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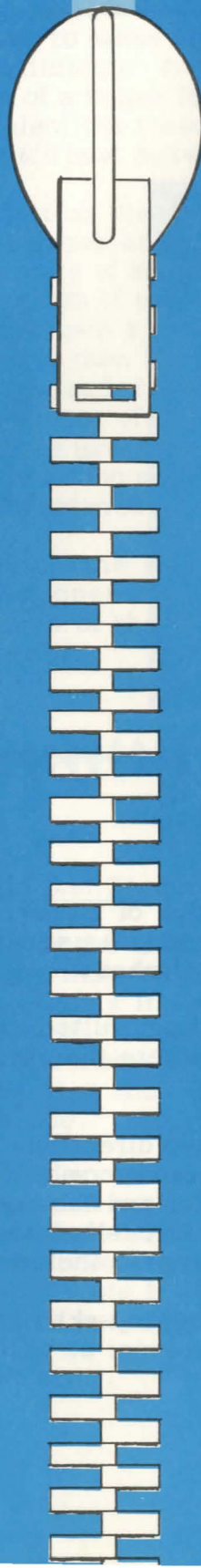
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Easy
**ZIPPER
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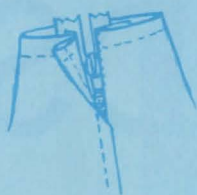
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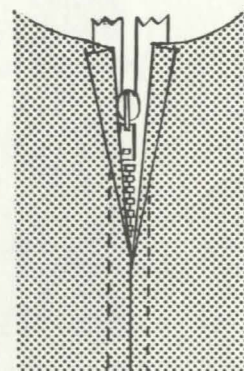
ZIPPER METHODS

Anna Marie Kreifels

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INTRODUCTION

Inserting zippers is easy if you choose the correct type of zipper, follow directions for its application, and sew accurately. The method you use should result in a smooth, inconspicuous placket, securely and neatly stitched.

Pattern envelopes list the length and type of zipper best suited to the design of the garment. The cut and style of the garment determine where the placket should be placed.

Instruction sheets enclosed with patterns and zippers give directions for some application methods. This circular gives directions for the three commonly used zipper applications -- lapped skirt placket, lapped dress placket and the neckline zipper. Occasionally there is a need for inserting a zipper in a flat felled seam or for hand sewing a zipper. Instructions for these two methods are also included.

Practicing zipper application methods will help you develop skill in doing an excellent job quickly and easily.

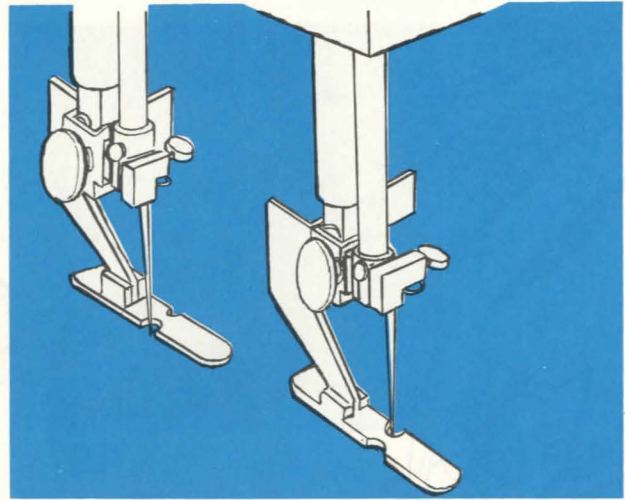
General Tips for Zipper Application

1. Choose the type, length and color of zipper best suited to the design of the garment.

2. For easier and neater zipper application use an adjustable zipper foot attachment on your sewing machine. This "one-toed" foot can be moved to either side of the needle to allow easy stitching. A cording foot can be used instead of a zipper foot but it is less convenient. Select the size machine needle and length of stitch best suited to your fabric.

