Garment Sewing with Woven Fabrics: Zippers with Amanda Todaro of Ditto

Chapter 1 - Garment Sewing with Woven Fabrics: Zippers

Overview

(gentle music) - I am Amanda Todaro, and I am a sewing educator for Ditto. Zippers are the most common way to close your garments. However, for beginning sewists, they can be quite tricky and scary. I'm gonna go over the most common zippers for garments, which include lapped zippers, invisible zippers, and fly front zippers. Once you practice these zippers a few times, you'll have the confidence to install a zipper with ease. (gentle music continues)

Sew a lapped zipper

- Lapped zippers are a great beginner friendly zipper. They can be used in blouses, dresses, and even home decor projects. I have two rectangles representing my garment. They're placed right sides together, and I have my seam allowance drawn on the side seams. I also have the end of my zipper marked on my fabric. I'm going to start by sewing from the end of where my zipper is to the hem of my garment. Once sewn, you can press the seam open. As you get into this open area of your seam allowance, we're going to press one side with a half inch seam allowance and the other side with 5/8. To do that, use a ruler to fold over your seam allowance on one side. This side, I'm pressing half an inch. On the other side, I can use my ruler or use the line already drawn on my fabric. The reason that you iron over one half inch on one side and 5/8 on the other is so the lapped side, the 5/8 inch, completely covers your zipper when finished. I'm gonna use some washable tape to adhere my zipper to my fabric before I sew. Cut a piece of wash away tape the length of your zipper. Gently press it onto the zipper tape. You can repeat this on the other side of your zipper as well. Now that your tape is on your zipper, you can peel away the paper backing on the one side that will get placed on your half inch seam allowance. For me, that is the left side of my zipper. Take your garment and put it right side up and line it up with your zipper. We want the end to be at this end stopper of our zipper. The tape is acting as a pin to hold your zipper in place as we sow. However, you can use more pins if you want it to be more secure. Whenever you sew a zipper, you're gonna wanna use a zipper foot. Depending on your machine, it may come with two separate zipper feet, one for the left, one for the right, or a dual purpose one that you can use left or right needle positions. Set your zipper foot into your machine. You're gonna start sewing at the top of your zipper. Be aware of where your zipper is as you sew. You can move it up and down to get it out of the way. You can also move your needle placement to get closer to the fold. Press the width button to move it left or right. Begin sewing and backstitch before continuing on. (sewing machine grinding) As you can see, I'm sewing just shy of that fold. (sewing machine grinding) Once you get halfway down, you can sink your needle, lift your foot and pull the zipper pole out of the way. (sewing machine grinding) As you get to the bottom of your zipper, you're going to backstitch before pulling it out of the machine. (sewing machine grinding) Next, clip your threads before drawing your stitching line on the other side of your lapped zipper. You will draw your stitch line 3/8 in from your fold. Use a ruler to line up and draw the line. Now that you have a nice even stitching line, we can use our washable tape to attach it to this lap. Line up the lap to cover our stitches and our zipper teeth. You can begin sewing as is, or use pins for extra security. Set your zipper underneath the machine at the bottom edge where you stopped your backstitch of the first side. It's helpful to sink your needle into place to get proper positioning. Stitch across the bottom of

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the zipper. Make sure you don't hit the zipper stopper. (sewing machine grinding) Once you get to your line that you drew, you can sink the needle again and pivot. You'll then sew up the line. (sewing machine grinding) When you get close to the top, drop your needle and lift your foot. Pull the zipper pole out of the way. You will then continue sewing up your line. (sewing machine grinding) Backstitch at the top. (sewing machine grinding) Now that your zipper is complete, you can clip your threads and check that your zipper zips nicely. What you're looking for is for your lap to cover both your zipper and your stitch line.

