

Clothing and TEXTILES

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMMING

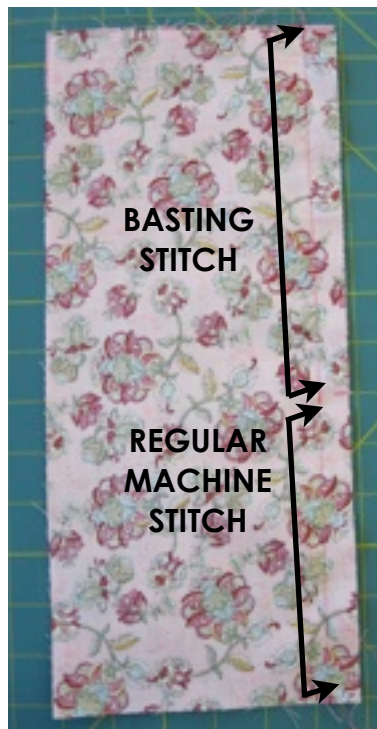
Sewing Technique: Centered Zipper

Centered zippers can be used on the back or front of garments and in home decorating applications. All work is done on the inside of the garment except for topstitching. You will need a zipper foot to install a centered zipper. Remember to always keep the needle positioned between the zipper foot and the zipper teeth when sewing.

Note: Throughout this tutorial, you will hear the term “placket”. A placket is the fabric that surrounds and reinforces fasteners in a garment. In this instance, we are referring to a zipper.



1. On the wrong side of the fabric, measure and mark the placket opening. Do this by measuring from the top of the garment down along the seam to the zipper bottom stop. Mark where the bottom stop will be with a marking pencil.



2. As you sew the seam, use a machine stitch along the seam until the marked point of the bottom of the zipper, backstitch, then switch to a basting stitch for the distance of the placket seam. Press seam allowance open.



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3. Replace your sewing machine foot with a zipper foot. Open zipper. Place zipper face down with the teeth centered on the pressed open seam on the inside of the garment, matching bottom stop with mark.

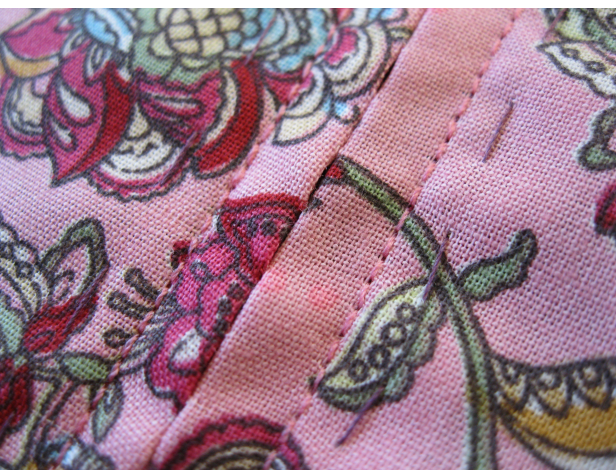


4. Beginning at the bottom and sewing only on the zipper tape and seam allowance, machine baste along the stitching guideline on the zipper tape, or approximately in the center of the zipper tape.

5. Close the zipper and keep the pull tap up. Moving to the opposite side and sewing only on the zipper tape and seam allowance, machine baste along the stitching guideline on the zipper tape, or approximately in the center of the zipper tape from bottom to top.



6. Turn the garment right side out. Hand baste across the bottom of the placket seam and along each side, making sure to catch the garment, seam allowance and the zipper tape in your stitch.



7. Now using a regular machine stitch, and still working from the right side of the garment, topstitch through the garment, seam allowance, and zipper tape. Begin from the center of the bottom seam, sew several stitches along the bottom, turn and stitch up one side, then begin from the bottom again to stitch the remaining side. Keep your stitching approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam.



8. Tie together the loose thread ends at the bottom of the placket seam and trim excess tails.



9. Remove hand basting stitches and machine basting in placket seam and open the placket to reveal the zipper.

Industry Standards for a Well-Constructed Zipper

- Correct type of zipper is used for intended design and use
- Stitch length and tension are correct
- Zipper enhances overall design and function of garment
- Zipper is applied so fabric patterns are matched
- Zipper lies flat and smooth with no puckering
- Threads are secure and trimmed
- Zipper opens and closes smoothly

Industry Standards for a Well-Constructed Centered Zipper:

- Zipper teeth are centered from bottom to top

Sources:

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