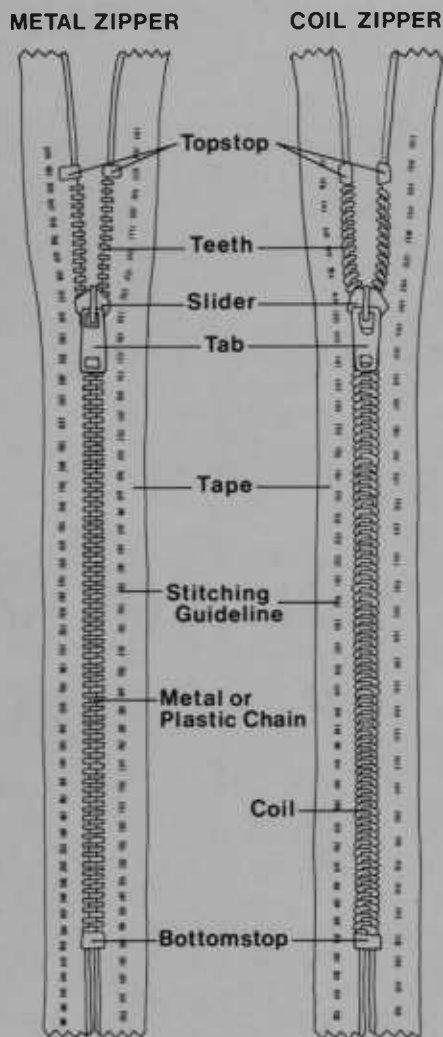


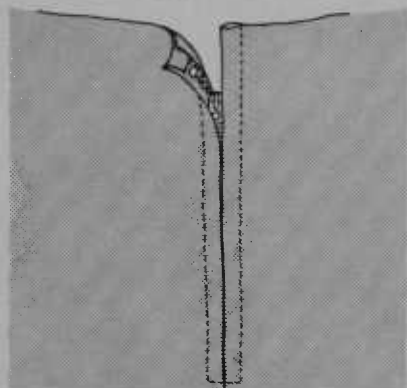
# Zippers—Centered and Lapped Applications



A zipper is a seam closure consisting of teeth or interlocking coils attached to woven or knit tapes and opened or closed with a slide and pull tab. Select a zipper according to the type needed for the garment design, the location on the garment, the fabric weight, and the appropriate length and color.

Types of zippers include conventional, invisible, separating, and special-purpose zippers (i.e., decorative, recreational, and slipcover). Zippers are constructed of different materials for uses and personal tastes. This publication discusses the centered and lapped applications of the conventional zipper.

**CENTERED**

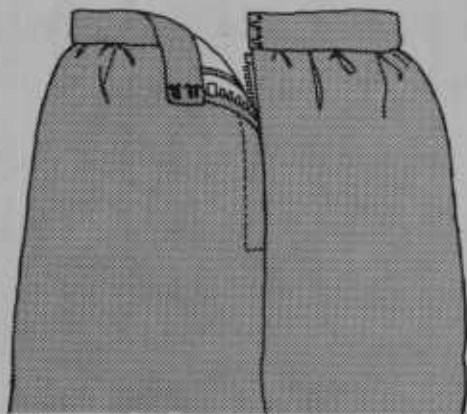


When the zipper is applied to a garment, it should slide easily and should be hidden unless it is intended to be an exposed zipper. If any stitching shows, it should be straight, even, and neatly done.

The *centered* application is used at the center front or center back of a garment, at the wrists of sleeves, and in home decorating. It is suitable for medium to heavy weight fabrics.



## LAPPED

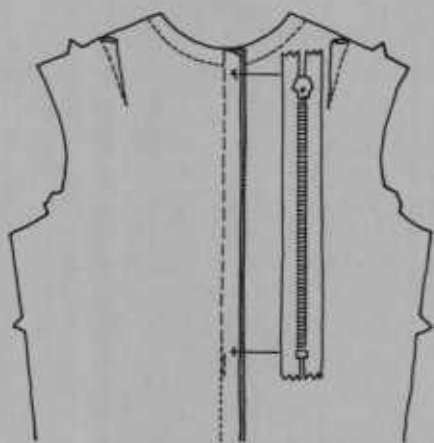


The *lapped* application may be used in the same places as the centered application but is most often used at side seams, pants front, skirt opening, or home furnishings where maximum coverage of the zipper is needed. It is suitable for light and medium weight fabrics.