3. When cutting the garment allow $3/4$ inch seam allowances at the placket to eliminate the necessity of adding tape or facing to increase the width of the seam allowance. If the seam allowance as determined by the fitting line is less than $5/8$ inch, the width will need to be extended. This can be done by attaching a facing of self-fabric, lining fabric or seam tape (pre-shrunk). If the self-fabric is bulky a facing made of lining fabric or seam tape is preferred.

4. Staystitch the seam edges which form the placket opening. This will prevent curved edges of the fabric from being stretched off grain.



5. To maintain proper grainline in the zipper area begin all pinning and stitching at the lower end of the zipper and stitch toward the top.

6. If fabric is difficult to handle or if sewing experience is limited, hand basting is suggested before machine stitching is done.

7. Do not cut ends from zipper tape. They help to make the zipper lie smoothly and neatly in the garment.

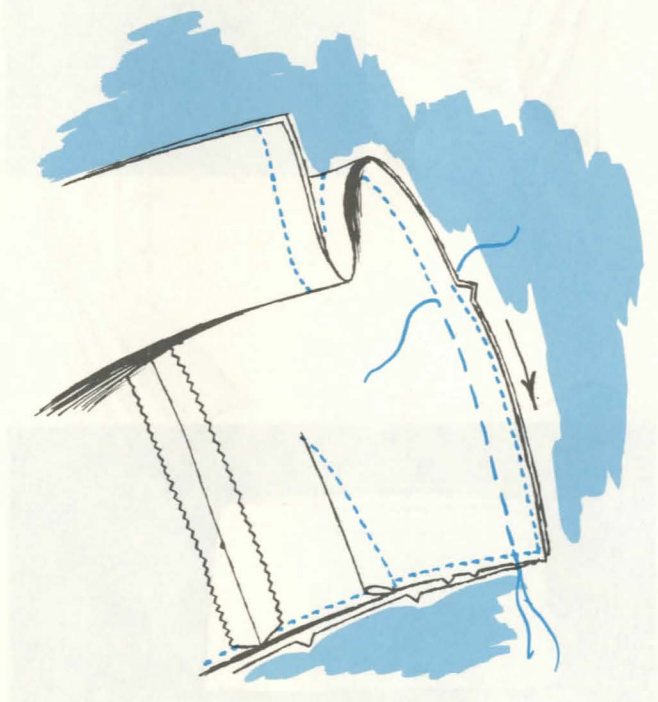
8. Press as you sew.

