

carolina fair designs

Little Ruffle Skirt

or Skort



PDF
pattern
sizes 12 mo.
- girls 7/8

Skirt with optional shorts or bloomers underneath!

Little Ruffle Skirt (or skort)

by carolina fair designs

This little skirt is an easy project to make for your little princess. It is a combination of light- to mid-weight cotton and knit fabric for the ruffle. The knit fabric for the ruffle can be cut from a lightweight t-shirt, or from store-bought knit fabric. This tutorial also includes an optional pattern for shorts that can be sewn to the inside of the skirt to make a 'skort.' For a baby, you can put elastic in the short legs (bloomer style).

Pattern pieces are included at the end of this tutorial to make a skirt or skort in sizes 12 months, 18 months, 2T, 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8. Refer to page 3 for finished waist and length measurements.

- * There are many different variations possible with this pattern... girls' skirt with or without shorts; baby skirt with or without shorts or bloomers; skirt with or without a bow on the front. I made them all during my pattern testing process. Check out all the many different fabric combinations. Ideas, ideas, ideas!

One fabulous thing about knits is that they don't usually unravel. That means we won't have to hem the side edges of the ruffle.

If you must use some other (woven) fabric for the ruffle, be sure to hem or serge both long edges before you gather it in Step 4.3.

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caroline@carolinafairdesigns.com

Materials:

Refer to the chart below for yardage requirements and the skirt/skort finished length:

Size	Yardage needed
Infant 12 mo. (waist 18-19")	3/8 yard (skirt) or 2/3 yd (skort) Finished length 9"
Infant 18 mo. (waist 19-20")	3/8 yard (skirt) or 2/3 yd (skort) Finished length 9 1/4"
2T (waist 20-21")	3/8 yard (skirt) or 2/3 yd (skort) Finished length 9 1/2"
3/4 (waist 21-22")	1/2 yd (skirt) or 3/4 yd (skort) Finished length 11"
5/6 (waist 22-23")	1/2 yd (skirt) or 3/4 yd (skort) Finished length 11 1/2"
7/8 (waist 24-25")	1/2 yard (skirt) or 7/8 yd (skort) Finished length 12"

You will also need:

- 1 yard of 1" elastic (or enough to go around the child's waist)
- 1 yard of 1/4" elastic for a bloomer style skort
- A bit of ribbon or ric-rac for the bow
- Some lightweight knit fabric for the ruffle:

You can cut this from a lightweight women's t-shirt (if you want to recycle ☺) or you will cut a 1 1/2" strip from a piece of 60" wide lightweight knit fabric – so buy the smallest amount they will sell you.

Printing instructions:

Pattern pieces are found at the end of this tutorial. Baby sized and little girl sized skirt pieces print up separately, but the optional short/bloomer piece that you can make for the inside of your skirt prints for all sizes. If you are making a skirt only, you will need to print page 18 (baby sizes) or pages 19-20 (little girl sizes). If you are making a skort (skirt with shorts), you will also need to print pages 21-24.

After you click print, make sure that the 'page scaling' option is set to 'none.' This will ensure that the pattern pieces are not enlarged or reduced. There is a one inch square with each pattern so you can check to make sure.

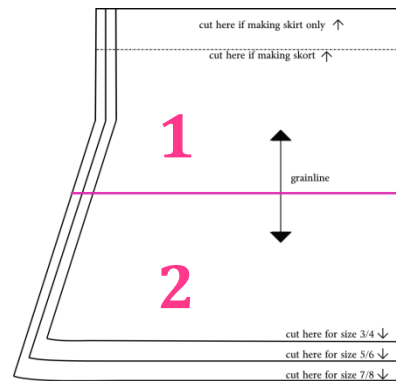
Desired Skirt/Skort	Print these pages
Size 12 mo., 18 mo., or 2T	18
Skirt size 3/4, 5/6, or 7/8	19-20

Print pages 21-24 also if you are making a skort (skirt with shorts or bloomers)

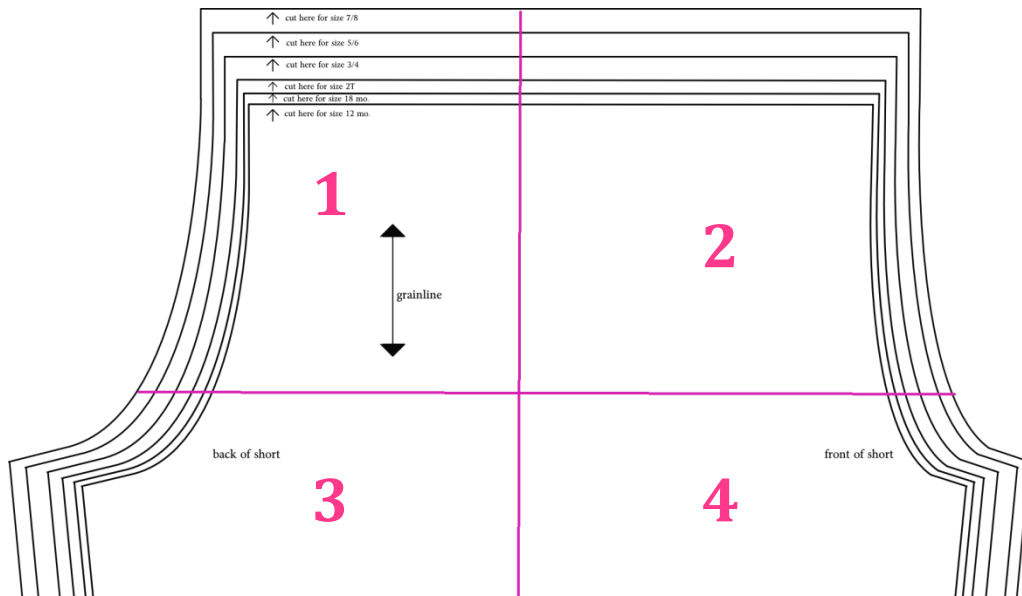
Step 1. Put the pattern piece together.

