Step 1 On your dress form, measure down 7” from the middle of waist tape. This is your hip level. Position your style tape all the way around to the back making sure the hip level is level to the floor.
Module 1 – Preparing the Dress Form & Muslin Blocks

Step 2 To find the length for both your front and back muslin blocks, measure down from the waist to the desired skirt length. Add 4” and record that measurement.
Module 1 – Preparing the Dress Form & Muslin Blocks

**Step 3** To find the width of your front block you will need to find the widest part of your dress form’s hip, which may be at the hip line or slightly below. Add 3” and record that measurement. You will do the same for the back.
Step 4 The next step in preparing your muslins blocks is to snip and then tear each of your skirt panels according to your recorded measurements.
Module 1 – Preparing the Dress Form & Muslin Blocks

**Step 5** Block both skirt panels so that your length and cross grains are at right angles to each other.
Step 6 Make sure that you press your blocks in the direction of the grain so that your blocks retain their shape.
Module 2 – Marking Blocks

**Step 1A** To mark your front skirt block you will come in 1” in from the right side edge and drop a grainline down from the top. This is center front.
Step 1B Come down 9” from the top and place a grainline across, this represents the hipline.
Step 1C Then, measuring from center front at hipline, mark your hip measurement plus a quarter inch ease and square a line down to the bottom edge. This is your side seam.
**Step 1D** Next, measure in 2” inches from the side seam at the hip level then drag a grainline up. This is a front guideline.
Step 2A For the back skirt block, come in 1” from the left side of the block and drop a grain-line down from the top. This is your center back.
**Step 2B** Measure down 9” from the top and square a line across, to form a hipline.
Step 2C On that line, measure over from center back the width of your hip plus a quarter inch ease and then square a line down to the bottom edge.
Step 2D Come in 2” from the side seam at hipline and drag a grainline up to the waist to form a back guideline.
Step 3A The next step is to prepare your back side seam. Add a 1” seam allowance from the hipline to the bottom of the block.
Step 3B Come up 2” from the bottom edge and draw in your hem fold line.
Step 4 Cut into the seam allowance at the hip then trim away the excess at the side seam below the hip.
Step 5A Repeat the same steps as you did for the back, on your front panel, adding 1” seam allowance at the side seam.
Step 5B Add a 2” hem allowance at the bottom.
Step 5C Trim away the side seam excess. Clip into the seam allowance at the hip level.
Step 6 Take your back skirt panel and position it over your front. Begin pinning your side seam from the hipline all the way down to the bottom of your skirt.
Module 2 – Marking Blocks

Step 7 In preparation for draping the skirt, fingerpress your center front and center back seam allowances.
**Step 1A** Begin the skirt drape by matching up the hipline of your muslin with the hip style tape on your dress form.
Module 3 – Draping Skirt

Step 1B Continue to pin along centerfront above the hipline to the waistline and then, below the hipline to along centerfront to the edge of the torso.
Module 3 – Draping Skirt

Step 2 Take your back skirt muslin and position it at your center back/hipline intersection.
Step 3 Once you have placed pins along center back, from waist to torso, you are now ready to secure your skirt to the dress form, at the hipline. Looking through the muslin at your hip style tape, starting at center back, place a series of pins by positioning them on the upper edge of your style tape guideline. As you pin, distribute your ease evenly along the hipline of your muslin. Placing your pins in alternating directions will add stability to the area which will help you later as you form your waist darts.
Step 4 Next, pin your side seam together above the hipline. Be sure that you balance your side seam grain since if the skirt were cut out of stripe or plaid they would need to match.
Step 5A Then, follow your guideline straight up to the waistline and add a pinch of ease at the waist.
Module 3 – Draping Skirt

Step 5B Secure your guideline to the dress form down to the hipline.
Step 6A You will form two darts at the waistline. The first dart will be at princess line. The amount of that dart pickup depends on the waist circumference compared to the hip circumference but is usually about one half inch folded for each dart. A small waist but big hip will result in darts that are bigger but shorter in length.
Step 6B Your second dart is formed halfway between the princess dart and the guideline.
Module 3 – Draping Skirt