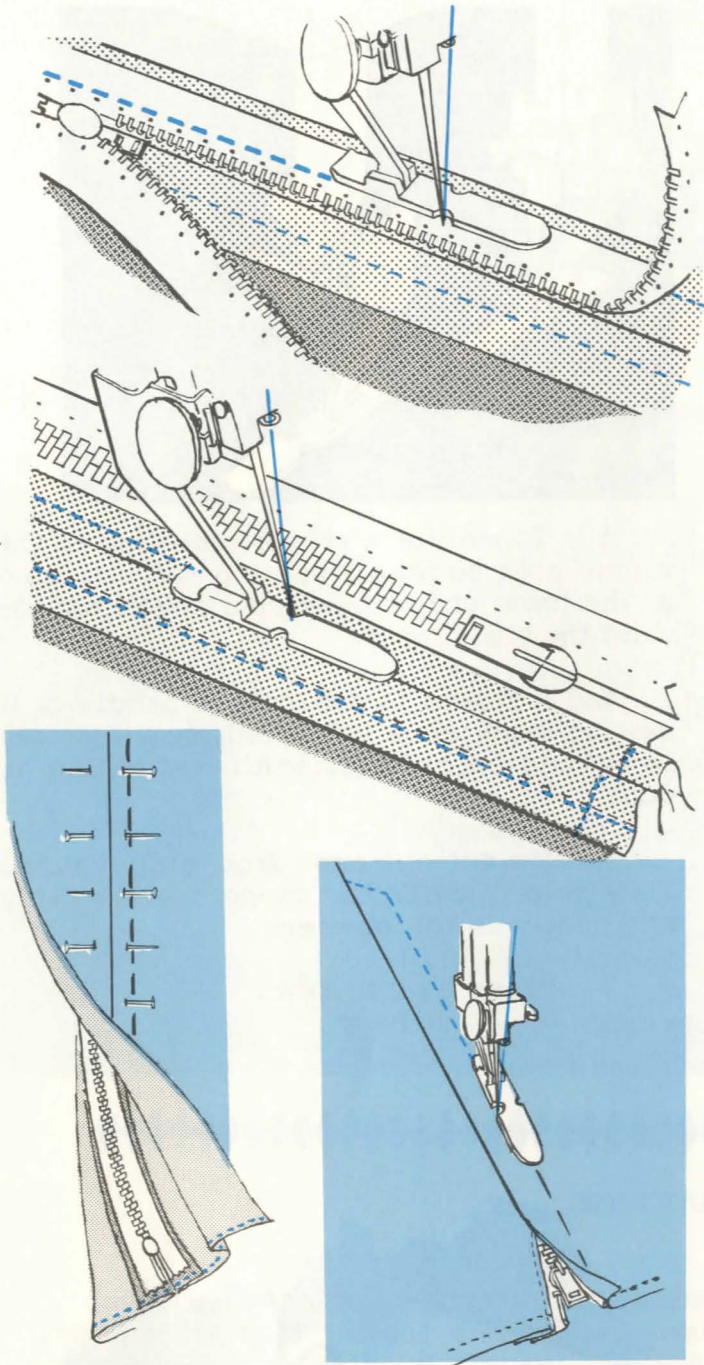


Lapped Skirt Placket Zipper

The opening for the skirt placket should be one inch longer than the metal part of the zipper. The zipper is inserted before the waistband is applied. Select a skirt placket zipper 7 inches or 9 inches long depending on the design of the skirt and the suggestion on the pattern envelope.

1. Close the placket opening by machine basting on the seamline as determined by fitting. Press the seam open over a press mitt to retain the curved shape over the hip. If seam allowances are less than $5/8$ inch wide, a facing or seam tape (pre-shrunk) should be applied to increase the width of the seam allowances.





2. Attach zipper foot to the machine and adjust it to the right side of the needle. Open the zipper. Place it face down on the back seam allowance with the metal teeth of the zipper at the seamline and the bottom stop at the lower end of basting. Stitch from bottom of zipper toward the top through the zipper tape and back seam allowance only. Stitching should be about 1/16 inch from metal teeth of zipper.

3. Adjust zipper foot to left side of needle. Close zipper and turn it face up. Press fabric away from zipper, making a narrow fold in the back seam allowance along the teeth of the zipper. Edge stitch on fold beginning at the bottom end of tape. Sew through fabric fold and tape only. Keep tape lying flat.

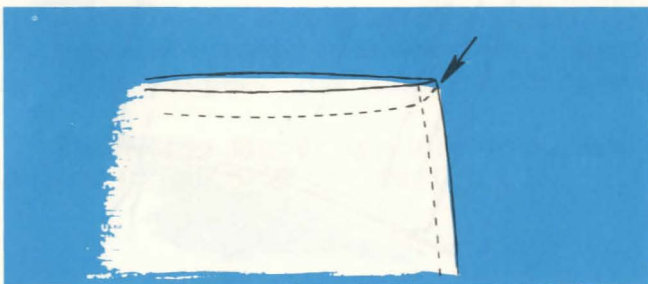
4. Place skirt right side up. Pin zipper in position from right side. Insert pins crosswise under metal part of zipper alternating direction of pins. Hand baste.

5. Adjust zipper foot to right side of needle. From right side of skirt stitch across lower end of zipper toward the top of placket keeping the stitching line 3/8 to 1/2 inch from the side seamline. Remove hand basting. (This final stitching must sew through the skirt front, the front seam allowance and the front zipper tape).