The paper pattern for the little girls skirt and the shorts pattern pieces must be taped together before you can cut out your fabric (**the baby skirt pattern piece fits on one page**). The pieces are designed so that they can be printed in black and white.

The little girls skirt pieces will tape together like this:



The short pieces will tape together like this:

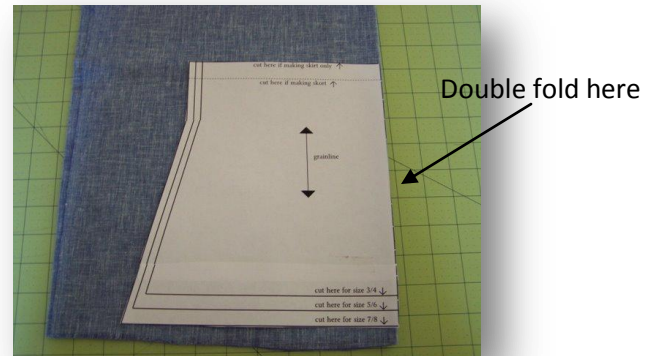


Step 2. Lay out and cut

1. I strongly recommend washing your fabric before you use it, so there will be no surprise shrinkage later. After washing your fabric, refold it along the grainline (the way that it was at the fabric store), and get ready to cut.

2. First cut out your skirt piece. Fold your fabric again along the grainline (so there is a double fold on one side), and place your pattern piece along the double fold.

This way you will be cutting through 4 layers and will cut out the front and back at the same time.



3. Optional shorts/bloomers piece: cut this next, if you are making it. Open fabric out so that it is just single-folded, and cut two.



4. Now cut out the band that will be gathered and sewn to the bottom of the skirt. (You can lengthen the skirt by lengthening this band.)

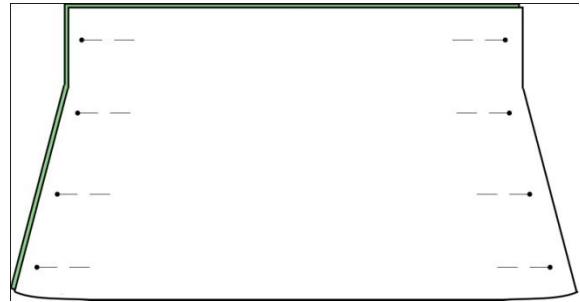
Band – cut one strip the right length and width for your skirt size:

12 mo.	5" x 36"
18 mo.	5" x 37"
2T	5" x 38"
3/4	6" x 40"
5/6	6" x 42"
7/8	6" x 44"



Step 3. Skirt

1. Pin skirt pieces at sides, right sides together.



2. Stitch with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance.

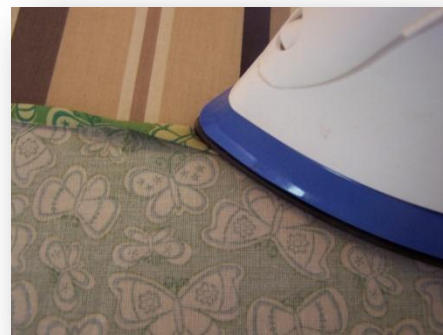
Serge finish or zig-zag finish edge, if desired.



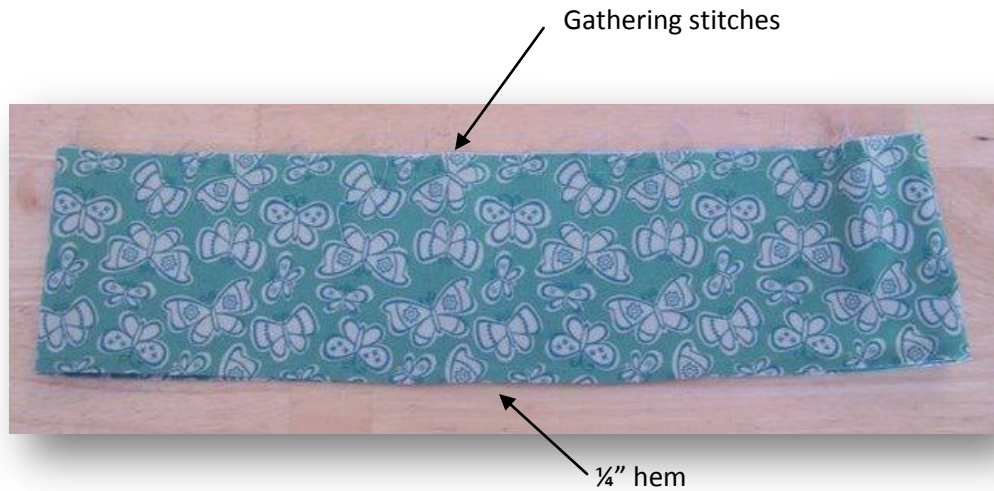
3. Fold band in half widthwise; pin and then stitch the short end.



4. Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " hem on one long edge by pressing to the inside $\frac{1}{4}$ " twice, and then stitching it down from the outside.



5. Sew long gathering stitches around top edge of band.



6. Divide the skirt into quarters (side seams, center front and back) and mark them. Divide the band into quarters and mark.

Turn band inside out. Pin to outside of skirt, matching quarter marks.

Pull bobbin thread to adjust gathers and pin.



7. Stitch band to skirt.



Step 4. Knit Ruffle

Do this:

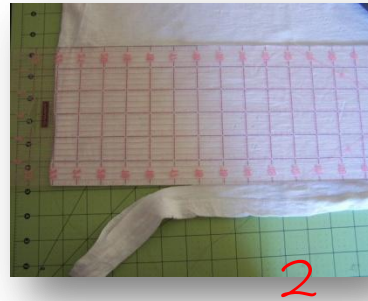
- 1a. Using new knit fabric: Cut 2 strips of knit fabric that are 60" wide and 1 ½" tall.

(This makes a very bunchy ruffle. You can shorten the ruffling strips or even use just one, if desired.)



Or this:

- 1b. Using a t-shirt: smooth out the shirt on your cutting board.



Trim about an inch off the bottom of the shirt.

Cut two or three 1 ½" tall strips.

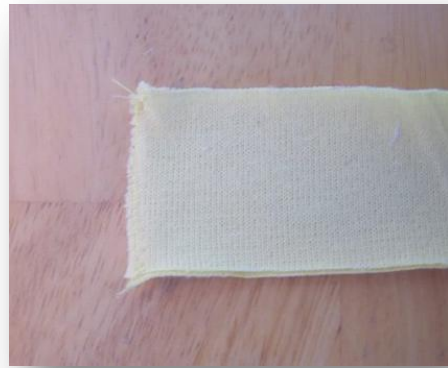


Cut seam allowances off one side of your t-shirt strips (so they won't be tubes anymore).



2. Stitch both ruffling strips together along one short edge. I just used little a zig-zag stitch, because it doesn't have to be strong.

If your knit material curls to one side, make sure that you pin same sides together so that the curling continues in the same direction.



3. Sew a long gathering stitch all the way down the middle of the ruffling strip.



4. Pin the seam on the ruffling strip to the seam on the band. Pull the bobbin thread until one side is bunched enough to cover band.

Pin ruffle strip to band.

Repeat on other side.



5. Turn ends of ruffle strip under ¼" before pinning down.



6. Stitch ruffle strip to skirt, sewing right down the middle over your gathering threads.

If your needle snags on the fabric here (or gives you trouble) you can always switch to a ball-point needle – which is made for knits. Since this is just a quick step and there is woven fabric underneath, I usually don't go to the trouble.



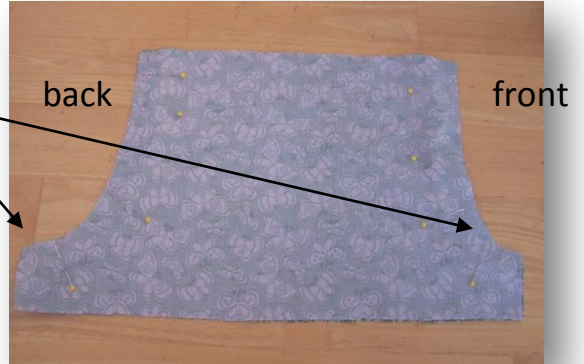
I used green thread for contrast when I stitched on this ruffling strip.

Step 5. Optional Shorts or Bloomers

(skip to Step 7 if you don't want these)

1. Pin the two pieces right sides together along the curved front and back seams.

Stitch, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance.



2. Serge or trim and finish your seams with a zig-zag stitch.



3. Open up the shorts or bloomers and pin the crotch seam together.



4. Stitch, trim, and finish seam. ($\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance)



For shorts:

5a. Press edge of leg opening to the inside $\frac{1}{4}$ " twice to make a $\frac{1}{4}$ " hem.

Topstitch from the outside. (See pictures from step 3.4 also).



For bloomers:

5b. Press edge of leg opening to the inside $\frac{1}{4}$ " and then $\frac{1}{2}$ " to make a casing for the elastic.



Stitch, leaving a 1" opening for inserting elastic.

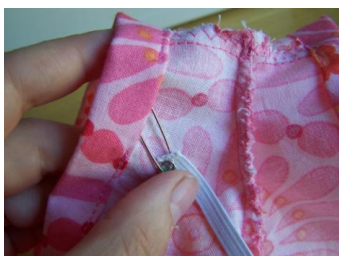
Once your casings are made, cut 2 pieces of elastic for the leg openings. If you have the baby nearby to measure the right lengths, that would be perfect. If not, here are some guidelines.

Elastic needed for leg openings	
12 mo	11"
18 mo	12"
2T	13"

(or measure baby)



Insert elastic using a safety pin or bodkin, stitch ends of elastic together securely, and stitch opening closed.



