

French fly, or waist stay, for trousers/shorts

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/french-fly-or-waist-stay-for->



The French fly for trousers is a hidden extra closure with an inside button tab attached to an internal belt or waist stay. its function is to allow the flap of the fly to sit down smooth and flat in a more relaxed way by taking any strain of the top of the zip. It is seen in better quality men's dress or suit trousers, and occasionally in womenswear (but not enough)

Step 1 — Cutting the zip placket



Cut out two pieces for the zip placket long enough for the zip plus seam allowances, apply iron-on interfacing to one.

Step 2 — Constructing the zip placket



Measure the length of the zip and sew the placket pieces together to be the correct length to fit your zip, just like a regular zip placket. The difference is shaping the placket with the "nose". The point of the nose has to be at the same level to where the zip pull sits when it is closed. Turn out the placket, finish the long raw edges together, and put in a buttonhole of a size to suit your chosen button.

Step 3 — Inserting the zip placket



Insert the zip placket and the zip, just like you would for a regular zip placket.

Step 4 — Attach waistband



Attach the interfaced half of the waistband to the top edge of the garment, just as usual.

Step 5 — The waist stay



Step 3 — Inserting the zip placket

Cut two long pieces of sturdy woven fabric on the grain lengthwise to be the hidden "belt" or waist stay (I'm just going to go with "belt" from now on, OK?) Each piece needs to be plenty long enough to go around half your waist, plus extra, and the width should be double your desired finished belt width plus double seam allowances. Fold both pieces in half lengthwise right sides together, sew together one of the short ends, turn right side out and press. Press the whole length in half lengthwise.

Step 6 — Placement of belt on waistband facing



Now turn in the waistband facing and hold in place to situate each belt in its right spot... each with the stitched closed bit at the front and the long folded edge down. The left front should be situated just over the stitching line of the placket, and the right front to halfway over the zip tape. Pin to mark their placement on the facing.

Step 7 — Stitching belts to waistband facing



Stitch the belts to the waistband facing, keeping the front edges of the belts in exactly the position you had pinned previously. Stitch all the way along to about 5cm away from the centre back seam, to allow for final fitting of the waistband.

Step 8 — Centre back seam



Do the final waistband fitting and stitch up the waistband centre back. Once this is done, measure the belt to fit, and sew the two together at the centre back seam. Once stitched together at the centre back, fold the centre back of the belt in half lengthwise and press, and stitch the remainder into place on the waistband facing.

Step 9 — Stitch opening edges of waistband



Fold the waistband facing in right sides together and stitch the front edges, just as you would for a regular waistband. Trim corners and turn the waistband right sides out.

Step 10 — Complete waistband



Fold in and under the waistband facing seam allowance, and the belt seam allowance, and pin in place. Baste and stitch in the ditch all the way around to finish the waistband. To complete securing the belt; stitch the left front down firmly, stitching along the same stitching as the placket/zip stitching.

Step 11 — Attach button



Finally, try on the trousers/shorts to determine the placement of the belt button, and stitch it on securely. It should be situated so that the front fly flap and zip sit closed and perfectly relaxed. There should be no strain on the zip (which would mean the belt is too loose) and no squeezing together at the top of the zip (which would mean the belt is too tight)

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