## Preparing the zipper and zipper opening

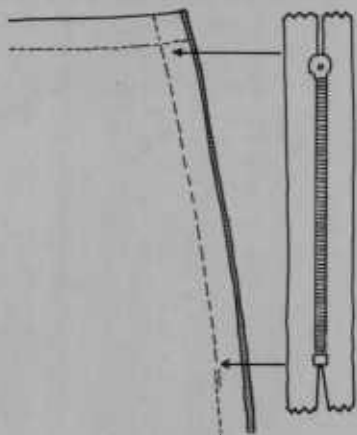
Prepare the zipper by preshrinking it in hot tap water and allowing it to air dry. Zippers that have both a polyester coil and 100 percent polyester tape do not need preshrinking.

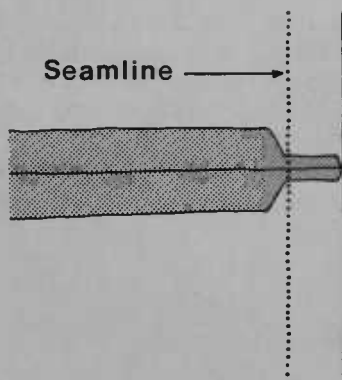
Prepare the zipper opening by staystitching, especially if the seam is curved or on the bias. Staystitch with matching thread and regular sized stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) from the cut edge. The seam beyond where the zipper will be inserted should be first sewn and finished; the opening then should be basted closed and pressed open. To determine the length of the zipper opening, measure the closed zipper from the lower edge of the bottomstop to the top of the slide. Zippers should be inserted before the facing or waistband is applied, but extra fabric must be allowed for the facing or waistband.



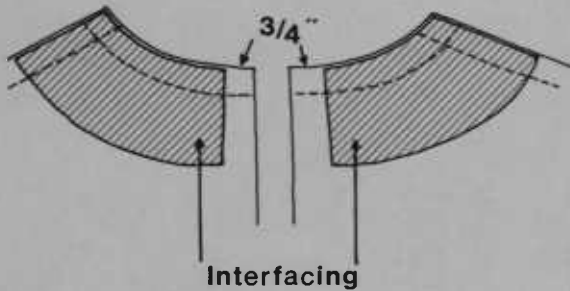
If the opening is at the *neckline*, add  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1.3 cm) plus  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch (1.5 cm) seam allowance for the facing on an unfinished neck edge. If the zipper will be inserted in a *dress side seam*, add  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (1 cm) to the length of the zipper. For a *skirt or pants* opening, add  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (1 cm) plus  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch (1.5 cm) for seam allowance.

Conventional zippers may be shortened by whipstitching tightly across the coil or teeth with double thread where desired at the bottom of the zipper. Cut off excess zipper  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1.3 cm) below the whipstitching. Apply zipper to garment.

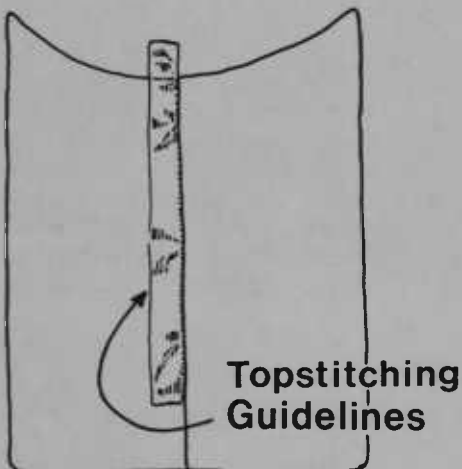




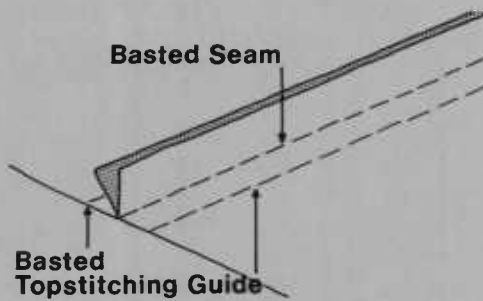
Reduce bulk by trimming seam allowances from a yoke or waistline that cross with the zipper. Trim interfacing back  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (1.9 cm) from the cut edge.