Step 6. Attaching the Shorts or Bloomers to the Skirt

1. Turn both the skirt and the shorts (or bloomers) inside out.

Place the skirt over the shorts, making sure that the seams of the shorts are at the front and back and the seams of the skirt are at the sides. **They don't match up.** Pin.

(This picture shows bloomers that don't have elastic in the legs yet.)



2. Stitch.



3. Turn right side out and press. Make sure that the shorts are all the way inside the skirt so they won't show.



4. Topstitch 1/8" from the top edge.



5. Topstitch again, 1 ¼" from the top edge. Leave a 2" opening for inserting the elastic.



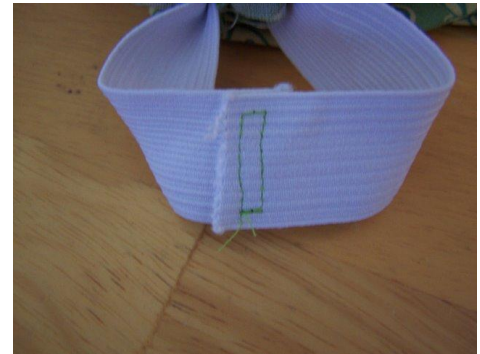
6. Measure around child's waist for exact elastic measurement, or refer to the chart on page 2. Cut a piece of 1" elastic the same measurement as child's waist.

Lift up the skirt and insert the elastic through opening using a safety pin or bodkin. Pull the elastic all the way through. Don't let the elastic fold over or get twisted.

7. Overlap elastic ends by ½" and sew them together using zig-zag stitching or a little rectangle.

Stretch the waist to pull the elastic in, and check again to make sure it's not twisted.

Don't panic if it DID get twisted. It's easy enough to pull some elastic out, cut it anywhere, untwist it, and overlap & stitch again.



8. Stitch the elastic opening closed from the outside.



Step 7. Waistband Without Shorts or Bloomers

1. Press top of skirt to the inside $\frac{1}{4}$ ", and then $1\frac{1}{4}$ ".



2. Topstitch very close to the top fold, if desired.



3. Topstitch $1\frac{1}{8}$ " from top edge. Leave a 2" opening for inserting elastic.



4. Measure around child's waist for exact elastic measurement, or refer to the chart on page 2. Cut a piece of 1" elastic the same measurement as child's waist.

Insert elastic through opening using a safety pin or bodkin.



5. When elastic is all the way through, make sure it is not folded or twisted, overlap ends, and secure by zig-zagging or sewing a small rectangle.

Stretch waistband to pull elastic in and evenly distribute gathers.



6. Stitch elastic opening closed.



7. Stitch in the ditch on either side seam to secure elastic and prevent rolling.



Step 9. Little Bow

Since it can be hard to tell the front from the back of homemade clothes, sometimes I add a little bow to the front.

1. Measure and cut a piece of trim or ribbon 15" long. Lay it vertically down the middle of your little skirt.

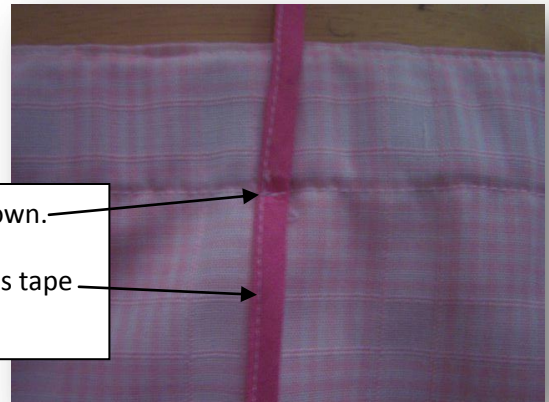
Match the middle of your trim to the second stitching line 1 ¼" from the top edge.



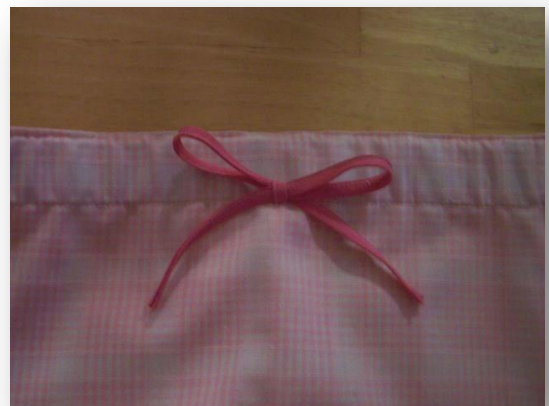
2. Tack the trim to the skirt along the stitching line (either by hand or using your sewing machine).

This is where the trim is tacked down.

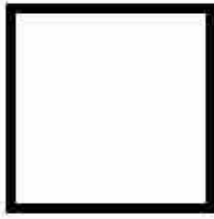
This stitching is where I sewed bias tape together to use for the bow.



