

FREE TUTORIAL: Zip Pouches

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You can never have too many zip pouches! They have endless uses and make lovely gifts. You can make them different shapes and sizes for different purposes and they are a great way to use up orphan blocks.

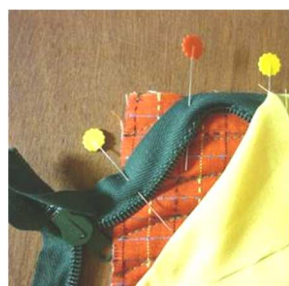
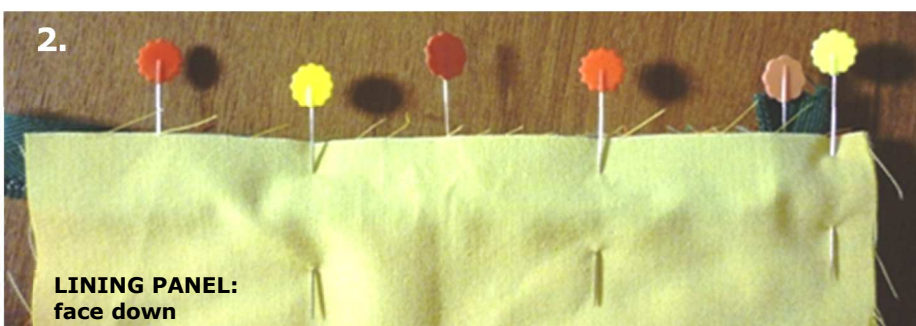
I like to make a quilted panel for the outer and use a separate piece of fabric for the lining – as long as these two panels are exactly the same size the instructions provided here will work. I use an ordinary nylon, closed-ended, zip; choose one that is at least 4 inches longer than the width of your pouch.

Using the following method of inserting a zip, you will make a pouch with an 'open wide' top which is neat and practical especially if you want to make a tall, narrow pouch for keeping your tech safe



1. With your outer panel face up, place the zip Right Sides Together (RST) along one of the short edges and pin. Note that the open end of the zip is folded up into the seam, and the other end is not pinned right to the edge of the panel

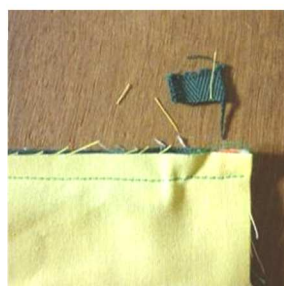
2. Lay the lining panel face down (RST) over the zip and pin along the edge also



3. Fold back the lining & pull the end of the zip down away from the top, pin out of the way then replace & pin the lining



4. With the zip foot on your sewing machine, stitch through all the layers. Take care not to hit the metal stop



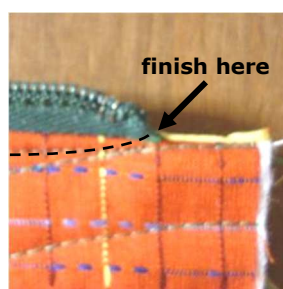
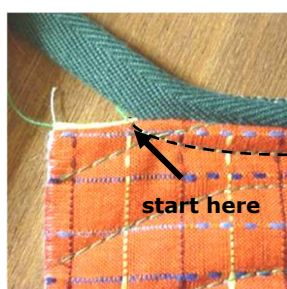
5. Snip off the start of the zip sticking up from the seam.



6. When you fold back the lining the end of the zip should be free of the seam as shown. Finger press.

7. Top stitch the zip in place; this ensures that the lining is less likely to get caught in the zip when the pouch is being used

Start with a gentle curve where the zip meets the fabric.



8. Finish at the same point the other end. Backstitch at both ends to secure.

DO NOT stitch right to the edges of the panel or you will find **steps 14 to 17** very hard to achieve

9. With the zip closed, fold the quilted outer panel RST with itself so you can line the second short edge up with the other side of the zip. Pin in place in the same way as before, with the first bit of the zip folded up and the other end pulled down away from the seam. Fold the lining panel RST with itself and pin this to the zip too. See the diagram right.