Prepare for topstitching before beginning to apply the zipper. Three methods are equally successful in providing a topstitching guideline: adhesive sewing tape, machine basting, and hand basting. The use of adhesive sewing tape or machine basting are the quickest methods. Do not use tape on napped fabrics such as corduroy, velvet, or sueded fabrics. Do not use machine basting on fabrics that will show stitch marks.

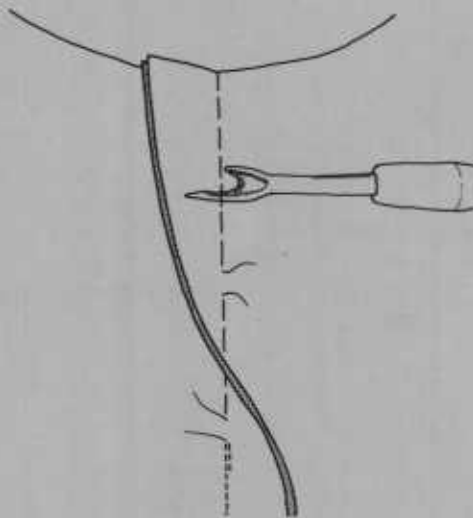


After pressing the seam open, apply adhesive sewing tape or transparent tape with penciled guidelines by placing one edge of the tape along the desired topstitching line, usually  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (6 mm to 1 cm) from basted seam. Plan to stitch *beside* the tape; if the tape is stitched, it will be difficult to remove.

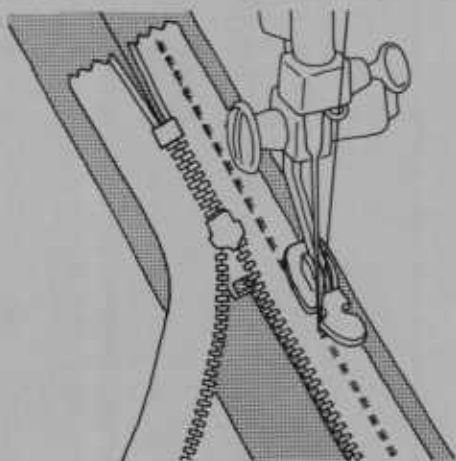


Before machine basting the topstitching guideline, press the seam open. Spread the garment flat, wrong side up, and lift each seam allowance. Machine baste through the outer fabric along the desired topstitching line, usually  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (6 mm to 1 cm) from the seam line, stitching from the bottom to the top. Apply the zipper following the lapped or centered application. When topstitching, stitch next to the basting line through all thicknesses of fabric so the basting stitches can be removed.

