

Shorten a Separating Zipper

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/shorten-a-separating-zipper>



Here, I explain how to sew, then shorten, the separating zipper for our Hikaru variation. Since zippers very rarely come in the exact length you want, knowing how to shorten them is a necessity! When using a separating zippers, we adjust the length at the top of the zipper.

Step 1



Prepare your garment to the point where you are ready to sew in the zipper (all the self pieces are sewn together, including facing at the neckline). Align the bottom of the zipper up with corresponding notch mark (bottom arrow). Use chalk to mark where the waist seam meets the zipper.

Step 2



Keeping the zipper zipped, pin zipper to the jacket, right sides facing, making sure the notch/bottom of the zipper and seam/chalk mark correspond.

Step 3



Using a zipper foot, sew zipper to jacket, starting at the neckline edge and continuing to the bottom of the jacket. You'll have extra at the neckline edge of the jacket--ignore that for now. Note: don't sew zipper to the facing, just the outer part of the jacket.

Step 4



Turn the jacket inside out, and check that the notch/bottom of the zipper and seam/chalk mark correspond to both sides when zipped. Pin the unsewn side of the zipper in place, unzip the zipper, and repeat steps 2 & 3.

Step 5



This is what your jacket will look like from the front. Notice those long zipper tails coming out of the neck. Now we take care of those!

Step 6



Now, fold the zipper at a right angle, as shown. The teeth of the zipper should exactly follow the seam line of the facing/neckline. Pin the zipper in place. (The pin wasn't obviously visible in the photo, so I highlighted its placement with the red lines.)

Step 7



Cut the excess zipper, about 1" from where the teeth turn. Repeat for the other side.

Step 8



Your separating zipper is officially shortened. Carry on, little soldiers!

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