

Machine Sewn Facing with an Invisible Zipper

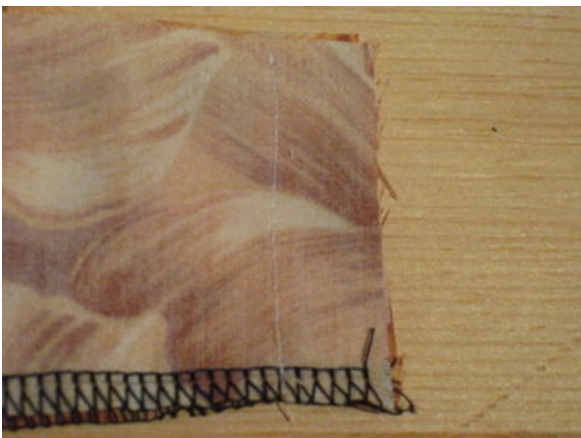
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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/machine-sewn-facing-with-a>



I was examining the waist facing of a skirt, trying to figure out how they machine sewed the edge along the zipper, rather than hand-sewing (which most pattern instructions have you do). It's actually quite simple, and saves a step of threading a hand sewing needle. I suspect it will work for neck facings for tops and dresses too! Sorry that some of the pictures are blurry—I don't have the best camera for close-ups!

Step 1 — Prepare the Facing



Sew the side seams of the facing together (or whichever seams aren't being attached to the zipper. Finish the raw edge of the facing, by either serging, pinking, sewing with a zig zag stitch, turning under and stitching, or using binding (like in my skirt).

Step 2 — Finish Raw edges of the skirt.

It's a lot easier to do now, rather than after you've put in the zipper!

Step 3 — Attach invisible zipper



I find that an invisible zipper foot is the easiest (you can find them in most notions stores). If not, you can use an regular zipper foot. Open the zipper and place, right sides together on the fabric. The top of your zipper should match the top of your fabric. The edge of your zipper tape should just be inside the raw edge of your fabric. The needle should go right in the "well" created when you give the teeth a little push to the side. Stop sewing when the needle reaches the zipper pull. Don't worry about the rest of the skirt below the zipper being unsewn.

Step 4 — Attach other side of zipper



I have used double sided basting tape (Clover makes a really good one that doesn't gum up your needle), but you can use pins.

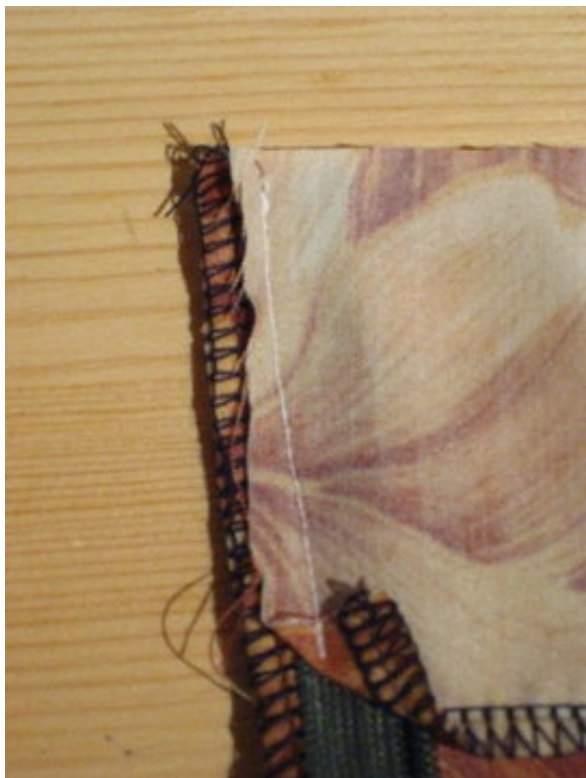
Step 5 — Pin facing to skirt



Step 4 — Attach other side of zipper

Place facing on skirt, right sides together. The raw edge of the facing can be just inside the finished edge of the zipper (it won't show, so you don't need to finish it). Fold up the bottom corner of the facing.

Step 6 — Sew the facing to the skirt



Sew anywhere between the raw edge and the zipper teeth. The closer you sew to the zipper teeth, there will be less zipper tape that shows when you turn this to the right side. I kept the invisible zipper foot on my machine for this step. Don't forget to repeat these steps with the other side of the zipper!

Step 7 — Fold facing to inside



Fold the zipper in on itself, so you are essentially sandwiching the zipper inside the facing. You should see 2 rows of sewing if you've done it properly. You only need to turn in the width of your zipper--you should feel the coils of the zipper on the edge of your fold

Step 8 — Sew top of facing to the skirt



Switch to a regular straight stitch foot. Use the seam allowance that the pattern calls for and sew the top of the facing all the way around the top of the skirt. You don't need to rim the seam allowance or clip corners, but you can if your fabric is really bulky.

Step 9 — Turn facing right side out



Use your fingers to push out the corner--it will lie flat in the end. Press flat. To finish the rest of the seam, close the zipper and place the seam right sides together. Pull the unsewn ends of the zipper out of the way. Use a zipper foot to start as close to the stitches as possible and sew straight down the rest of the seam. You can also sew the edges of the zipper tape to the seam allowances--it makes for easier zipping and unzipping of your garment (sorry, I don't have a picture of this).

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