6. Press the zipper. Pull threads at lower end of zipper to inside of garment. Tie and trim. Remove basting which closed placket opening in Step 1. Trimming threads will prevent them from being caught in the zipper.

Lapped Dress Placket Zipper

The opening for the dress placket should be one-half inch longer than the metal part of the zipper being used. The length of the zipper is determined by the style of the dress. Notice zipper suggestions on the pattern envelope.



The finished dress placket zipper will lie more smoothly at the waistline if the waistline seams are stitched at a slight angle from the fitting line to the edge of the seam allowance.

1. Close the placket opening by machine basting on the fitting line being careful to match front and back waistline seams exactly. Press seam open over a press mitt to retain the proper shape for fit. If seam allowances are less than 5/8 inch wide, a facing or seam tape (pre-shrunk) should be applied to increase the width of the seam allowances.

2. Continue steps 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 as stated in directions for the skirt placket zipper.

Neckline Zipper or Slot Seam Placket

The length of the placket opening should equal the length of the zipper plus the neckline seam allowance.

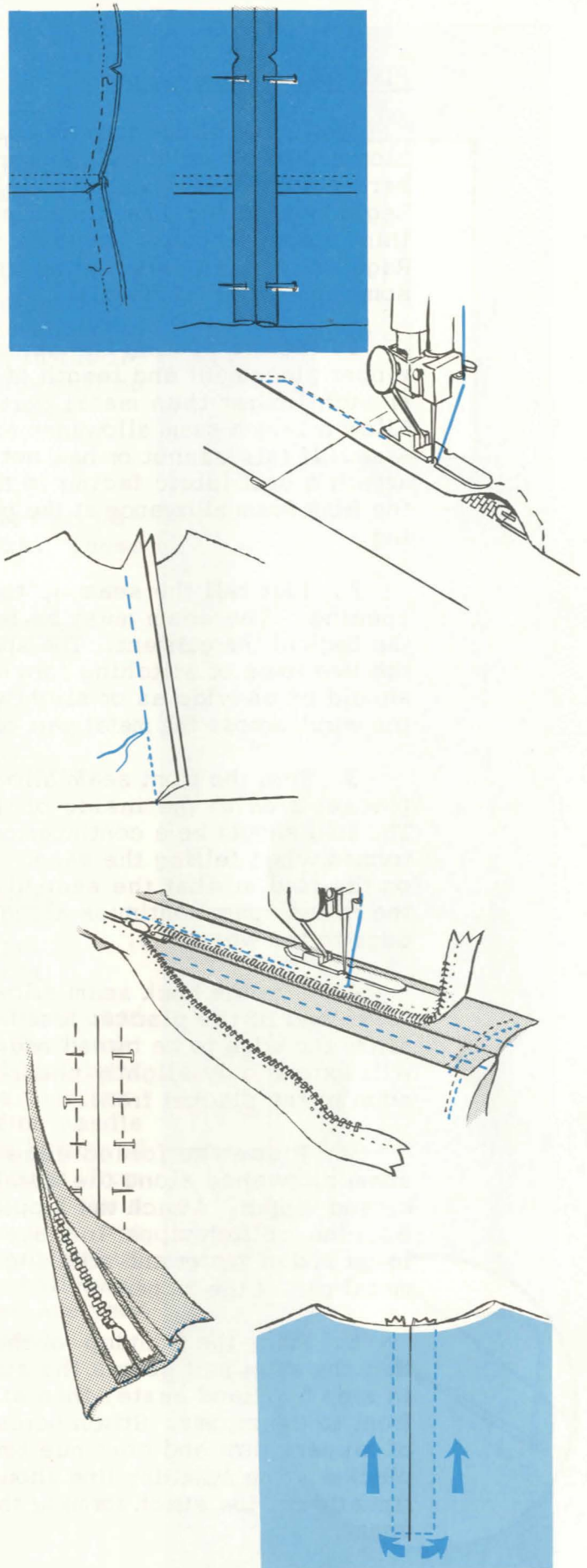
1. Close placket opening with machine basting. If seam allowances are less than 5/8 inch wide, a facing or seam binding (pre-shrunk) should be applied to increase the width of the seam allowances. Press seam open.