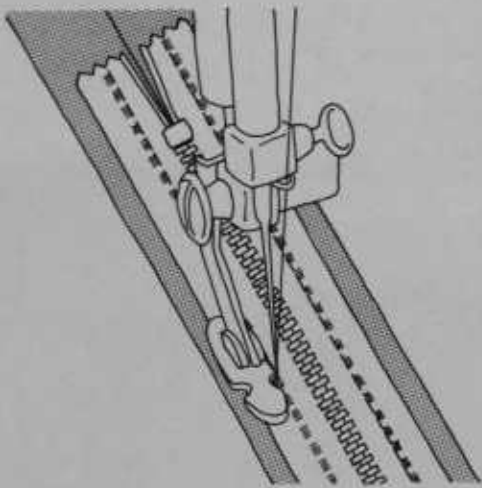
### Centered application



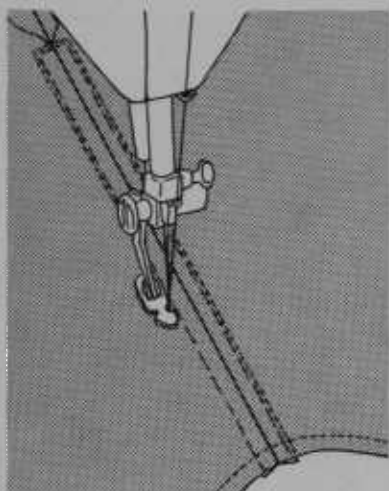
Prepare the seam by determining the length of the opening plus an allowance for finishing the waistband or facing. Machine baste the seam closed and press the seam open; clip both of the basting threads at the bottom of the placket, and adjust the bobbin thread at 1 inch (2.5 cm) intervals to ease removal of the basting thread.



With the bottom of the zipper opening away from you, extend the right seam allowance to eliminate stitching the right side of the garment. Open the zipper and place it face down on extended seam allowance. Locate the zipper bottomstop at the intersection of the seam and the basting; position the coil or teeth next to the seam, and pin in place. Using a zipper foot (to the right of the machine needle) start at the bottom of the zipper tape and machine baste along the stitching guideline on the right zipper tape.

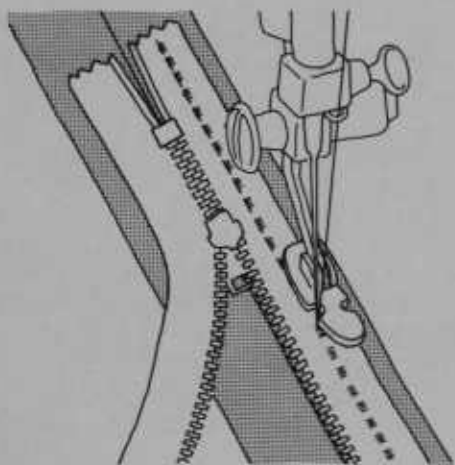


Close the zipper, then extend the left seam allowance. Place the zipper foot to the left of the machine needle, and machine baste the left zipper tape along the guideline starting at the bottom of the zipper tape.

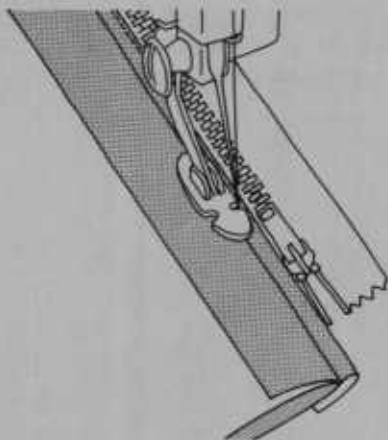


Turn the garment right side up and spread flat. Adjust the machine to regular stitch length. Topstitch across the bottom of the zipper starting at the center seam. Pivot and stitch along the topstitching guideline to the top of the zipper opening. Repeat the procedure for the other side, beginning again at the center seam. Bring the top threads to the inside and tie. Remove topstitching guideline and press.

