

Attach Zipper Slide Tutorial

Zipper tape or zipper-by-the-yard is used in the professional world, as we don't know how long our projects will be. We like the flexibility to make the zipper as long or short as we need.

Here's a quick pictorial tutorial on how to add a zipper slide to the zipper tape.

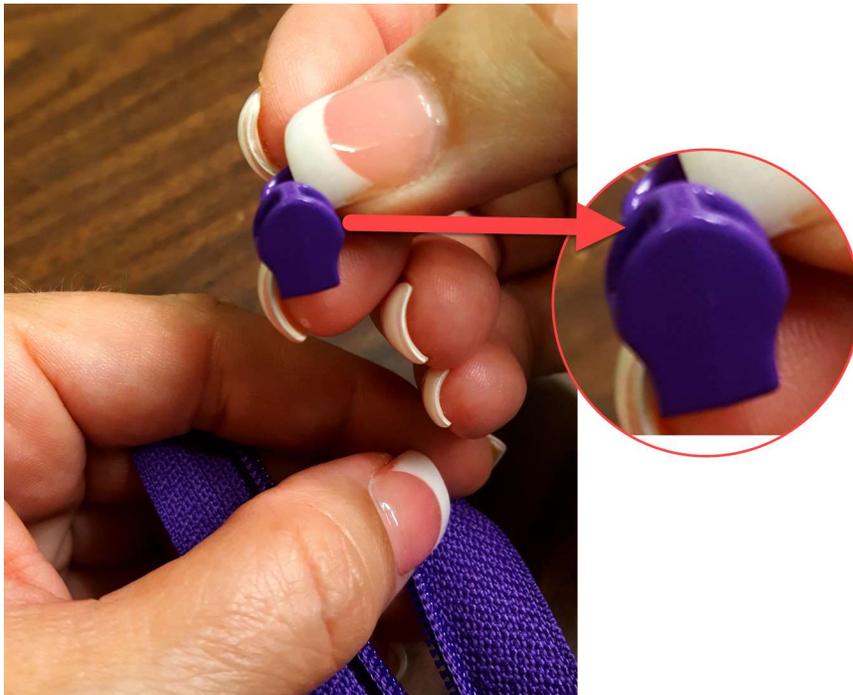
1. First, make sure your zipper tape has a nice clean cut on the end. Use an "old" pair of scissors to trim, if needed, or an OLD rotary cutter that you use for paper. The two components of zipper-by-the-yard are the zipper tape and the slide:



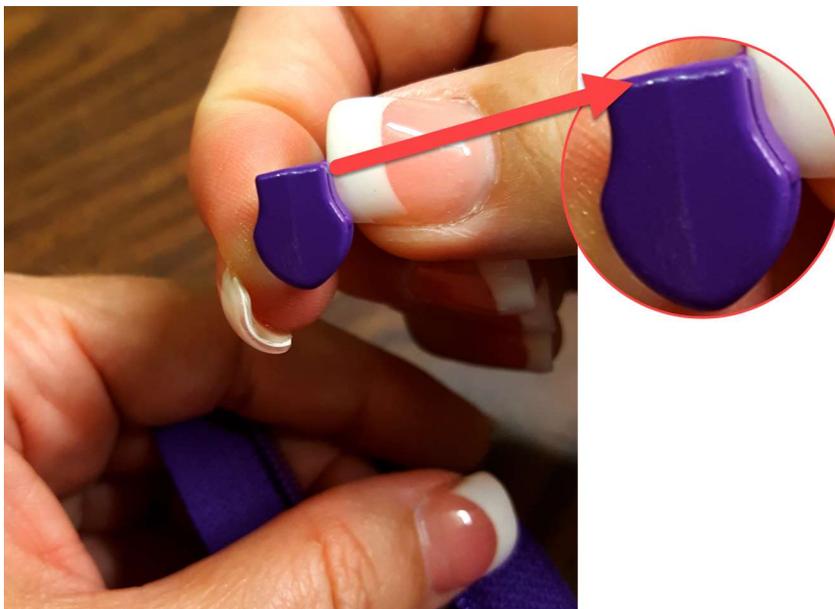
2. To put the slide on, follow these steps. Pull the zipper apart 3 – 4 inches.



3. The rounded end of the slide is what I call, “the mouth”. This is where we’ll put the zipper teeth.



4. The straight, narrow side of the slide is where the teeth come out, I call this “the tail”.



5. The “secret” to putting the slide on easily is to put the slide on at an angle AND to use a light touch...so, put the slide on one side (the side you choose may differ if you’re right or left-handed) allowing **only** 2-3 teeth to go into “the mouth”.



6. Secure the slide between your fingers and prepare the other side of the zipper tape to put into the slide.



7. Put the other side of the tape into the slide **at an angle**, allowing only 2-3 teeth into the mouth.



8. Begin to straighten out the second half of the zipper tape by putting the teeth below the mouth close together. This will allow the slide to gently glide into the mouth.



9. Let the pull drop down on your thumb as you grasp the zipper tape CLOSE below the mouth. While the pull is down, you can check the straight edge (“tail”) of the slide to see if it’s parallel to the zipper tape. This will give you the sign that the slide will go onto the zipper teeth straight or not. If the “tail” is not parallel to the zipper tape, as shown, you can grasp the slide, with your other hand, and twist it left or right so the end of the slide is parallel to the ends of the zipper tape.



10. With the ‘tail’ parallel and your thumb still secure just below the opening of the mouth, take your other hand and gently tap or push the slide onto the zipper tape. You will feel it “click” as it secures itself to the zipper teeth. After you feel it “click”, the zipper slide is on the teeth.



11. Grasp the base of the straight end of the slide and gently continue to push the slide on while your thumb is under the “mouth”. Your thumb, under the mouth, creates a sturdy foundation for the slide to push against.



12. Grab the pull and continue zipping!!!



13. Ta Dah! You've attached the slide and the end of the zipper tape is sealed, zipped shut.



What if your zipper is separated and you need to put it back together? You would follow the same steps, but you would add one important step....follow along....

1. Your zipper is separated.



2. Continue from step #5 above.



3. Continue with steps above...



4. Be sure to put the second side of the zipper tape in at an angle...



5. In this example, the “tail” isn’t parallel to both zipper tape pieces.



6. Grasp the “tail” of the slide and twist it until the slide and zipper tape are parallel.



7. Continue with steps #9, #10, and #11.



8. Continue to pull the slide on the zipper tape.



9. Pull the slide all the way to the end of the zipper...



10. Continue taking the slide **completely** off the end. You NEED to do this so the zipper is sealed on both ends. This makes is SOOOO much easier to stitch it into a seam, because it's sealed. If it's open, you could end up with a huge gap in your project. This is a positive benefit to using this type of zipper. They are polyester and won't melt, but you can also sew through them without breaking a needle. You get a professional product, you get professional project!!!



Here's where the directions differ, as well. You must start all over and put your zipper slide back onto the zipper tape, leaving the slide in the middle of the zipper tape...so, start back to the beginning by opening your zipper tape 3 – 4 inches...and continue the steps...



11. When you're done, you now have a completely zipped, completely sealed zipper for inserting into your next wonderful project!



For more information on Katie's online classes, custom teaching engagements, patterns and of course, zippers, please visit her website at www.sewingscene.com.