2. Attach zipper foot. Adjust to right-hand side of needle. Open zipper. Place it face down on one seam allowance with metal teeth edge at seamline and bottom stop at lower end of basting. Sew through zipper tape and seam allowance only.

3. Close zipper. Pin zipper in place from right side of garment. Insert pins crosswise under metal part of zipper, alternating directions of pins. Baste zipper in place.

4. For the next two stitchings adjust the zipper foot so that it is on the opposite side of the needle from the metal part of zipper. From the right side of the garment stitch from the seamline at the lower end of zipper and along zipper toward neckline. Starting again at the seamline stitch across the lower end of the zipper and along the other side toward neckline. Keep stitchings on each side of the zipper an equal distance (about 1/4 inch) from the original seamline.

5. Pull threads at lower end of zipper to the inside of the garment. Tie and trim threads. Press zipper on wrong side. Remove basting done in Step 1.



Flat Felled Seam Zipper

Flat felled seams are often used in sports clothes and play clothes. Zippers can be inserted successfully in flat felled seams. Begin by choosing a neckline zipper or "seam thin" zipper the proper length for the garment. Regular skirt zippers can be used but it is sometimes more difficult.

1. Before cutting the garment plan the zipper placement and length of the opening (1 inch longer than metal part of zipper). Allow a 1-inch seam allowance at the placket area. If this cannot or has not been done, attach a self fabric facing to the inside of the front seam allowance at the placket opening.

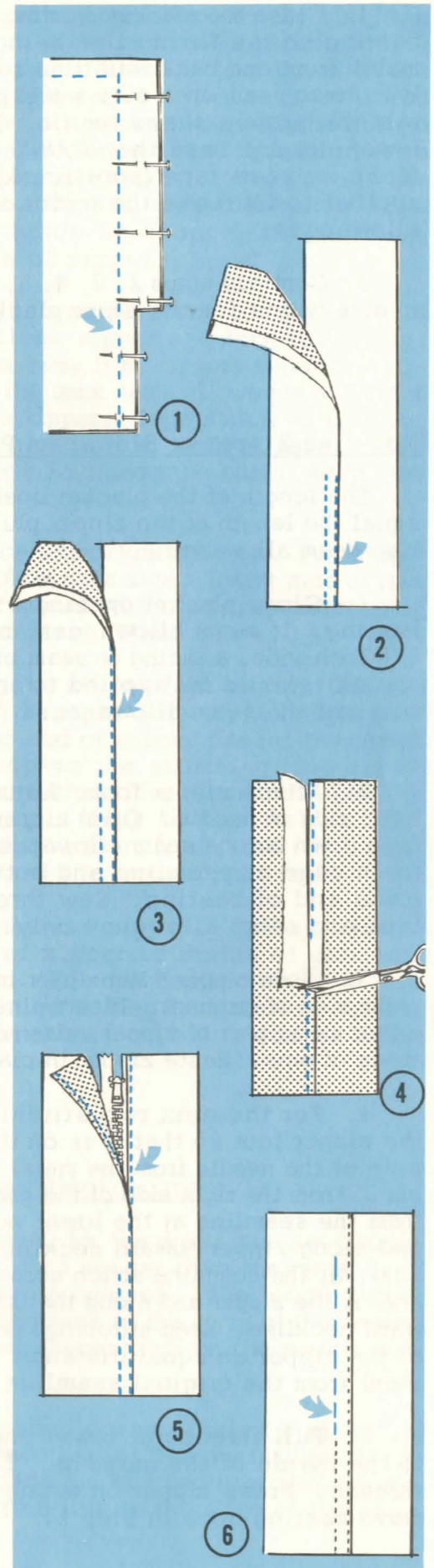
2. Flat fell the seam up to the placket opening. The seam must be felled toward the back of the garment. The space between the two rows of stitching forming the seam should be as wide as or slightly wider than the width across the metal part of the zipper.

