

Zip, Zipper and velcro – which one do I use.

Please read our T & C's – www.rosamaycrafts.com

DISCLAIMER: Please note this is my very own guideline, there are so many guides and tips, use which one you feel works for you.

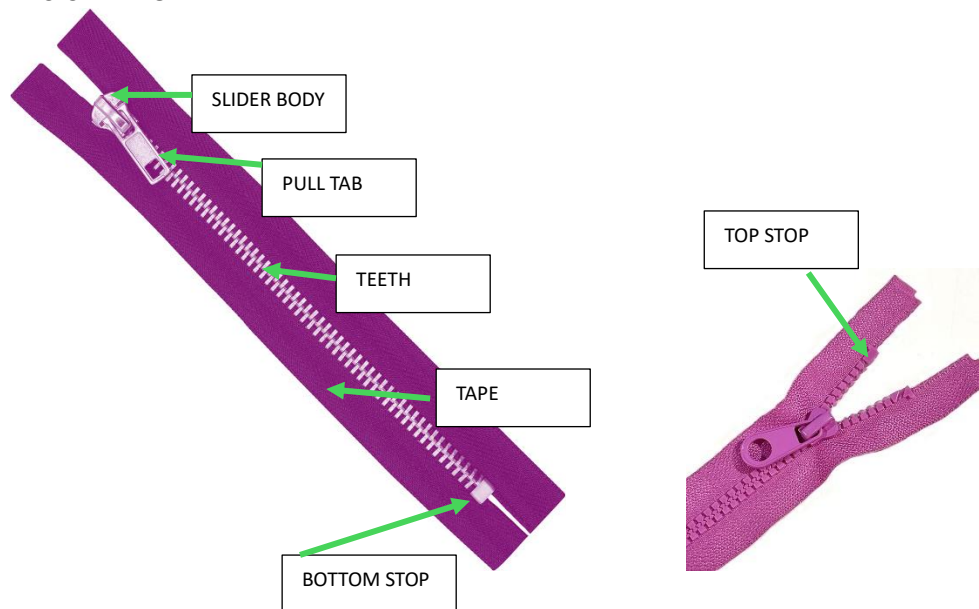
Zipper or Zip – 'a device consisting of two rows of metal or plastic teeth-like parts that are brought together by pulling a small sliding piece over them, used for closing openings in clothing, bags, etc.'

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/zipper>

Zips are used in various crafting projects and clothing. You will find them in various colours, lengths and materials and certain zips have specific functions.

In this blog, we will go through the basic zips and the ones that we use for our DIY projects and costume/dress up outfits.

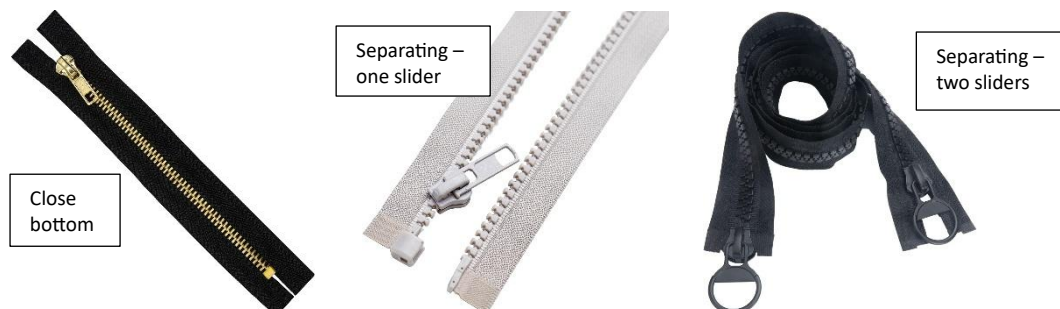
BASIC ANATOMY



There are 2 main types of Zips:

Closed Bottom – this is a zip that is closed off at the bottom of the zip by the bottom stop.

Separating – this is zip that opens at the top and bottom – it separates. You will find these zips sliding and opening one way or two way.



There are four main types of zips that I use, these are named after the types of teeth – coil, moulded plastic, metal, invisible and locking.

Coil



As you can see from the image above the coil zipper teeth are curved. The teeth are made from nylon and polyester materials. They are lightweight, flexible and come in a range of colours and sizes. They are heat resistant, rustproof and durable.

Uses:

All light weight DIY projects, Home furnishings – pillow case, cushion covers, toiletry bags; clothing – skirts, dress up outfits, kids dresses.

Moulded Plastic



The teeth from the moulded plastic zip are made from plastic, polyester, resin, and other synthetic fibres. These teeth are moulded into the tape. As you can see in the above image, the teeth are wider and lock into each other. They are not as flexible as the coil zip.

These types of zips are weather resistant and strong. They come in a variety of colours and sizes.

