

Square Dance Skirt Options

2019 WI Square & Round Dance Convention

I only have 2 rules for a proper square dance skirt.

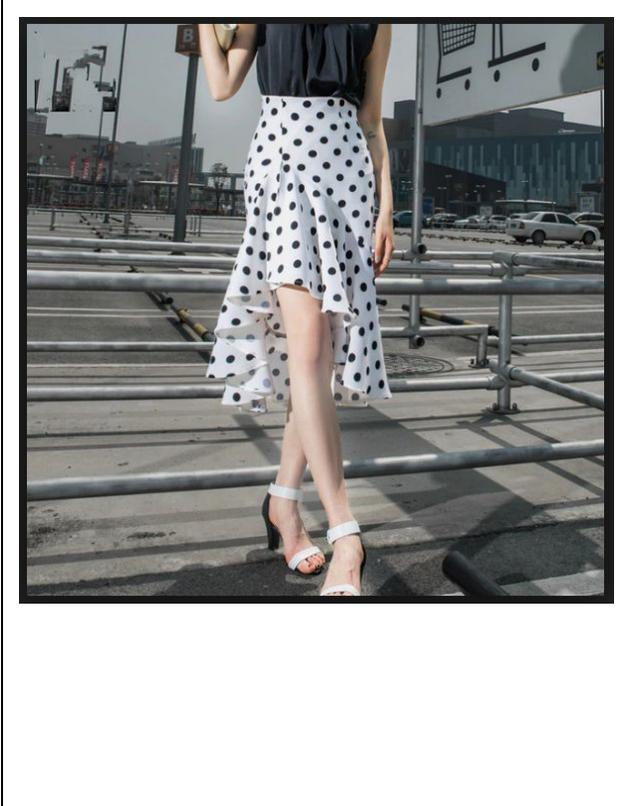
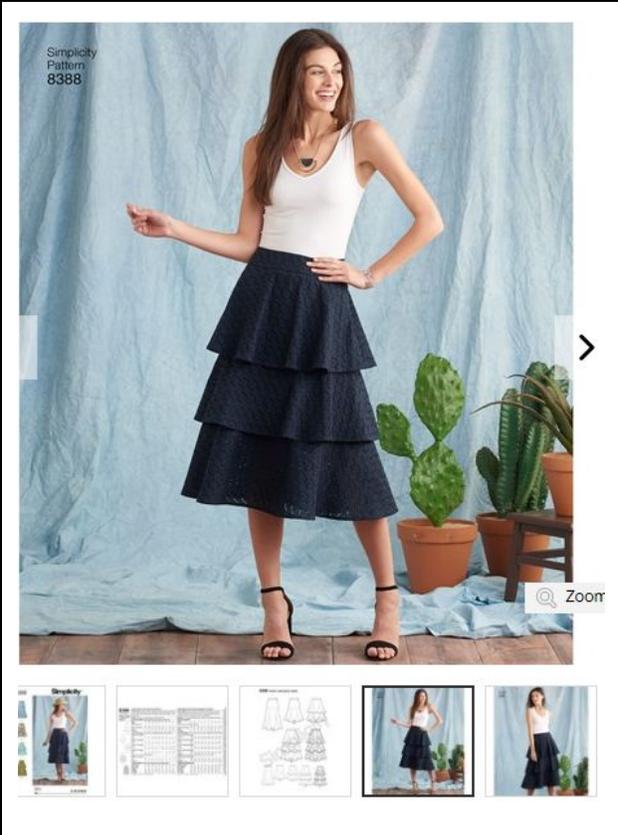
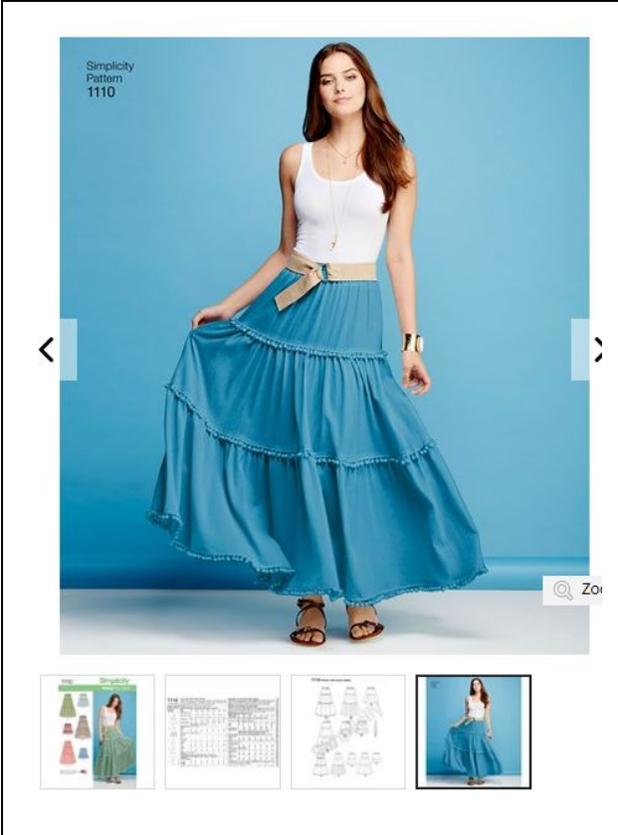
1. The skirt must be full enough to enhance the movement of the dancer.
2. It must be flattering to the wearer.