3. Tie in a bow.

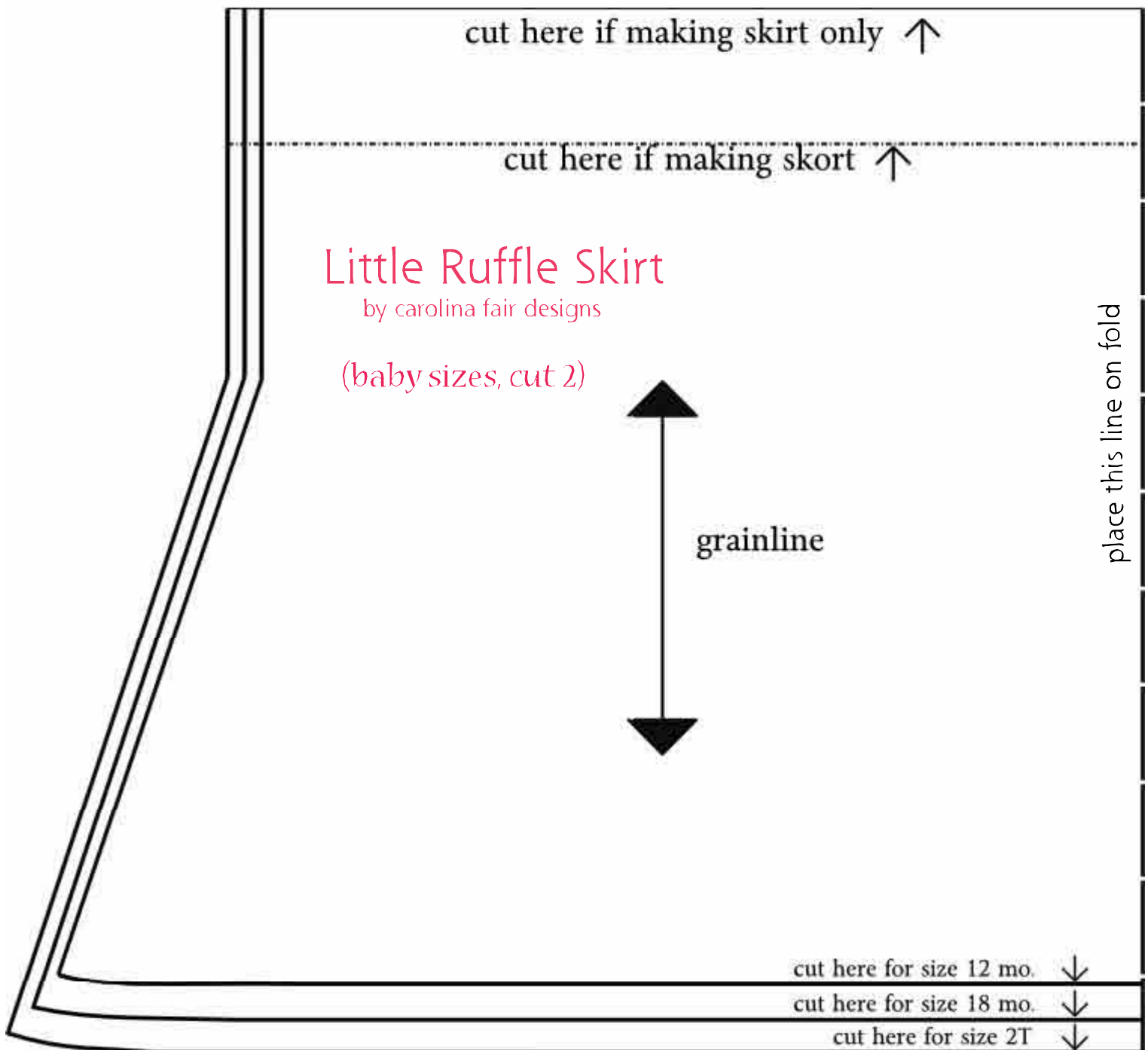


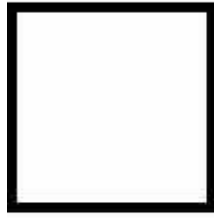
Done!



