

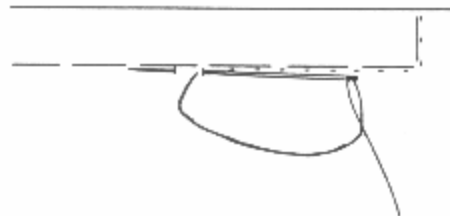
HAND ZIPPER APPLICATION

Applying a zipper by hand is a custom-sewing technique. It is especially desirable, and sometimes necessary on pile, delicate, or stretch fabrics. Follow the directions for zipper placement and/or placket size for either the lapped or centered applications. A portion of the zipper can be stitched by machine; however, the top or outside portion is stitched by hand.

Always sew with a fine needle and use a double strand of regular matching color thread for pile or knit fabrics; use silk thread to match fabrics with sheen, or buttonhole twist for added durability if necessary. The hand stitch is called *prick stitch* or *picked stitch*. It is used for the entire outside length of the zipper. There will be a space between the top stitches, but the stitches on the underside will be somewhat long and will overlap to provide the necessary strength required for the zipper.

Steps:

1. Measure and determine the necessary placket length. Using a regulation machine stitch, sew the remainder of the seam up to the placket marking.
2. Machine or hand baste the placket area together; **or** plan to use the open zipper application technique. (The remainder of the directions will use the closed zipper application method as this is thought to be the easier zipper application method to use.)
3. **For lapped applications:** Position the zipper face down on top of the seam allowance. Secure the right-hand portion of the zipper as you would for the closed seam zipper method. Press.
4. Turn the garment to the right side and pin baste the zipper in place (followed by hand basting if desired). If the fabric is marred or damaged by pinning or basting, consider taping the zipper to the seam allowance on the underneath side. Starting at the bottom of the zipper, secure thread to the underneath side. Bring the needle through to the right side of the fabric and begin the prick stitch or back stitch. (**NOTE:** See CT-MMB.002, *Hand Stitches*, for detailed instruction.)
5. Remove basting from placket area.



Written by: Linda Heaton, Ph.D.
Extension Professor Textile & Clothing
July 1991
Revised by: Marjorie M. Baker, M.S.
Extension Associate Textiles & Clothing
December 2004