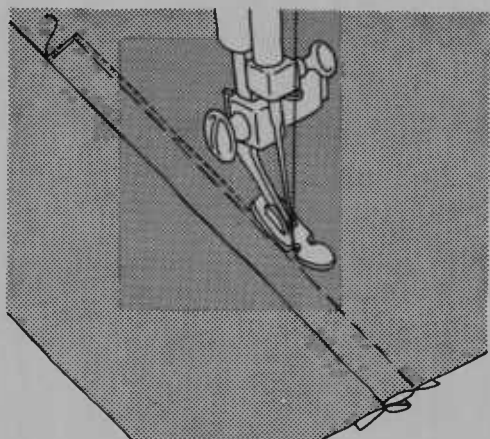
## Lapped application



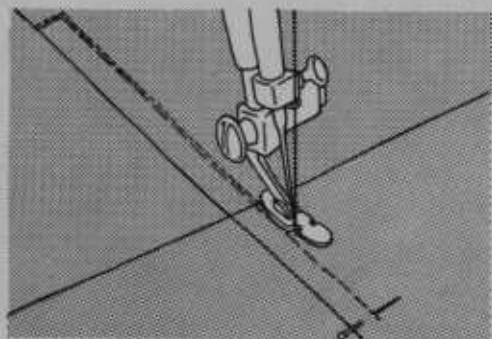
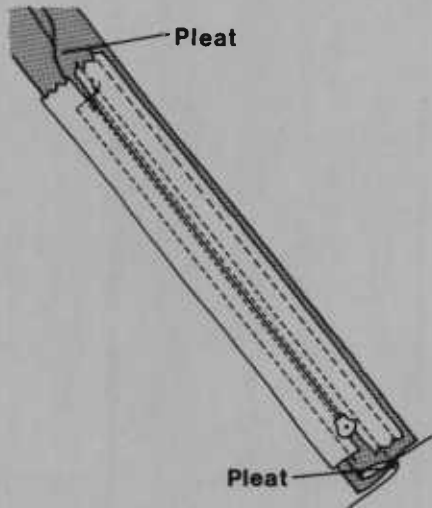
Prepare the seam as described in "Preparing the zipper and zipper opening." Machine baste the seam, press the seam open, and clip the basting threads at the bottom of the placket to ease removal of the basting. Working on the inside of the garment, extend the right seam allowance. Open the zipper and place it face down on the extended seam allowance with the bottom of the zipper away from you even with the seam and basting intersection. The teeth or coil of the open zipper should be next to, but not on, the seam. Position the zipper foot to the right of the needle. With a basting stitch, start at the bottom of the zipper and machine baste evenly about 1/8 inch (3 mm) from the zipper teeth or coil. The stitching may curve out slightly around the slide and pull tab.



Position the zipper foot to the left of the needle, adjust the machine to regular stitch length, and close the zipper. Turn the zipper face up, folding the seam allowance on the basting, and keeping the zipper flat. Starting at the bottom of the zipper tape, stitch through the fold and the zipper tape.

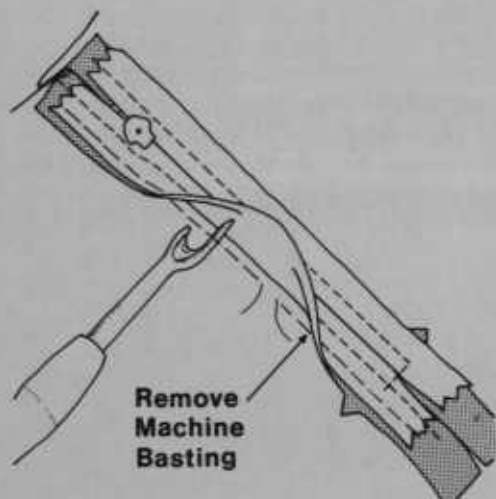


Turn the garment right side up and spread flat. Check that the zipper is flat beneath the basted seam allowance and that there is a small pleat formed by stitching through the fold at the bottom of the zipper. Hold the pleat in place and mark the bottom of the zipper with a pin. Begin topstitching at the seam and stitch across the bottom of the zipper to the topstitching guideline. Pivot and continue stitching along the topstitching guideline.



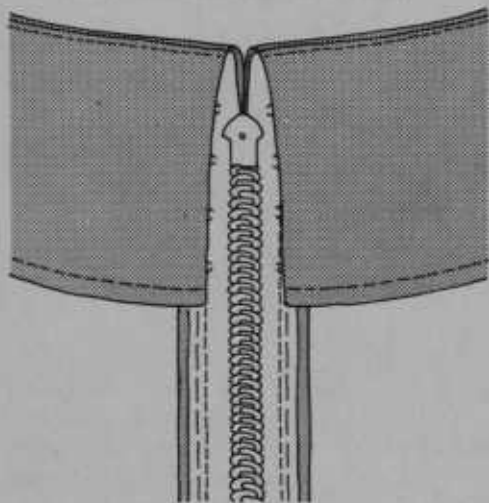
If the opening is a waistband or standup collar, stitch to the edge of the fabric. If a faced edge, stitch to 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the edge, cut off the end of the zipper tape at the facing seam line, and continue stitching to the edge. If the opening is a dress with a side zipper, bar tack by the top stop. Mark the bar tack with a pin on the right side. Topstitch beyond the bar tack, pivot, and stitch to the seam. Bring thread ends to the inside and tie.