one inch square

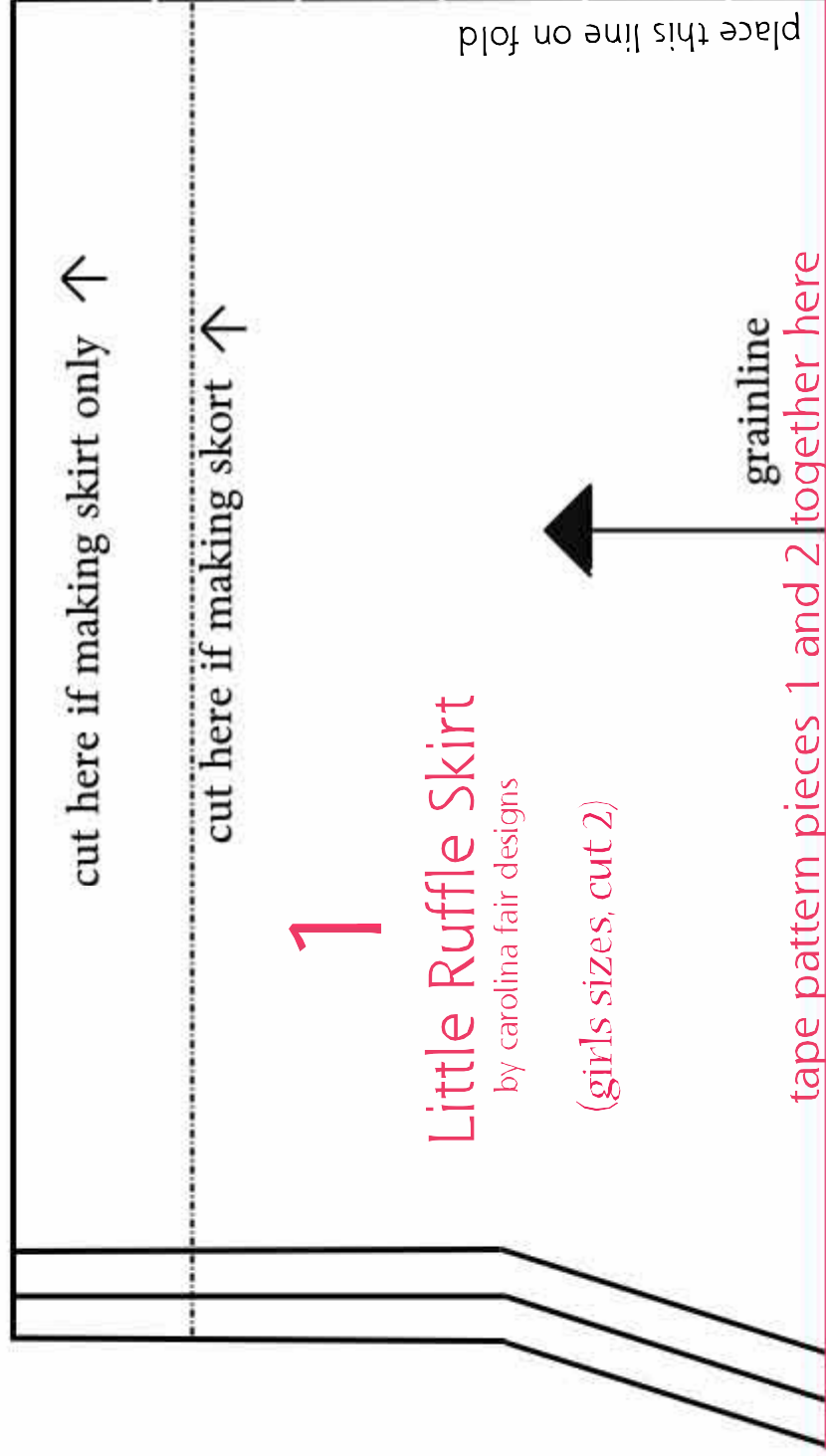
verify that printer settings have not enlarged or reduced pattern.

