at the fabric right-hand edge. Wrap the gathering thread tails around the pin (Figure B).

- Gather the fabric by pulling on the bobbin threads on left-hand side. As the fabric gathers, slide it along the top threads toward the pin (Figure C).

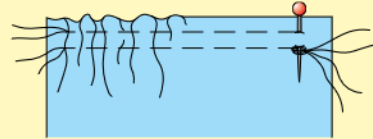
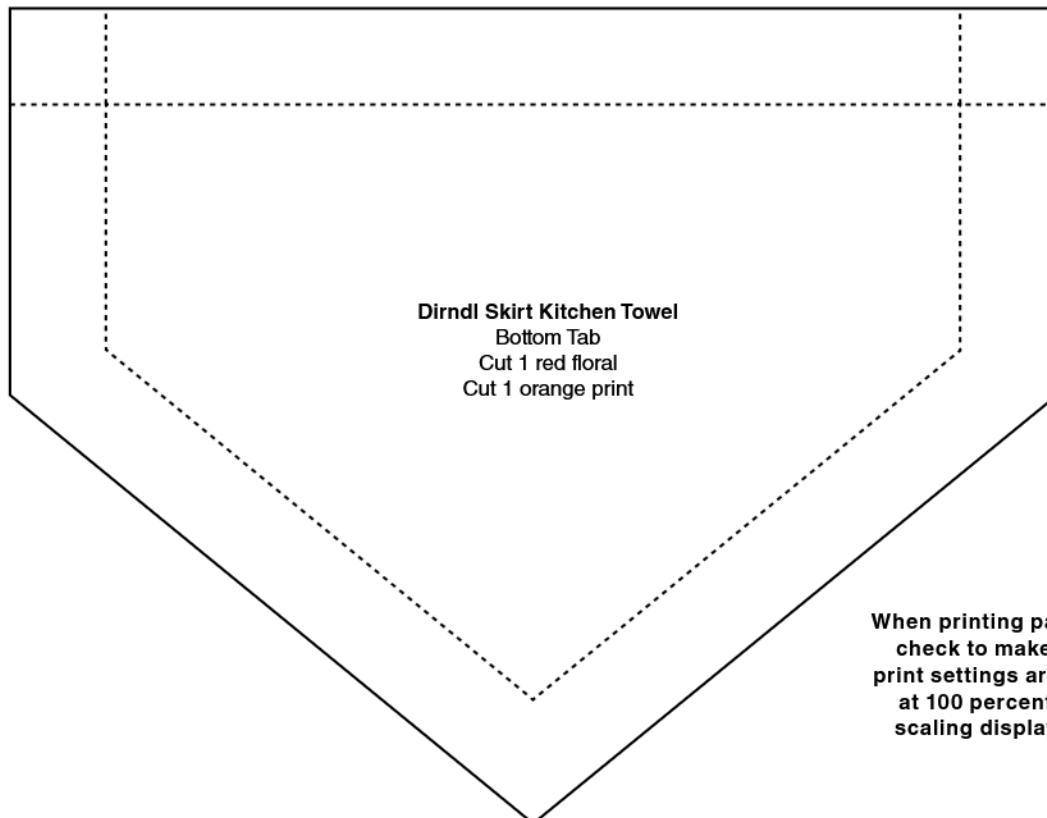
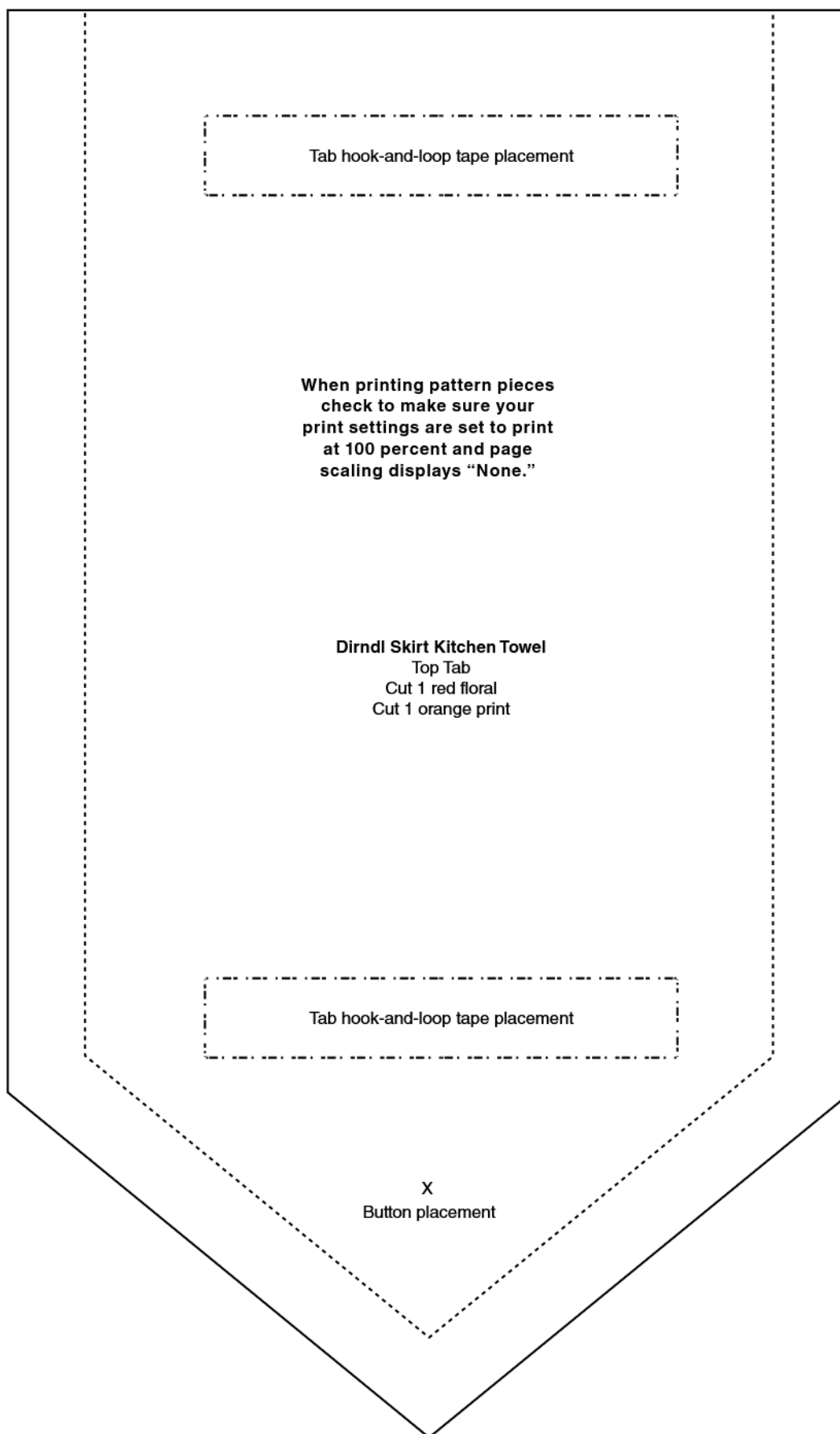


Figure C

- Continue gathering the fabric until it is the required length. Insert a second pin at the seam allowance on the left-hand fabric edge and wrap the threads around this pin to secure.
- Distribute the gathers evenly between the pins. Tie the top and bobbin threads into knots and remove the pins; trim thread tails.
- When construction is completed, remove gathering threads.



When printing pattern pieces check to make sure your print settings are set to print at 100 percent and page scaling displays "None."



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