

# How to Insert an Invisible Zipper without an Invisible Zipper Foot

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/how-to-insert-an-invisible-z>

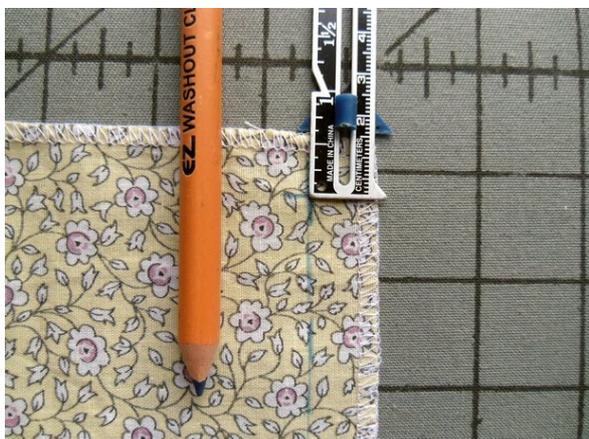
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If you don't own a special presser foot for invisible zippers or if you've had trouble with them in the past, try reading through my tutorial. You might just find an alternative that will work for you.

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## Step 2 — Zipper Placement



Mark out the location of the zipper you will be inserting by chalking a line (or use a soluble marker or thread tacks), along the seamline. Also make a mark where the zipper slider will stop, both at the top and the bottom of the zipper. I will be calling the bottom mark the "end marking" throughout these directions.

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### Step 3 — Pressing the Zipper



Iron zipper so there are no wrinkles, a lot of steam helps here. Press zipper teeth to one side. Flattening the teeth like this with an iron will help you stitch as close as you can when you seam.

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### Step 4 — Basting the Zipper



Open out the zipper and place right side of zipper against right side of fabric. Place zipper's left side along seamline marking you made so that zipper teeth are just beyond it. And have zipper tape in seam allowance. Pin and baste.

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## Step 5 — First Line of Stitching



Using your regular zipper foot and a 2.5 mm stitch length, stitch from top portion of zipper to end marking you made. The trick here is to stitch as close as you can to the zipper teeth. Help yourself by stitching very slowly and use your thumbnail to press and flatten the zipper teeth as you go along. I find that the best position for your thumb is right alongside the presser foot.

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## Step 6 — Second Line of Stitching



To make sure the tape is securely attach to the fabric, make a second line of stitching roughly 1/8" away from the zipper tape edge. Stitch all the way to the bottom of the zipper, passing your end marking. Side note: I've seen some people finish their seams and the zipper tape at the same time. I rather finish my seams and then stitch the tape to the seam allowances later because there may be a time when I need to replace this zipper and I want to easily remove it. But it is really up to you!

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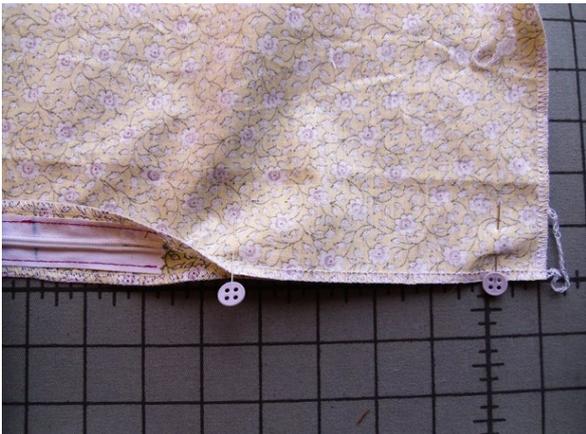
## Step 7 — Sewing the Other Zipper Tape



Repeat these two lines of stitching for the other zipper tape. Things to keep in mind: make sure the teeth are just beyond the seamline marking, the tape is in the seam allowance, and you start from the end mark and work your way to the top.

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## Step 8 — Sewing the Seam Below the Zipper



In most patterns they say to make a seam by stitching from the hem to a dot or marking, and leave the rest of the seam open for the zipper. Most of the time this works out just fine for me but there have been occasions when the zipper just didn't fit in the space provided. And I was left with a zipper with puckers. That is why I am going to make that seam below the zipper now--AFTER the zipper has been inserted. So pin the bottom section, right sides together.

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## Step 9 — Sewing the Seam Below the Zipper - Continued



And using the zipper foot, sew from the zipper end marking to the hem. Sew as close as you can to the excess zipper that extends past the end marking.

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## Step 10 — Sewing the Seam Below the Zipper - Continued



Here is a picture of the finished seam. If you like, you can whipstitch across the zipper teeth at the end marking now to prevent the slider from ever passing this point.

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## Step 11 — The Zipper Installed



You are finished! Here is what you'll zipper will look like on the inside once installed.

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## Step 12 — The Zipper Installed



Step 11 — The Zipper Installed

And here it is from the right side. See, you really can do it without a specialty foot! I was so glad to have figured this out because invisible zippers were one of those things I thought I just couldn't do. If you would like a more detailed version of this tutorial, here is the link:

<http://artandneedlework.blogspot.com/2012/01/12012-tutorial-how-to-insert-invisible.html> And if you wanted to check out more of my tutorials, visit this page:

<http://artandneedlework.blogspot.com/p/my-crafting-tutorials.html>

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## Step 1 — The Only Tool You'll Need



So is it possible to insert an invisible zipper without an invisible zipper foot? Yes! And the only tool you'll need is an all-purpose zipper foot. Chances are this presser foot already came with your machine so you should have everything you need right now. Let's get started!

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