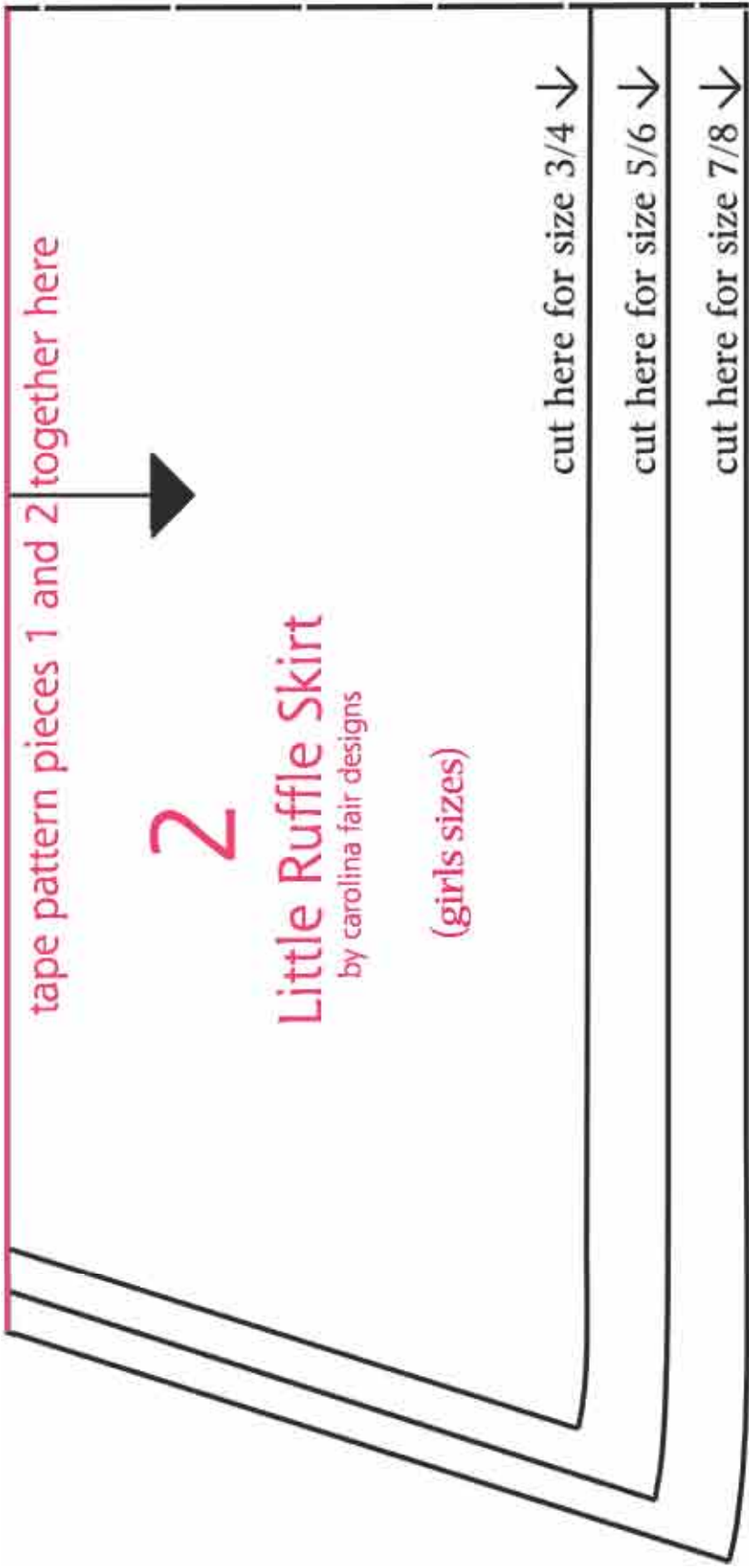




one inch square

verify that printer settings have not enlarged or reduced pattern.





tape pattern pieces 1 and 2 together here

2

Little Ruffle Skirt

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(girls sizes)

cut here for size 3/4 ↓

cut here for size 5/6 ↓

cut here for size 7/8 ↓

↑ cut here for size 7/8

↑ cut here for size 5/6

↑ cut here for size 3/4

↑ cut here for size 2T

↑ cut here for size 18 mo.

↑ cut here for size 12 mo.

