

Warming Trends: Your Best Spring Fashion

SUSAN VOIGT-REISING

A New Look 6470, View A/E (misses' sizes 8 to 18)

- Plagued by lower-body figure challenges? A-line skirts are prized for their ability to balance broad shoulders, glide over wide hips, camouflage derriere and “saddlebag” problems, and minimize thick calves and ankles. The pattern features four top versions and a diagonally seamed, A-line skirt.
- This pull-on skirt's graceful, arcing seam further aids the ample-bottomed by drawing the eyes below the hips. For the most flattering effect, choose the slimmest part of the calf for your hemline length.
- The drop-waist knit top befriends the waistless by skimming right over the issue, while flutter sleeves help balance wide hips and thighs and boost small busts.

THE VERDICT: Pear-shaped figures will earn an “A” with this one. Those with larger busts and smaller waists will score higher with the alternate View D top, featuring a surplice wrap and V neck.

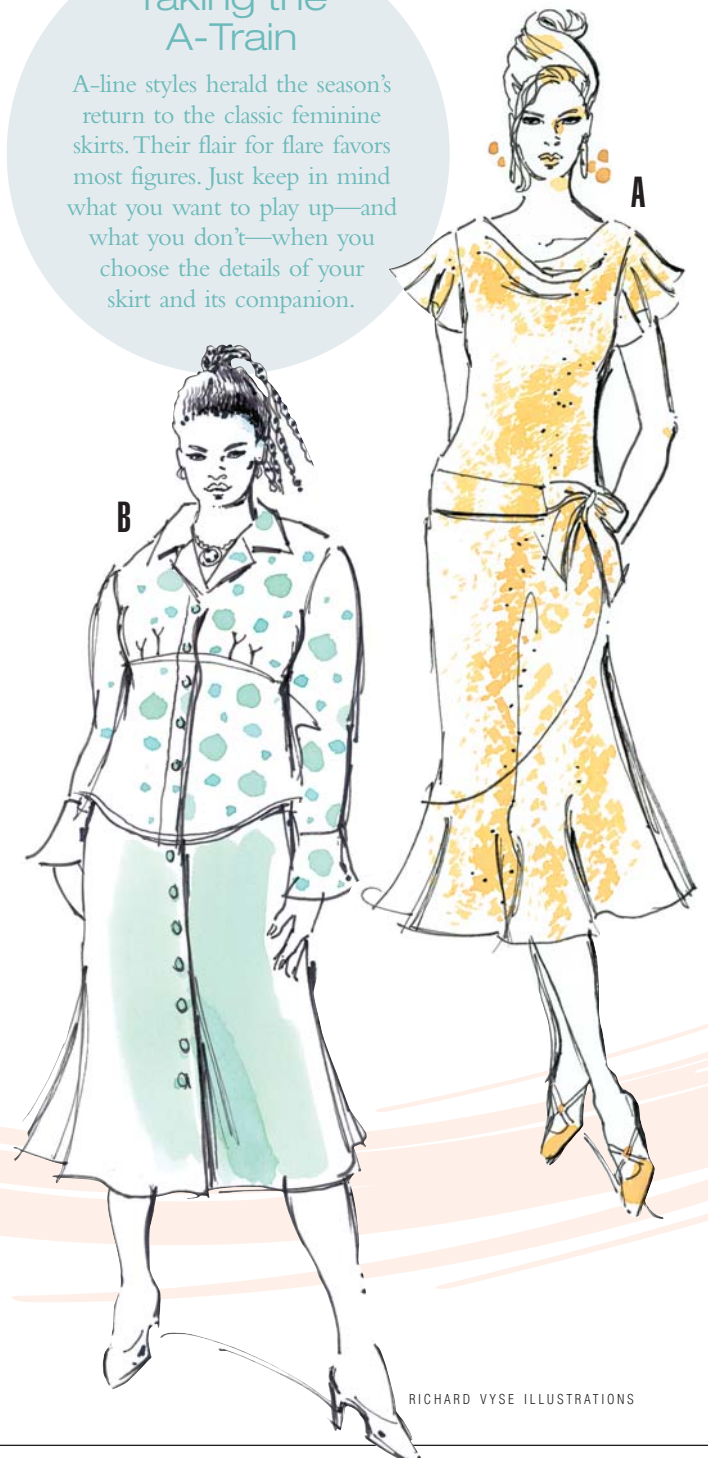
B Petite Plus 104 and 502, View A (petite sizes 14 to 24)

- Like all Petite Plus patterns, this duo is specially designed for ample-sized, petite women with narrow shoulders, full busts, short waists and rounded tummies. Flared Skirts 502 offers two views with angled front pockets that help minimize the abdomen: the button-front design shown, plus a full wrap with adjustable-waist closure. Both feature a smooth front and elasticized back.
- The strong vertical line of the button-front skirt visually stretches the body, an effect you can maximize by choosing an ankle-grazing length.
- Ideal companion Shapely Shirt 104 features a V neckline and notched lapels that conspire to flatter a large bust and short neck. The shirt's Empire waist, button front and meant-to-be-untucked curved hem further the skirt's illusion of increased height through the waist and legs and decreased bulk through the lower body—especially when fabricated in the same color or value (lightness or darkness) as the skirt. For optimal advantage, team with hosiery and shoes that are neutral or match the skirt's color.

THE VERDICT: Short, full figures: You'll look taller and slimmer in this made-just-for-you duet. Others need not apply.

Taking the A-Train

A-line styles herald the season's return to the classic feminine skirts. Their flair for flare favors most figures. Just keep in mind what you want to play up—and what you don't—when you choose the details of your skirt and its companion.



RICHARD VYSE ILLUSTRATIONS