

Create a Zipper Opening with a Concealed Pocket

A zipper can be added to just about any bag style with this easy technique. This is a great way to customize a design to suit your personal needs and taste.

Materials:

Choose a bag pattern that has a blank side where a zipper can be added

Sewing Machine

Matching Thread

Pins

Scissors

Zipper

Zipper Foot

Fabric Marking Pencil

Lightweight fusible interfacing

1. It is important that this zipper and pocket be added during the construction process of the bag. It is ideal to begin adding this detail once the stabilizer for the exterior side of the bag has been cut out but not attached to any other part.
2. On the stabilizer for the side of the bag, determine where the zipper should be added. Remember to keep in mind where seam allowances and handles will be.
3. Mark a line where the zipper is desired. Measure the length of the line, then mark above and below the line by 1/4". This will create a 1/2" wide rectangular area. Make sure the lines are straight, then cut this rectangle out, leaving the opening.
4. Add the bag exterior fabric to the stabilizer, but DO NOT CUT the fabric where the rectangle is.
5. Now measure across the opening and add 1/2" to each side.
6. Measuring from the lower edge of the rectangle, determine how deep you would like for the pocket to be. Double this number AND add 2 1/2" to accommodate for the width of the zipper and a little above it.
7. Cut a rectangle of fabric for the pocket as determined from Steps 5 and 6. Also cut a rectangle from fusible interfacing and fuse to the wrong side.
8. Right sides together, add the pocket to the exterior of the bag, centering from side to side with about 3/4" extending above the rectangular opening.
9. With the stabilizer side facing up, stitch along the edge of the rectangle on the FABRIC. Be careful not to stitch through the stabilizer.
10. Once the rectangle shape has been stitched, snip a small hole in the center of the rectangle and then trim down the center of it, clipping to each corner diagonally.
11. Turn the pocket through the slashed opening to the wrong side and press. None of the pocket fabric should show along the seam.
12. Add the zipper from the wrong side into the opening. Use the zipper foot to stitch the zipper in place.
13. From the wrong side, trim away any excess zipper that extends beyond the stitching on each end.
14. Fold up the pocket over the zippered area, lining up the raw edges.
15. Fold away the bag exterior to stitch the sides of the pocket lining with a 3/8" seam allowance.
16. Restitch the line of stitching along the upper long edge of the zipper.
17. Turn to the wrong side and trim down the upper seam edge.

Technique written by Kay Whitt of Serendipity Studio for It's Sew Easy, 2015.