The Kangaroo Pocket Skirt

A simple skirt tutorial with contrast hem band and kangaroo pocket

By Darci Barnhart
You will need:

- Fabric:
  - Main: 13 ½” x WOF
  - Hem band: 4 ½” x WOF
  - Pocket: at least 6” x 11”

- Pocket pattern

- Notions: thread, 7/8” elastic

- Supplies: scissors/rotary cutter, tape measure, pins, iron

- Finished skirt length approx 14”

- ¼” Seam allowances unless otherwise noted
1. Lay hem band on top of main fabric, lining up the folded edge. Trim off selvages. I do it this way to ensure that both fabrics are the same width.
2. Finish all edges of the pocket. Use the overcast stitch if your machine has one. Otherwise a zig zag stitch or a serger will do. Turn back all edges 3/8” and press. In this order, do the sides, top/bottom and then the pocket opening.

3. Topstitch ONLY the pocket opening ¼”
4. Place the pocket on the skirt, 4” below the top edge, lining up the center of the main fabric and the center of the pocket. This is the easiest way to place the pocket, but it will put your seam at the center back.
5. Pin pocket to skirt.
6. Attach pocket to skirt with 2 rows of topstitching across the top of the pocket and at the sides/across the bottom. The first row is approximately ¼” from the pocket edge. Add a second row of edge stitching. Don’t forget to backstitch on either side of the pocket opening.

I think 2 rows of topstitching looks more finished than just one and attaches the pocket more securely. Another option to reinforce the pocket opening is to add a bartack. Keep in mind, this is a casual look often found on denim.
7. Stitch center back seam on body fabric, right sides together. Do the same for the hem band.

8. Finish the seam allowance on both the body fabric and hem band. I used the overcast stitch on my machine. You could also zig zag the seams together or use a serger.
9. This is what my finished seam looks like.
10. This is what you should have. The pocket is attached to the body fabric. Both the skirt and hem band are sewn at center back. The width of the skirt and the hem band are equal.
11. Pin the hem band to the bottom of the skirt, matching the center back seam. The right side of the hem band should be against the wrong side of the skirt. Stitch together.
12. Press hem band down, with seam allowances away from the skirt, towards the hem band. Turn up the bottom edge of the hem band ¼”, press.

13. Fold the hem band up towards the skirt and pin in place. Be sure the band covers the stitch line. You don’t want it to show when your skirt is finished. Edge stitch and press the band flat. Finished hem band is approx 2” wide.
14. Make the casing. Turn down the top edge ¼” and press. Turn down again 1 1/8”, press, and pin. If your elastic is not 7/8” wide, just be sure to turn down the top edge ¼” wider than your elastic.

15. Edgestitch along inside edge, leaving a 2” opening to insert the elastic. Cut a length of elastic equal to your child's waist. Use a safety pin to thread it through the casing. Overlap the ends of the elastic and stitch together. Stitch the casing closed.
You are done! Isn't this is a great way to mix prints, and what little girl doesn’t love a skirt with a pocket?

*This skirt was made for my 7 year old. She is 49” tall and this skirt finishes just below the top of her knee cap. I would recommend enlarging the pocket pattern for any sizes larger than this to ensure the pocket opening is big enough.
Kangaroo Pocket

Cut 1 on fold