Uses:

Tote bags, cushion covers, cosmetic and toiletry bags, jackets, coats

Metal

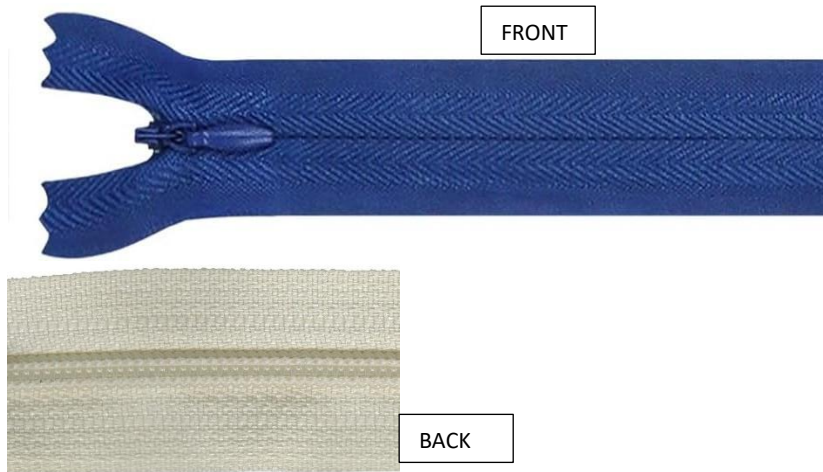


Well, you guessed it, the teeth of a metal zip are made from various types of metal – brass, nickel, aluminium. The teeth have been clamped onto the tape and at equal distances from each other. These zips are very strong and hardy, but also heavy and therefore perfect for heavy DIY projects and clothing.

Uses:

Bags, outdoor cushions, large travel bags, jeans and other denim projects

Invisible Zippers

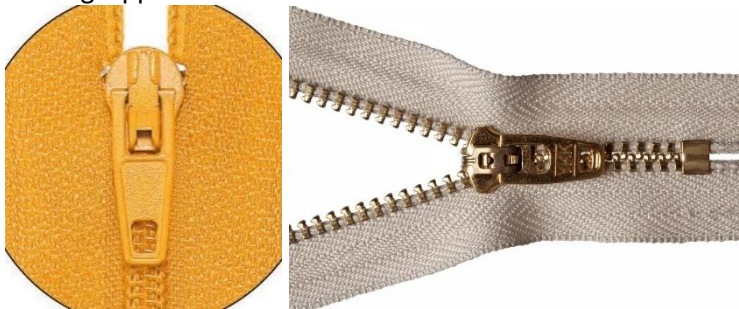


The invisible zip is basically a back to front coil zipper. The teeth are not visible from the front of the zip but are visible at the back.

Uses:

Cushion and pillow covers, outfits – any DIY projects where you do not want to see the zip.

Locking Zippers



The only reason I have mentioned these zips, is that the slider, once placed downwards and lying flat, locks into place. You will find these types of zips in coil, moulded and metal.

Uses:

Mainly used in clothing and upholstery

Zip Measurements - what to look for



When buying a zip you will see this information
#3 Gold Close-end Zips 15 cm (6 Inch),
Black

This # (hashtag) symbol is for the size of the zip teeth, measuring from one side to the other – **yellow arrow** – in millimeters. The other measurement is the length of the zip – from top stop to the to bottom stop, not the actual length of the zip – **red arrow.**



VELCRO or HOOK AND LOOP – some pointers

Another wonderful invention that allows us crafters to fasten our creations. Some basics:

Materials – nylon and other synthetic materials

Types – double sided – machine stitch and self-adhesive no stitch, sticker backing or iron.

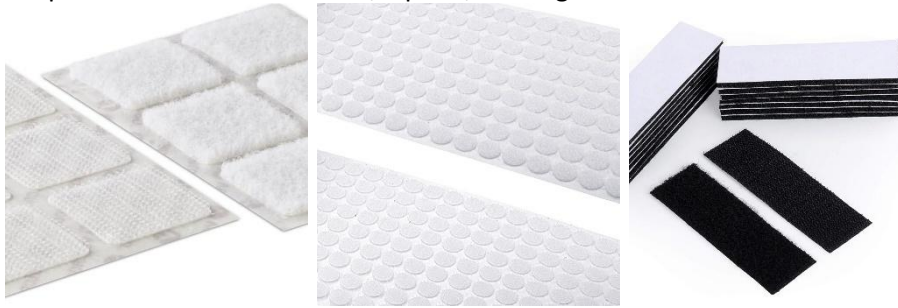
Two different sides – one soft and the other spikey

Colour – Main colours – black and white, brown is also found

Shapes – long strips, cut to length or buy ready cut lengths



Shapes – self adhesive – round, square, rectangle



Velcro is durable, heat resistant, weather resistant, waterproof.

Velcro can be used on any medium – wood, walls, fabric, glass. Personally, I would not use it on soft fabrics like chiffon and satin, but some crafters have used Velcro on all types of fabric.

Use – the list is limitless – from home to office, DIY projects, putting up picture frame or kids projects or décor, bags, shoes.

A few tips:

1. Velcro can be hand stitched, but it is hard work and will cause stress on your hand if you are sewing a long strip, therefore machine stitching much better – quicker and easier.
2. When machine stitching Velcro, use a strong and sturdy needle.
3. I always stitch the smooth side first, as I have found if you do the spikey side, it catches onto everything.
4. I always round off the corners once I have sewn the Velcro, as the corners have sharp edges and can cut.
5. Choose the right Velcro for your project.
6. Best to use a zipper foot when machine stitching.
7. I mainly use a zig-zag stitch, it holds the Velcro in place better, making it slightly flexible.

Visit - <https://rosamaycrafts.com/category/sewing-tutorials/> - for more helpful guides for sewing.



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