3. Turn the front seam allowance of the placket area to the inside of the garment. The fold should be a continuation of the fold formed when felling the seam. Edge stitch on the fold so that the second stitching of the felled seam continues along the placket edge to the waistline.

4. Clip the back seam allowance at the lower end of the placket just far enough to allow the edge to be turned back so the fold will extend only slightly under the stitched edge of the placket front.

5. Place the folded edge of the back seam allowance along the metal part of the closed zipper. Attach the zipper foot to the machine. Stitch zipper in place, starting at lower end of zipper and stitching close to the metal part of the zipper.

6. Place the front lap of the placket so that the edge just covers the stitching done in step 5. Hand baste, then stitch placket front to the zipper. Stitch across lower end of zipper, turn and continue toward top of placket. The stitching line should be a continuation of the stitch forming the flat felled seam.



7. Remove hand basting. Press. Pull threads to inside of garment. Tie and trim. Trim off excess width of back seam allowance.

NOTE -- If a heavy duty zipper or bulky fabric is being used follow steps 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as given. The machine stitching done in Step 6 is done as shown in the illustration. The final stitching line will be 1/2 to 5/8 inch from the placket edge.

Hand Sewn Zippered Placket

Hand stitching is more suitable than machine stitching on certain fabrics. These fabrics fall into three groups:

Napped fabrics and piled fabrics:

velvets	plush
corduroys	fur fabrics

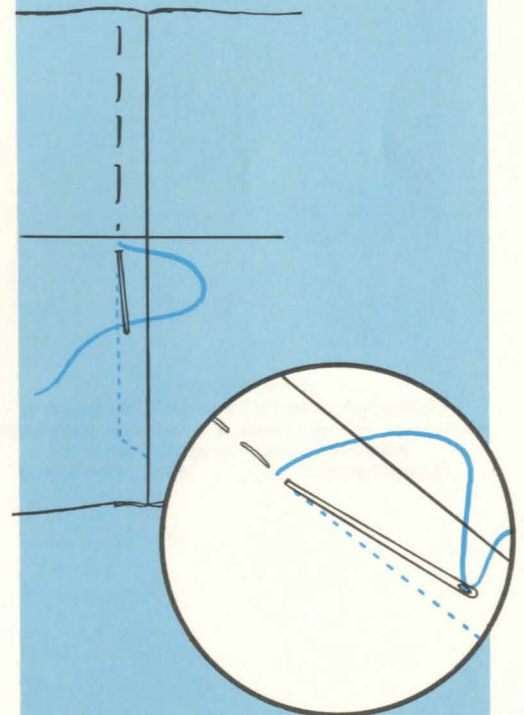
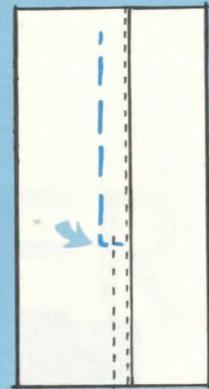
Hard surface light weight fabrics:

taffetas	chiffons
crepes	

Plain and fancy knitted fabrics:

wool jersey	nylon tricot
cotton jersey	rayon tricot

Methods used are the same as those used for the machine stitched zipper but the stitchings are done by using very small half-back stitches evenly placed and close together. Hand stitches are made with a fine needle and matching thread. Start at the bottom of the zipper, bringing needle through from underneath at the stitching line. Take a half-back stitch, picking up one or two threads, and bring needle forward and up through material. Continue -- a half-back stitch -- then forward. Stitches are very short averaging 15 to 18 to an inch.



CARE FOR ZIPPER

- Use proper application methods
- Use placket lengths and zippers long enough to allow convenience in dressing.
- Open zippers all the way when putting on and taking off garments.
- Close zippers when garments are hung in the closet.
- Close zippers for laundering or dry cleaning.
- Prevent zippers from jamming by trimming threads and finishing seams.