

Ponte-Rock *Venice*




Venice with underskirt and ribbon cinch along the middle seam

“Ponte“ is Italian for „bridge“. The long strips of this skirt create „canals“ and the flounces are as ripples in water. At the beginning of the 20th Century, the casino proprietor Abbott Kinney gambled on „Venice of America“ resplend with Renaissance buildings, canals and gondoliers on America’s west coast. Since then, Venice Beach has enjoyed a colorful history. Today, roller disco skaters, body builders, drummers, street musicians and all manner of free spirits congregate at Venice Beach. Despite gentification, Venice Beach remains a open-air museum for the Summer of Love, 1969. The unorthodox design of this skirt takes its name from this unorthodox town. Venice made with layers of flounces creates a beautiful, romantic garment. Therefore, I allude very respectfully, as did Mr. Kinney, to the most beautiful city in the world.

VENICE may be sewn without flounces into a simple, yet trendy basic piece. I recommend making a VENICE skirt with a simple underskirt (without cutting vertical strips) and an overskirt with flounces. Then add a ribbon cinch along the middle seam of the overskirt for an interesting effect.

Suggested Fabrics: Cotton percale, voile, batiste, lightweight denim, lightweight fine wale corduroy.

<p>*Grid in background is 1x1 inch.</p>	<p>Before starting, please take measurements, especially the hip circumference and hem length. Please note, the hemline of VENICE is uneven. The design approximates a calf-length skirt.</p>
	<p>Trace the pattern pieces and include a seam allowance (approx. 3/8"-5/8", less for serged seams or as you prefer). Please note that the pattern pieces on the sheet do not include a seam allowance. Fold the fabric along the midline. Pin the pattern pieces to the fabric and cut with respect to the grain. To cut the flounces, you may stack 6 (or 8) appropriately-sized squares of material and cut them 3 or 4 at a time. You may use plates or bowls of the appropriate sizes around which to cut the flounces, as well.</p> <p>Venice is constructed of two matching halves, made either with or without flounces inserted into the horizontal seams. The pieces photographed on the right side of this illustration show the pieces for a skirt with flounces; the pieces on the left would be the pieces for a skirt without flounces. Please note the trapezoidal shape of the two halves. The longer edge of each strip will be the upper edge; the shorter strip will be the bottom strip.</p>



Finish the outer edge of each flounce. Options include a three-thread over-edge rolled hem, rolled hem made with the rolled hem foot or zigzag for a modern fraying look.

Decide if you would like the edges of the flounces tucked into the seams, so that the flounce ends in a rounded fashion, or if the short edge of the flounce should show, revealing a square corner. If you opt for the second look, finish the short edges of the flounce in the same manner.

You will now attach the flounces to each of the strips, making “strip+flounce” pieces. Stitch flounces to the lower edges of each of the lower strips. Finish the seams with zigzag stitch or four-thread over-edge stitch. Press the flounces in the seams upwards and topstitch.

Stitch flounces to the upper edges of the lower strips.

Stitch flounces to the upper edges of the middle strips.





(Optional, not illustrated) Stitch flounces to the upper curved edge of the uppermost strip. The flounce will be somewhat long. Trim flounce after stitching to this uppermost strip.

Stitch the lower strip+flounces pieces to the middle strip+flounce pieces. Finish the seam. Press the seam with the flounce up and topstitch.

Stitch the pieces created in the previous step to the uppermost strip(+flounce) pieces. Finish the seam. Press the seams with the flounces up and topstitch.

Stitch the yoke pieces the pieces created in the previous step. Finish the seam. Press the seams, such that the flounces are up and topstitch.

Each of these straight seams is accented in the photos with decorative ribbons and tapes.

You will have two completed halves of the skirt at this point.



Trim the edges, if required.



Stitch the right and left halves together along the middle seams. Beginning at the waist, you will stitch down toward the point of the yoke and along the uppermost edge of the uppermost strip.

Finish the seam, press and topstitch.



If you have included a flounce in the curved yoke seam, these flounces will be inserted into the middle seams. Please line up the right and left halves of the flounces where they meet in the middle seams. The middle seams in this case will not be topstitched.



Fold over the waist edge of the skirt to fit your elastic and press. Stitch a channel. Remember to leave a small opening for inserting the elastic.

Insert the elastic and cinch to the correct fit. Stitch the edges of the elastic together with small zigzag stitches and trim excess elastic. Tuck the elastic into the channel and close the small opening with straight stitch.

Hem the front and back straight edges.



Here is an example of VENICE sewn with a simple underskirt (no strips: just yoke and lower part) and an over skirt with flounces in each of the horizontal seams, including the yoke seam.



This example includes a ribbon cinch, which reveals a bit of the underskirt and creates an interesting effect with the flounces.

This cinch is simply a strip of fabric approx. 1-1/2" wide stitched over the middle seam on the left and right edges and then in the middle to create two little casings through which ribbons are threaded. It is best to make a separate waistband for this variation, so that the ends of the ribbon cinch are secured in the waistband seam. If the material is lightweight, the cinch may be added as an afterthought: Simply use enough ribbon to tie at the top and bottom of the cinch casing.