Sew an invisible zipper
- Invisible zippers are great for dresses, blouses, and formal wear. They provide a discreet way of opening and closing your garment. They can go in any seam, like a side seam or the center back. I have marked the top of where my zipper is going to start, as well as the end of my zipper. I've also marked this on the zipper itself. Note that your zipper wants to be longer than the opening you have on your fabric. If possible, don't sew the seam of your garment before installing your zipper. Once your markings are marked, we can move on to ironing our zipper. Open the zipper fully and begin pressing the teeth slightly to roll them out. This'll just help as we sew to get into this little fold in the zipper. Zipper teeth can melt, so be cautious as you iron and move quickly, or turn down the heat. Once our zipper teeth are ironed out, we can now start pinning it to our fabric pieces. Place your pieces right side up. Line the zipper tape onto your fabric pieces. Use those notches to match up the top and bottom opening of the zipper. We're going to do one side at a time. Once you have the one side pinned, you can check that your zipper is going to zip up properly. The difference between a regular zipper and an invisible zipper is that an invisible zipper rolls into the seam allowance of our fabric. I want to sew on the right side of my zipper teeth right into this fold, so I need to move my zipper foot so that my needle is on the left. Now that my foot and needle are in place, I can begin sewing. (machine humming) I am going to stop at my end mark. (machine humming) Now, as you can see, the stitching is still not quite into that fold, so I'm going to stitch again, moving my needle and get it closer to the fold of the zipper teeth. You can do this by moving the needle over as needed. (machine humming) Alternatively, you can get an invisible zipper foot that will push the teeth out as you sew into this fold. (machine humming) Let's move on to attaching the zipper tape to the other side of our fabric. To line up our zipper perfectly, we're going to zip up the zipper and flip it to lay our right sides together. Then match up the notches and pin the zipper tape in place. Unzip your zipper. For this side, I wanna sew on the left side of the zipper teeth, so I'm going to have to move my zipper foot. If you had previously moved your needle position, you're going to want to move it back to its original centered position. (machine humming) Just like before, to get closer stitches, I'm going to move my needle over a few spaces and stitch this line again. (machine humming) You can see our zipper is starting to take form. The final step is to sew the rest of your side seam or center back seam below the zipper. Fold your fabric in half so that right sides are together and your seam is matching up. Bring it into the machine and set it under the foot. You want to position your needle to be a quarter of an inch above where you ended stitching, and an eighth of an inch away from your stitches. Drop the needle into place and then drop the foot. Begin stitching. (machine humming) Now, you can lightly press your zipper in place. Underneath your zipper, you can press the seam open. Any excess of your zipper can be clipped, and you can either sew a piece of fabric or stitch around the teeth to hold them in place. I'm gonna just do a few whip stitches around the end of my zipper so that it doesn't come undone. Now our invisible zipper is complete.

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Sew a fly front zipper
- Fly zippers are the main closures for jeans and pants. Installing your fly zipper actually happens earlier in the garment making process than you may think. You're going to install your fly zipper before sewing your side seams and inseams. Once the pants are completed, you'll add a waistband to complete the project. To install the fly zipper, we have our front pieces already cut out and our lines drawn. The darts are already sewn. We also have two pieces of interfacing and a fly shield cutout. The first step is to interface the front of our fly. I'm using a woven fusible interfacing that we adhere with our iron. Place the front pieces right sides together and line up these lines. Pin around this curve. Next, we'll baste this line and then stitch with a 5/8 seam allowance around our curve. To baste a temporary stitch, raise the length of your stitch as high as it will go on your machine. Do not backstitch. We will end our zipper and fly right here. So when you get to that point, stop, switch your settings back to a stitch length between a 2.2 and a 2.6. Backstitch. (sewing machine grinding) And continue stitching with a 5/8 seam allowance. (sewing machine grinding) Backstitch at the end of the curve. Next, we will press open our fly and add the zipper. Once you press the fly open, we're going to press again on this line. Move the pants outta the way so we can focus on this edge of our fly. Set the zipper underneath the folded fly. Pin the zipper in place. Switch your machine foot to the zipper foot. Place the folded fabric and your zipper underneath the foot. So 1/8 away from the folded fabric, backstitching at the top and the bottom of your zipper. (sewing machine grinding) If you need to move your zipper pole out of the way, sink your needle, lift your foot and pull. (sewing machine grinding) Next, we're gonna pin the zipper to the other side of our fly. Lay the pants front on the table with right sides down. Fold over your zipper to match the other side of the fly. Pin your fly in place. Be sure to only catch this layer of the fly and not go through the front of your pants. Set the fly underneath the machine and sew your zipper. You do not need to get as close as we did with the other side. (sewing machine grinding) Lay your pants with the right side up. Use a seam ripper to open up your basting stitches. Next, we're going to draw the stitch line of our fly. Your pattern may come with a template you can use to draw your stitch line or use a ruler and draw it yourself. I'm drawing my line an inch and a half away from the fold. When drawing the curve, be sure to check that you get past your zipper stopper. Pin on your stitch line. Be sure that you are catching all layers of the fly. If necessary, move your zipper foot to the other side. (sewing machine grinding) Stop when you hit your seam and backstitch. Next, we will add our fly shield. To create the fly shield, fold it in half, and finish the edges however you'd like. Whether that be a zigzag stitch or using a serger. Place the fly shield onto your pants, lining up your edges of the fly here. Flip over and pin. Move your zipper foot again if needed. Stitch about 1/4 of an inch in just to secure the two layers together of the fly shield and the fly. (sewing machine grinding) The final step is to create bar tacks here to attach our fly shield to our fly. To create a bar tack, you wanna start by changing your zipper foot out for your standard foot. You're then gonna change your settings on your machine to a zigzag stitch. These settings may be different depending on your machine. Once you're set on a zigzag, move your length down to a 0.5 and your width down to one. Create a small zigzag at the base of the fly. (sewing machine grinding) Feel for where the fly shield hits the zipper and put another one in that location. You can use a pin to mark as you set it into the machine. (sewing machine grinding) Now your fly is complete and you can continue on to making the pants. After learning how to install these three different types of zippers, you might be asking, "Which side does my lap go?" Historically, men's garments would lap left over right while a women's right over left, but this is your garment and you get to choose how your zipper closes.

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