

Zippers: Invisible Zipper

By: SewHappyClothes

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



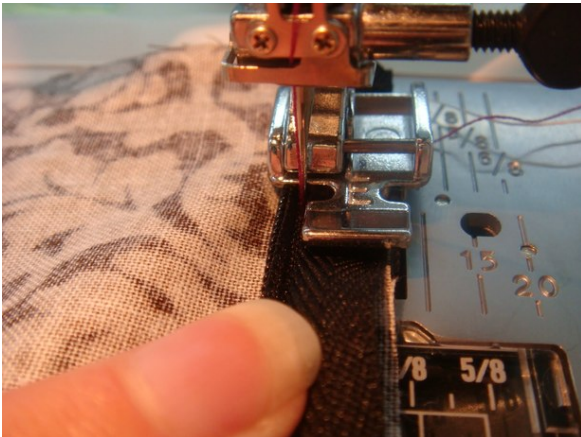
Uses: You can use this zipper in place of either of the zippers above. It works great pretty much anywhere—garments, pillow cases, etc.—and you may find it easier than the above techniques. Notes: You can use a regular zipper foot for this, but a special invisible zipper foot makes it easier. Also, if you are replacing a lapped or centered zipper with the invisible zipper that a pattern calls for, sew this zipper in per the directions below first before doing anything else to the seam. As a final note, this sample was sewn with the wrong side of the fabric on the outside by mistake; adjust accordingly from the pictures you see here. Check out more techniques here: <http://sewhappyclothes.blogspot.com/search/label/Techniques>.

Step 1 — Examine the zipper



Take a moment to look at your invisible zipper. The part with the teeth is actually folded out over the rest of the zipper (I'm holding it up to reveal the underside of the teeth in this picture). When sewing your invisible zipper to your fabric, you want to sew in this space as close to the teeth as possible so that you actually end up underneath them. An invisible zipper foot can help you do fold the teeth out of the way. Ironing the zipper so that the teeth are unfolded away from the rest of the zipper tape also helps (remember to set the iron on low so that you don't melt the zipper).

Step 2 — Sew zipper



With the zipper unzipped, pin one side of the zipper to the fabric along the raw edge, right sides together so that the zipper is facing down with its teeth inward, and the right side of the fabric is facing up (this is where I went wrong--the wrong side of my fabric is facing up). Sew from the top downward with your zipper foot as close to the teeth as possible, holding the zipper teeth unfolded by hand if you don't have an invisible zipper foot. Stop about 1" from the bottom of the zipper.

Step 3 — Line up the sides



Line your fabric up so that the fabric and zipper will be even with the other side. Repeat step 2 with the second side of the zipper.

Step 4 — Sew second side



To finish off the rest of the zipper, zip the zipper and, on the wrong side of the fabric, hold the selvages together so that the zipper will not get caught in the machine. Start your stitching at 1/8" of an inch to the outside of the last stitch. Stitch down for two inches, change to a regular presser foot, and finish the seam. You can secure the ends of the zipper to the selvage with a couple of stitches to hold it in place.

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