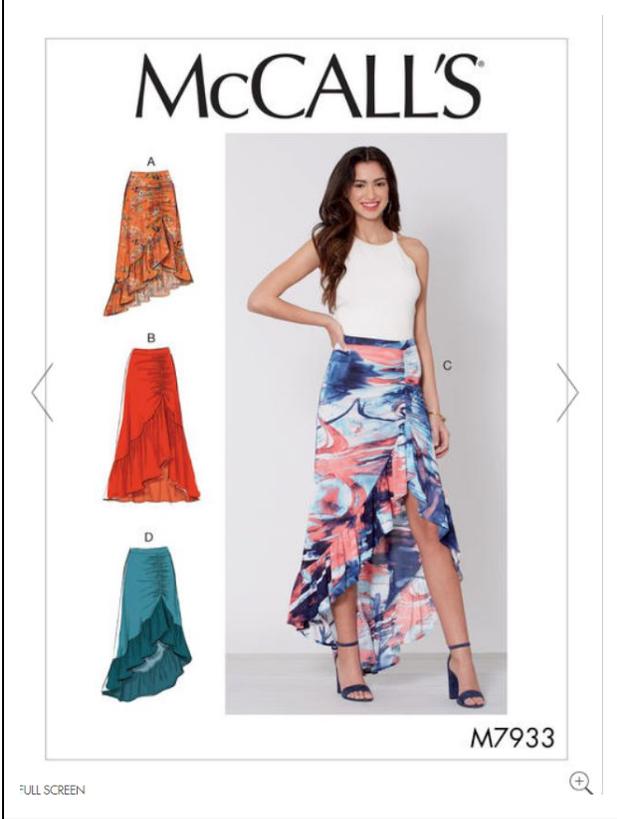
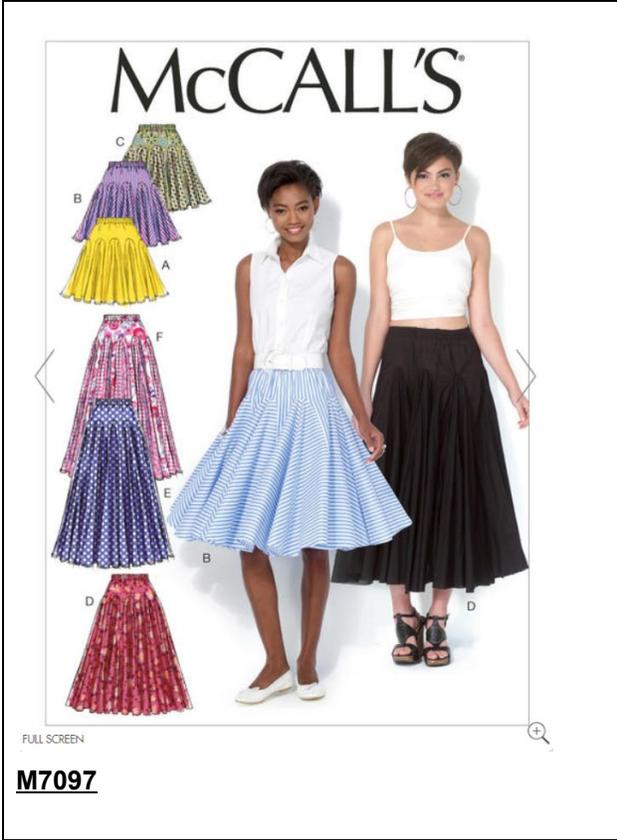
The very full square dance skirts with petticoats came about in the fifties and early sixties. Common fashion of that time also included full skirts and petticoats. Even competitive ballroom dresses had full petticoats. But fashion changes and so can we. Don't get me wrong, I love my full skirts and petticoats and don't plan to give them up, but some variety is good for us. Current fashion might also attract more new dancers. Rather than saying "wear whatever you want", I suggest that we should demonstrate skirts that enhance the dancer's movements.