1

shorts

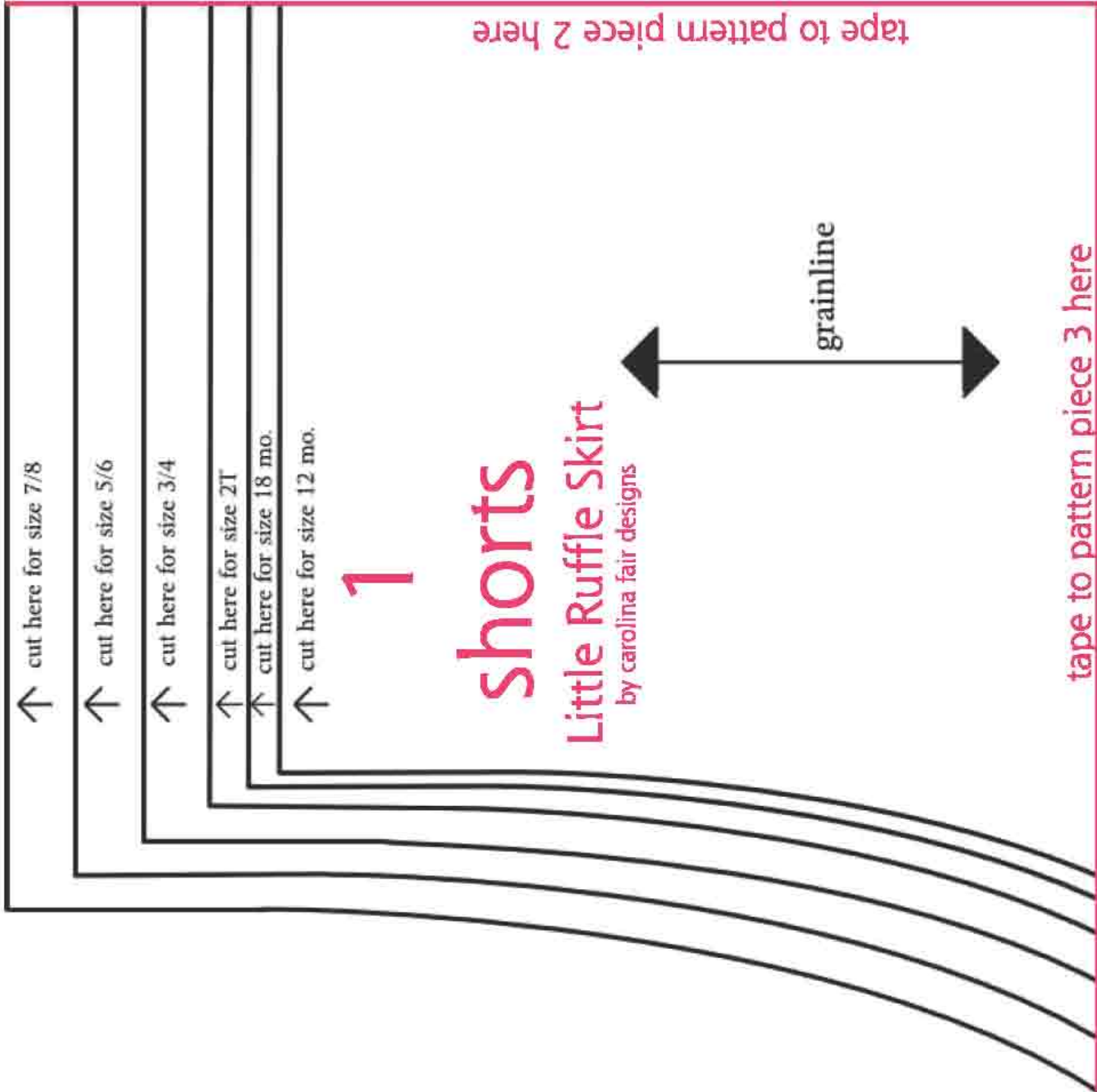
Little Ruffle Skirt

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grainline

tape to pattern piece 2 here

tape to pattern piece 3 here



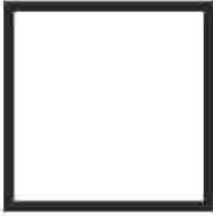


2

shorts
Little Ruffle Skirt
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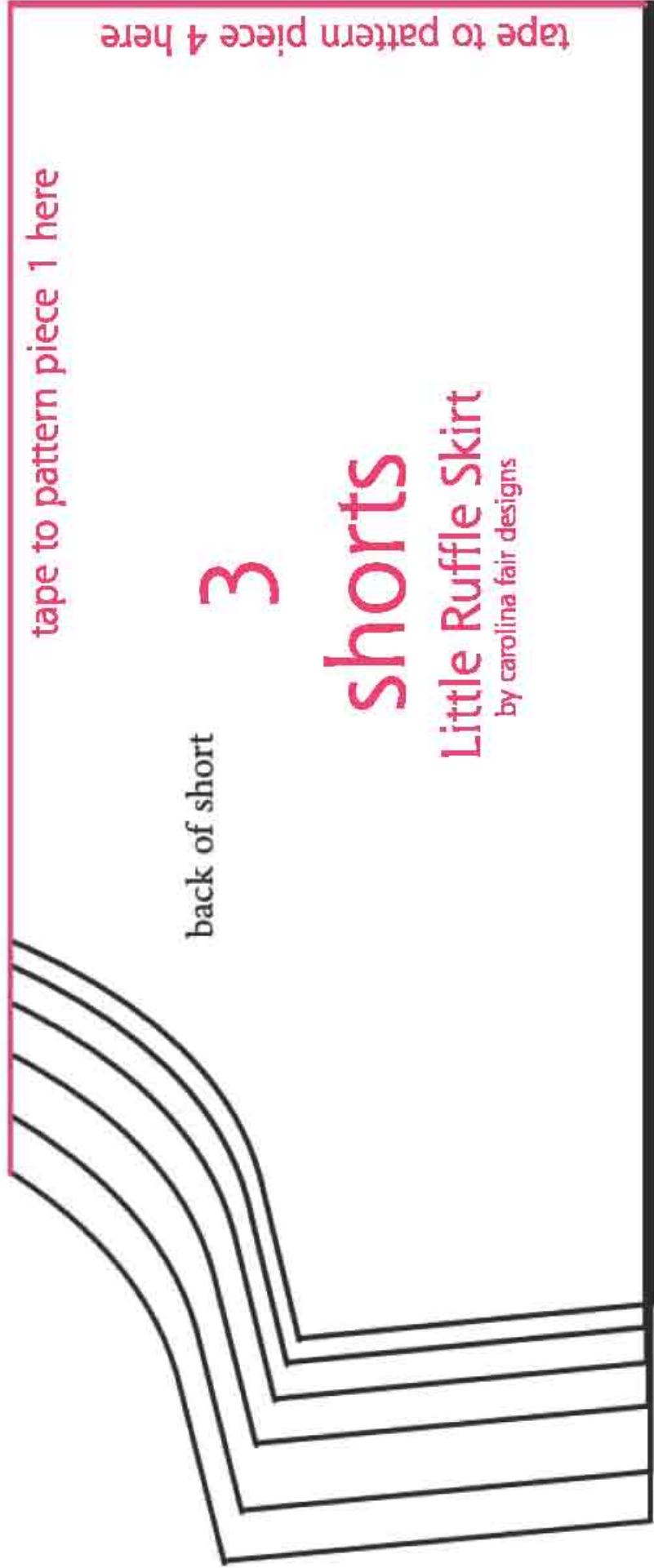
tape to pattern piece 1 here

tape to pattern piece 4 here



verify that printer settings have not enlarged or reduced pattern.

one inch square



tape to pattern piece 1 here

back of short

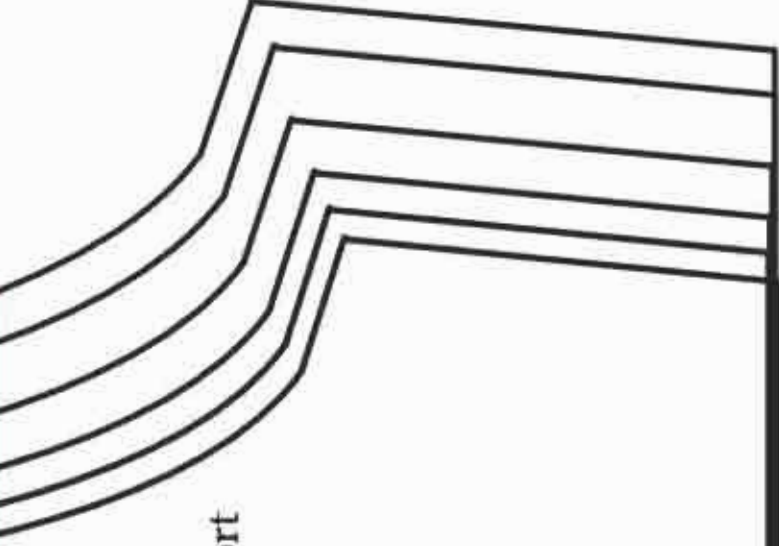
3

shorts

Little Ruffle Skirt

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tape to pattern piece 4 here



front of short

tape to pattern piece 2 here

4

shorts

Little Ruffle Skirt

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tape to pattern piece 3 here