

**ITEM # 291**  
**Woman's Prairie Skirt Kit**

**WOMAN'S PRAIRIE SKIRT**  
**61<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION®**  
**SPOKANE, WASHINGTON**  
**JUNE 27-30, 2012**

The women's skirt design was initially created by Beth Barnes, who is known for "Creations by Beth", and a seamstress and creator of square dance outfits from Spokane, Washington. Beth chose to feature a popular square dance design often referred to as the star or pinwheel skirt. Beth added rows of bias tape to this skirt for a unique creation for our "Circulate in Washington State" design for the 61<sup>st</sup> National Square Dance Convention® in June 2012. When the skirt was seen by Bonnie Harry of "Petticoat Junction Dance Shop", Bonnie suggested adding a touch of black to the outfit. Everyone was impressed with the overall pizzazz that the black added to the skirt design and the sense of excitement that the third color added to the outfit. The skirt features eight gores in alternating red and white colors, accented by bias tape stripes in red, white and black. The hemline is finished in red piping. The skirt can be made in either traditional square dance length or in prairie skirt length. Dancers can choose to accent the skirt with blouses and petticoats in red, white or black. Dance partners can choose to wear the matching 61<sup>st</sup> NSDC Men's Shirt, or they can choose a solid colored red, white, or black shirt of their choice.

**WOMEN'S SQUARE DANCE SKIRT KIT CONTAINS:**

- 3 ½ yards red fabric Ultima Poplin 65% polyester/35% cotton (Robert Kaufman Fabrics)
- 3 ½ yards white fabric Ultima Poplin 65 % polyester/35% cotton
- \*10 yards single fold ½ inch black bias tape      \*These amounts will complete a skirt with finished gore
- \*5 yards single fold ½ inch red bias tape      measurements up to waist of 6 1/8 inch, hemline 27 inch.
- \*5 yards single fold ½ inch white bias tape
- \*6 yards red piping to finish hemline

**ITEMS TO BE ADDED BY PURCHASER TO KIT:**

- Eight gore skirt pattern in desired length
- Matching thread in red, black, and white
- Elastic, desired width and length

**FABRIC PREPARATION:**

- Pre-treat fabric by washing the colors individually in warm/hot water and detergent. It is important to remove excess dye and sizing that is on the fabric.
- Observe the rinse water to be sure it is clear. If not, wash again.
- Bias tape and piping should be soaked in hot water, towel blotted and air dried. Press folds back into the tape. Repeat soaking process, if rinse water is not clear.

**ADAPTING THE PATTERN:**

- Choose your favorite 8 gore skirt pattern in the correct length.
- Trace a new copy of this gore pattern.
- Lay the new pattern on a flat surface. Mark the center point of the left side (as you look at the pattern); draw a diagonal line from this mark to a point on the opposite side 2 ½ inches above the hemline on the right side of the gore.
- Label the two pieces top gore and bottom gore.

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- Cut the gore into two pieces on the diagonal line. Add ½ inch seam allowance to each side before cutting out fabric.

#### **LAYING THE PATTERN PIECES ON FABRIC:**

- When cutting, consider the pattern pieces with writing to be the right side of garment.
- Red fabric, cut 4 each of upper gore and lower gore, waistband to your preferred width and style
- White fabric, cut 4 each of upper gore and lower gore

#### **STEPS IN MAKING WOMEN'S SKIRT:**

- **Bias Tape Lines:** Draw three lines on top gore. Begin 1 ½ inches from cut diagonal edge of upper gore fabric, then 1 ½ inches apart, for two additional lines. This can be done with fabric marker or pencil. The line will be under the bias tape edge, and will not show.
- **Black Bias Tape:** Line up the left side of black bias tape edge on the first marked line, next to the diagonal edge of the upper gore fabric. Then top stitch each side. Repeat for the other outside line marked for bias tape. Sew both edges from same side seam on all eight gores. Recommend sewing all pieces of black bias tape at same time, being sure that you have all gores laying in the same direction and sewing from the same side seam. Press.
- **White Bias Tape:** Line up the left side of the white bias tape on the red upper gore center line, nearest to the diagonal edge of the upper gore fabric. Stitch both edges, sewing from same side seam on all four red gores. Press.
- **Red Bias Tape:** Line up the left side of the red bias tape on the white upper gore center line, nearest to the diagonal edge of the upper gore fabric. Stitch both edges, sewing from same side seam on all four white gores. Press.
- **Top & Bottom Gores Together:** Sew upper and lower gore pieces together. Stitch edges together by zigzag or serger. Press seams down.
- **Side Seams:** Join gores together, alternating colors, i.e., red and white at hemline. Stitch in direction of hemline to waist. Stitch edges together by zigzag or serger. Press seams.
- **Piping/Hem:** Use cording or zipper foot to stitch piping to hemline. Finish edges by zigzag or serger. Press. Turn and topstitch close to piping, from right side.
- **Apply waistband:** Use technique and elastic width that you are most comfortable wearing. Insert elastic into waistband.

These instructions developed by Colleen Sawyer & Janet Bellcoff. Either one may be contacted through the 61<sup>st</sup> NSDC website: [www.61nsdc.com](http://www.61nsdc.com)

More detailed instructions, with variations of the original skirt are available at: [www.squaredancesewing.com](http://www.squaredancesewing.com) under "2012 Women's Skirt".