Walmart’s Beginner’s Sewing
Welcome

• **First Half: Background**

  Gimbels, once the largest department store chain in the country (1887-1987), offered sewing classes in Manhattan and New Jersey stores.

  Today, Walmart is the largest retailer in the world.

• **Second Half: Demonstration sewing project**
  (a gathered skirt).
Background

- Gimbel’s Sewing Classes

- Today, this type of meeting would be called a “SIG” (or, Special Interest Group).
Sewing Machine: Janome

- Janome is a Japanese Company
- The name “Janome” means “snake’s eye”

Janome Basic 10-Stitch Portable Sewing Machine, Color: Graceful Gray, Walmart, $62.35

Janome 14-Stitch Heavy-Duty Sewing Machine, HD1000, Walmart, $329
Sewing Machine: Janome

- The Janome Basic 10-Stitch Portable does not have a light. An LED flash light is needed to thread the machine.

Janome Basic 10-Stitch Portable Sewing Machine, Color: Graceful Gray, Walmart, $62.35

M4338 Black Mini 3.5” LED Flashlight Walmart, $6.90
Sewing Table: Gidget

- Arrow’s Gidget is for sewing, scrapbooking & crafts
- Measures 40”W x 19.75”D x 28.5”H
Sewing Chairs: Windsor and Breuer

- Chairs are selections from Walmart’s Power Ranking Furniture Event

Chair #1 (Reproduction)
Windsor Chair, Black, Walmart
$46.50

Chair #2 (Reproduction)
Tufted Breuer Chair, Multiple Colors, Walmart, $148
Fabric Cutting: Ping Pong Table

- Tournament size 9’ x 5’ table, folds for storage

MD Sports Official Size Table Tennis Table, Walmart, $95
Other Supplies

Other supplies:
• 8 inch scissors
• Straight pins
• Pin cushion
• Tape measure
• Seam gauge (small ruler)
• Seam ripper
• Elastic (1 inch)
• Thread
• Contrasting thread (to baste)
• Hand needle (hand threader may be needed)
• Ironing board
• Iron
Project: Midi Length Gathered Skirt

• Fabric:
  Clara Clark 1800 Series King Size Sheet Set

A King size sheet set provides enough fabric for:
• 2 adult skirts (approx. 106 inch width)
• 2 teen/adult (approx. 78 inch width)
• 2 girls skirts

Clara Clark 1800 Series Deep Pocket
Printed Bed Sheet Set King Size, Pink Roses, Walmart, $25
Gathered Skirts in Television and Film

Actress Caroline Catz’s Louisa Glasson character in television’s *Doc Martin*
Gathered Skirts in Television and Film

Actress Crystal Lowe who plays Rita in Hallmark’s Signed, Sealed and Delivered

Eric Mabius, Kristin Booth, Crystal Lowe and Geoff Gustafson as Oliver, Shane, Rita and Norman in Hallmark's Signed, Sealed and Delivered: One in a Million, 2016
Gathered Skirts in Television and Film

Actress
Diane Keaton
Cutting the Flat Sheet

Steps:
- Use the seam ripper to remove the sheet’s large hem (top hem only)
- Fold the sheet lengthwise
- Iron a crease down the middle
- Cut the sheet lengthwise

The hem at the top of the King flat sheet can add 4-6 inches of extra width. The stitches will need to be removed with a seam ripper.
Cutting the Fitted Sheet

When you remove the stitches from the contoured corners, the remaining (usable) fabric has “wings.” One set of wings will need to be removed so you are left with a rectangle. Cut off the “wings” from the shorter edge on Clara Clark sets (on most sheet sets, remove the longer edge). This will leave two finished edges for your skirt’s vertical seam.

Steps:

- Begin by using a seam ripper to open stitches at the finished edge of a side seam forming the corner and press any wrinkles.
- See note in the caption regarding how to remove “wings.”
- Cut the sheet lengthwise
(Option) Use “Wings” to Make Scarfs

• The fabric you remove from the fitted sheet can be used to make matching scarves. Start by removing machine stitching with a seam ripper.
• You will need a 12 inch ruler to mark a long rectangle that is approximately 10 inches wide. Pin a line of straight pins and trim excess fabric.
• Use a seam gauge (small ruler) and pin a line of straight pins one inch from any edge that you need to finish.
• Use an iron to press a half-inch fold.
• Fold the turned edge again to hem and insert straight pins to hold the hem in place.
• Press the hem.
• Use a blind hem stitch (see: http://yesterdayssthimble.com/tutorials/basic-hand-sewing)
Girls Skirt

Made Everyday Web Site

For a 3T-4T size, use the following measurements:
• Skirt Width – 42 inches
• Skirt Length – 15 inches
• Elastic Length – 22 inches

Beginners can use the fabric in the King pillowcases to practice on Toddler-sized skirts.

Note: Press a neat crease into the pillow case and and cut along the fold (dotted line)
Girls Skirt

For a skirt with additional gathers, use one entire King Size pillow case per skirt preserving serged seam.

Two of the skirts shown are made from a pillow case with a fold at the end. The construction is similar to an adult skirt with one side seam.

Measurements:
- Skirt Width = 80 to 84 in.
- Finished Skirt Length = 15 in.
- Elastic Length = 26 in. (two inches for an overlap to make a waistband)

Note: The photo at left shows serged seam. Most pillow case seams are all finished with a serger.
Sewing Class Notes

Web Address:
http://housing.x10host.com/sewing_classes_notes_09_18_17.pdf
Also:
http://housing.x10host.com/dimensions_gathered_skirt_08_17_16.pdf