Step 7 Next, finger press the direction of the darts.
Step 8A Pin your back guideline to the dress form the same as you did for the front, adding a pinch of ease at the waist.
Step 8B You will form two back waist darts. The first dart will start at approximately two and a half inches from center back. Dart pick-up is approximately three quarters of an inch folded but again that depends on your particular dress form.
Step 8C The second, or side dart will form between the first dart and the guideline and should have the same pick up as the first dart.
Module 3 – Draping Skirt

**Step 8D** Then, fingerpress your darts in preparation for marking.
Step 9 Last step is to release the waist by slashing into the waist guideline on both front and back.
Module 4 – Marking Skirt

Step 1A At the center of the waist tape, begin marking by placing a dash at the center front / waistline intersection.
Step 1B Proceed to mark the waistline.
Step 1C Crossmark both sides of each dart.
Step 1D Continue marking the waistline until you get to the side seam.
Step 2 Place a crossmark on the side seam/waistline intersection and then dot along the side seam at the hipline.
Step 3A Then, fingerpress the dart pick-up.
Step 3B Place a dot at the vanishing point of the dart.
Step 4A Crossmark the side seam waistline intersection.
Step 4B Continue to mark the waistline until you reach the first dart.
Module 4 – Marking Skirt

Step 4C Mark the dart pick-up and continue marking the waistline until you get to the center dart.
Step 4D Crossmark the center dart and continue marking the waistline until you reach center back where you will place a dash.
Step 4E Estimate the vanishing point of the back dart and note with a dot.
Step 5 Remove the muslin drape from the dress form keeping the side seams pinned together for trueing on the table.
Step 1  Next you are going to true the side seam. Carefully redirect your pins without separating the layers.
Step 2 Using your hip curve, connect the side seam markings.
Step 3 With your ruler, add your 1” seam allowance.
Step 4A The next step is to trace your side seam, using tracing paper, on to the back of the skirt.
Module 5 – Trueing Skirt

Step 4B Transfer the waist crossmark.
Step 5 Check that you have successfully transferred your markings.
Step 6 Trim the excess seam allowance and then remove the pins.
Step 7 In preparation for trueing your front darts, lightly finger press in the direction of the vanishing point and then remove the pins.
Step 8A Find the center of the front princess dart and drag a grainline down from the top to the vanishing point dot.
Step 8B Do the same for the side dart, this represents the center of the dart. Mark them with your pencil and ruler. The length of your darts depends upon the size of your dress form and the fullness or curve of the hip. For a size 6, the princess dart’s vanishing point is approximately 3 ½” long. The side dart is usually ½” shorter but again the length of your darts really depends upon your particular dress form.
Step 9 True your darts with a hip curve. Flip the curve in the same position for both sides of the dart so that your curves are symmetric.
Module 5 – Trueing Skirt

**Step 10A** On your back, lightly fingerpress the back darts then remove the pins.
Step 10B Find the center of the each dart and drag a grainline down from the top. Your back dart length depends on the size of your dress form but the vanishing point of the darts should end at least one inch up from your hipline.
Step 11A With your ruler, mark the center of your darts.
Step 11B True the darts with the hip curve, again, making sure that the curves are symmetrical.
Step 12A Before you can true the waistline you must first close your darts. Start by finger-pressing your back center dart. Pin it closed with the dart pick-up toward center back.
Step 12B Pin your side dart closed with the dart pick-up toward center back.
Step 13A Once the back darts are closed proceed to close your side seam. Fingerpress the side seam, back over front and pin from the waistline to the hipline.
Step 13B Complete the process by fingerpressing your front darts with the dart material towards center front. Once you have completed this step you are ready to true your waistline.
Step 14A True your waistline using your hip curve and straight ruler. Make sure that you have a right angle off both center back and centerfront at the waistline.
Module 5 – Trueing Skirt

Step 14B With your curve, connect your markings repositioning the curve to true the back and then the front.
Step 15 Add one inch seam allowance to the waistline.
Step 15B Trim the excess seam allowance at the waistline.
Step 16 The last thing to do is to turn your hem up on the fold line and pin.
**Step 17A** Then pin your skirt back on the dress form the way you draped it and check it for fit.
Module 5 – Trueing Skirt

Step 17B Finished Straight Skirt Sloper.