On the inside lift the right seam allowance that was first basted. Clip and remove the machine basting. Remove topstitching guideline and press.



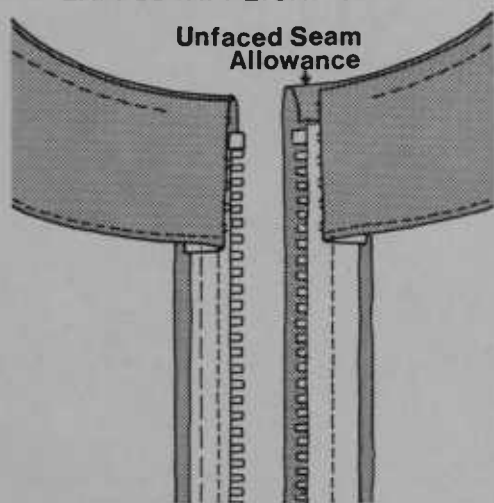
## Finishing the top of the faced zipper

### CENTERED APPLICATION

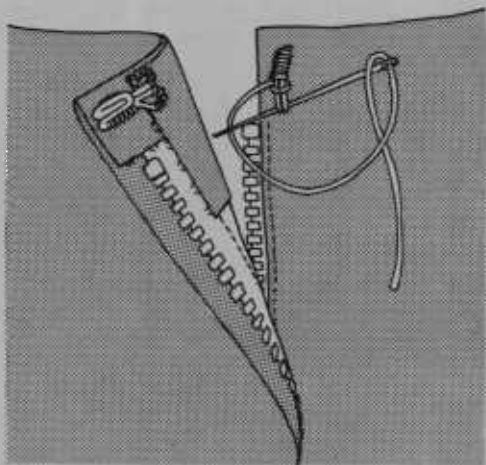


When the zipper has been inserted, finish the top edge of the garment by applying the facing and hand hemming it to the zipper tape.

### LAPPED APPLICATION

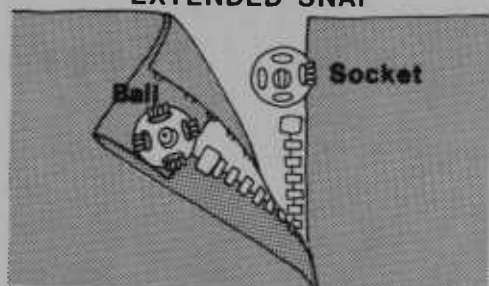




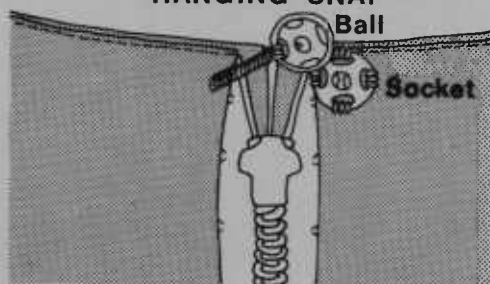


For most fabrics, use a hook and thread eye at the top of the zipper opening. The blanket stitch thread eye is stronger although the thread chain eye is satisfactory. If the fabric might be snagged by the hook, use extended or hanging snaps.

#### EXTENDED SNAP



#### HANGING SNAP



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#### Selected References:

Coats and Clark, *Coats & Clark Sewing Book: Newest Methods A to Z*. Western Publishing Company, Inc., 1976.

Reader's Digest. *Complete Guide to Sewing*. The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 1976.

Simplicity. *Simplicity Sewing Book*. Simplicity Pattern Co., Inc., 1975.



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