Here are a few examples that we commonly see or use:

1. **Full circle skirt** - The full circle is easy and quick to make. However, I never use one because it has a fatal flaw. Because the skirt is partially cut on the bias, the skirt quickly becomes uneven at the hem. I remember when learning how to sew, they cautioned us to let the skirt hang for a week to insure that it has distorted as much as possible. I find that even after hanging for a week, it will still distort. If you add the weight of a ruffle at the bottom, it only gets worse.
2. **Panel skirt** - An alternative to the full circle skirt is the 4, 6 or 8 panel skirt. Because you are no longer dealing with the bias of the fabric, these skirts rarely distort and can easily handle the weight of one or more ruffles.
3. **Tiered layered skirt** - This too is an easy skirt to make. Proportions are key to the success of this type of skirt. I especially like to use this skirt for border print fabrics. It eliminates the need for excessive bulk at the waist but still allows for the border print to be displayed without interruption. I've included suggested proportions for this type of skirt at the end of this document.
4. **10 Degree wedge skirts** - There are several variations using the 10 degree wedge. I like all of them. They allow us to use a variety of fabrics within a single skirt. I've included 3 of these patterns using the wedge.
5. **Handkerchief skirt** - These have become more popular among square dancers recently. I'm not a fan because most of us have a couple of locations on our legs where it is best for the hem to fall. Rarely, do the handkerchief points fall at these spots. Secondly, the ones I have seen are not full enough to enhance the dancer's movements.

Current patterns that will probably work for square dancing are shown on the following pages.









320

327



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What might not work?



This might look good if you are 5'10" and weigh 110 lbs. Too fitted and the horizontal stripes don't do many people any favors.



Be careful about this type of skirt. Keep in mind the most attractive places on your legs. Also, this skirt will fly up easily. Do not try to wear a petticoat under this skirt, it looks awful!



What should I wear if I don't have much Waist definition?



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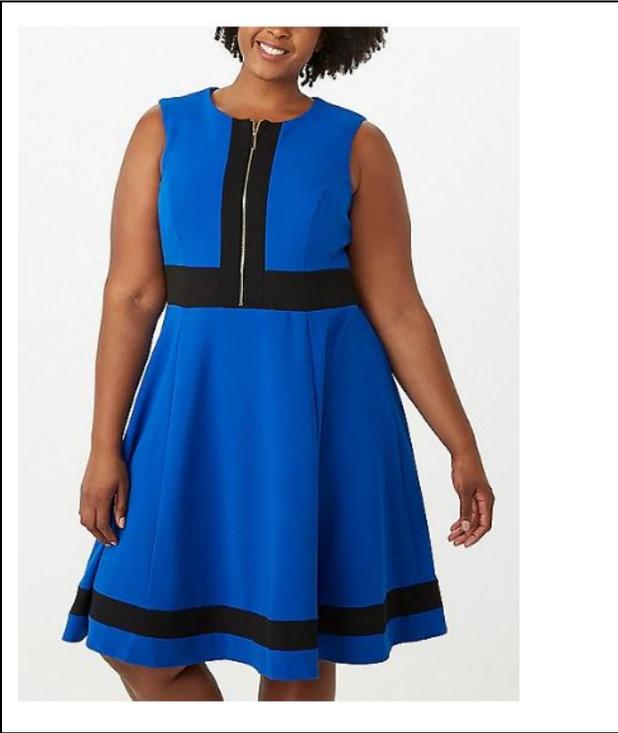
6549 **burda style**

Kleid
 Robe
 Dress
 Vestido

Großen Tallen Sizes Tallen
 EUR 46-56
 US 20-30

•••
 with
 main fabric
 and/or
 optional neck

A **B**



TODAY



The last time I taught, “The Well Proportioned Tiered Skirt”, I had several inquiries for a skirt that wasn’t as full as the one original described. Below is what I’ve come up with. As with any tiered skirt, you need to keep in mind the finished length you desire and adjust lengths accordingly.

Tier #	Yards Needed	Width (Circumference	Length	Fabric Selection
1	1.5	172	10.00	
2	1	132	7.75	
3	3/4	101.5	6.25	
4	1/3	78	5.00	
5	1/3	60	4.75	
6	1/2	46	9.25	

Finished skirt length 32”
 ½” seam allowances
 1 ½” elastic for waistband