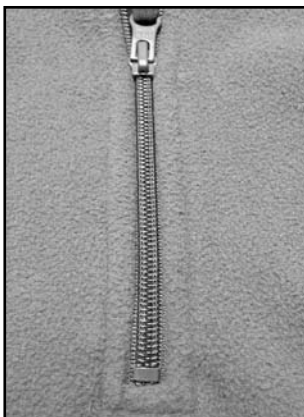




Exposed Zippers

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Page 1



Most of the time when you apply a zipper the goal is to have it hidden from view, but on occasion zippers like to show their stuff. Particularly on fleece and other knit garments, exposed zippers are de rigueur.

Ironically, exposed zippers are set into garment areas without seams—like at center front of a pullover, or to create a secure inset pocket. They may be open at one end, like at a neckline, or closed at both ends for pocket applications. Either way, only the zipper teeth show along the finished fabric edges, so pick a bold sport zipper or large-tooth novelty option.

Staying with it

Although some exposed zipper applications begin with a simple slit in the fabric, it's much better to use a woven fabric stay in the zipper area to help prevent stretching of knit fabrics.

Cut a stay from lightweight, stable fabric about 3" wide and 2 1/2" longer than the zipper. Mark the zipper opening length at the garment center front using chalk or basting stitches and be sure it's straight as this will be the cutting line.

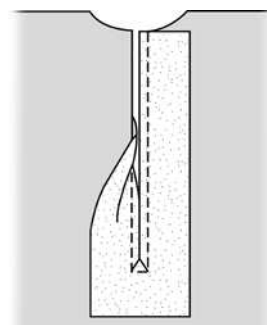
Right sides together, center the stay over the marked line and stitch about 1/8" on either side of the center line marking and across the bottom (1). If the teeth are extra-large, stitch slightly more than 1/8" from the marking.



1

Slash down the center of the stitching lines to within 1/4" of the lower edge stitching, then cut diagonally into the corners (2).

Turn the stay to the inside and lightly press the seam edges and lower corners so that none of the stay fabric shows on the right side.

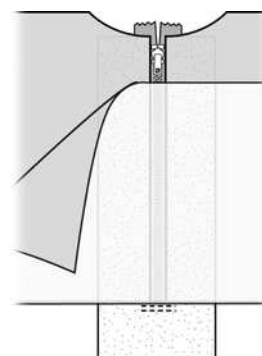


2

Zip Trip

Center the zipper under the opening and baste the zipper in place by hand along the folded fabric edges. For a quicker hold, use water-soluble basting tape on the zipper tape right sides and adhere the zipper to the stay fabric.

Stitch across the zipper end only through the stay fabric and the tiny fabric triangle clipped with the stay stitching. Adjust the needle position or use a zipper foot to get as close as possible to the zipper teeth (3).

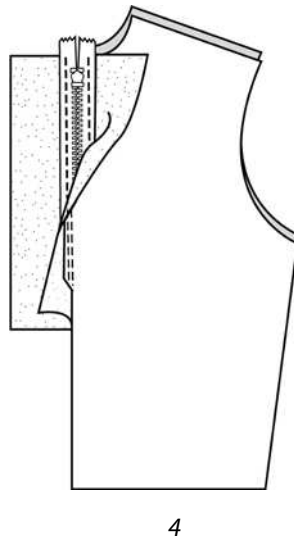


3

Fold back the garment and stitch both zipper sides to only the stay fabric, close to the zipper teeth (4). It works best to stitch along the previous stitching line holding the stay to the garment.

If desired, add trim around the zipper teeth on the garment right side, mitering the corners.

Clean-finish the edges of the stay fabric using a zigzag or serger, and trim it closer to the zipper if desired.

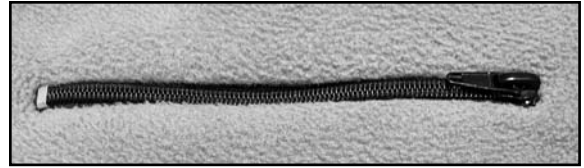


Opening Up

A similar look can be achieved on a garment that opens down the entire front—simply face both sides separately, insert the zipper in the same manner as above, and topstitch it in place. The woven fabric stay helps prevent a rippled zipper from the knit stretching during the zipper application.

Tip: Rhinestone zippers look great with this application, as the teeth shine on!

Pocket Application



This window method is similar to making a bound buttonhole and can be used on sportswear pockets, pillows, handbags, totes, etc.—anywhere a secure opening is needed.

To make exposed zipper pockets, make a faced window using a technique similar to the stayed application detailed above.

Cut a zipper facing 4" longer than the opening (2" for each end) and 3" wide. Center the stay over the pocket marking(s) and stitch 1/8" from the center line and across both ends, forming a box shape.

Slash the center line and clip both corners forming small triangles.

Anchor the triangles as above and lay the zipper under the opening. Baste, and then follow the fold-back-and-stitch directions above, or topstitch in place. Note: For horizontal pockets, the zipper pulls should be placed toward the garment center; for vertical pockets, the zipper pulls go at the upper edge.

Continue following the pattern guidesheet to apply the pocket bag to the zipper opening facing. ■