

Zippers: Lapped Zipper

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/zippers-lapped-zipper>



Uses: Used for a side seam when you want to have the flap going towards the back to hide the zipper instead of two flaps running down the middle of the zipper. Can also be used for bags. Notes: These directions are for making a lapped zipper for the left side of a garment (e.g. if you place the zipper going down the left side of a dress, the flap opens from the back side) where side zippers are usually placed on women's clothes. To make one for the right side, just reverse left and right in the directions. Check out more techniques at: <http://sewhappyclothes.blogspot.com/search/label/Techniques>

Step 1 — Stitch up to the zipper opening



For this zipper, it may be easiest to give yourself a 1" seam allowance (to do this, cut the fabric 3/8" wider for that seam). Place your zipper in position, and mark your fabric at the end of the zipper right at the metal stop tab. Sew your seam (with a 1" margin or 5/8" if you didn't cut the extra allowance) right up to the point you marked, leaving the seam open where the zipper will be. For this picture, the zipper will start right above where that pink seam ends.

Step 2 — Measure and Press



Press the seam open. Continue pressing past the seam to where the zipper will be, folding the left side back 1" (this becomes the right hand side when flipped to the front).

Step 3 — Measure and press again



Turn the fabric over to the right side. Press the left hand seam allowance under 7/8" (or 1/2" if you used a 5/8" seam allowance).

Step 4 — Position zipper



Pin the zipper under the right side of the seam opening, just as you placed it in step one. Place the zipper's teeth as close as possible to the pressed edge without going over the teeth (if you get too close, the zipper will catch in the fabric when it is being zipped and unzipped). Pin in place.

Step 5 — Sew zipper



Sew along the right side using a zipper foot, with your seam as close to the edge as reasonable. I like to start at the bottom and work my way up so that everything gets nice and lined up (although I didn't in this picture). For this side as well as the next, sew with the zipper zipped up, but zip it down when you get to the top so you can get around the zipper pull.

Step 6 — Pin lap in place over zipper



Pin the left hand seam over the right hand seam, overlapping by 1/8". Make sure to catch your zipper in the pins.

Step 7 — Stitch



Step 6 — Pin lap in place over zipper

Starting at the bottom of where the zipper is, sew across the zipper from right to left, and then sew up the left hand side leaving 1/2" margin from the pressed edge (you can mark this with 1/2" tape to make it easier). Use the zipper foot to help guide you along the zipper underneath without sewing over it or sewing too far away.

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