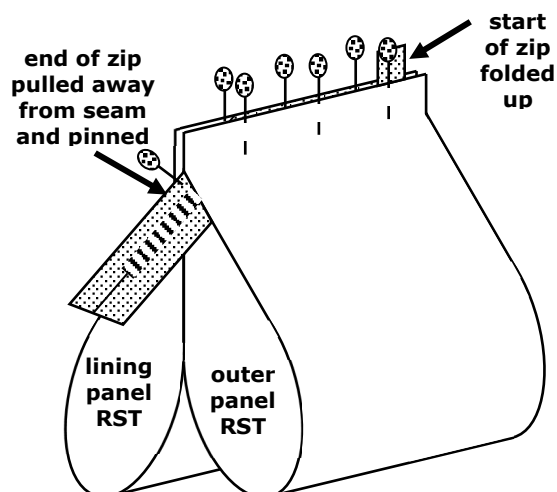
10. Stitch through all layers as before, when you reach the zip slider, stop sewing with your needle fully down, lift your presser foot and ease the slider passed the foot. Realign your fabric, lower the presser foot and continue the seam. Snip off the start of the zip where it sticks up.

11. Undo the zip and turn the pouch the right way out in order to complete the row of topstitching as before in steps **7 & 8**.

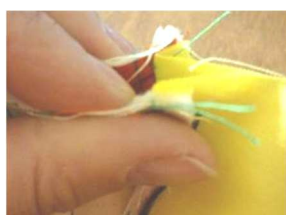
12. Leaving the zip open, turn the pouch inside out again, so you have the two loops of fabric (one each side of the zip) similar to the diagram above.

13. Pull the two loops of fabric away from each other so the zip seam is centred. The lining is RST with the lining and the outer is RST with the outer. See diagram below

Mark a gap of about 4 inches on one edge of the lining panel



14. Line up the centre (zip) seam



15. Push this seam towards the lining, and pin down the two long, open edges.

USEFUL TIPS:

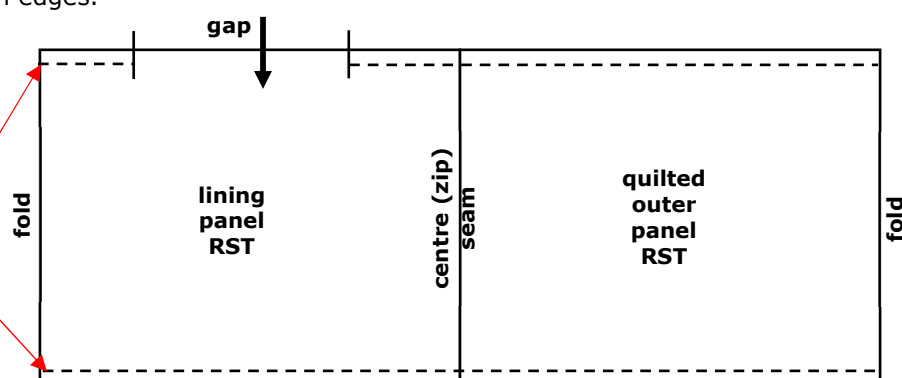
a) Swap to your walking foot to continue sewing – you will be stitching through several quilted layers



b) Because of the bulkiness of the zip seam you will find, as you stitch down the outer, that the lining wants to veer away to the left. Stop at the zip seam with your needle down and pivot the work so you can continue sewing.

16. Check your zip is open, and tuck the end out of the way between the folded outer panel to make sure it will not get caught in the seam.

17. Stitch down the two long edges, remembering to leave the gap you have marked in the lining. You will need this to turn the pouch the right way out.



18. If you wish you can zigzag stitch over the edge of both the long sides, within the seam allowance, for added strength and durability (not across the gap of course)

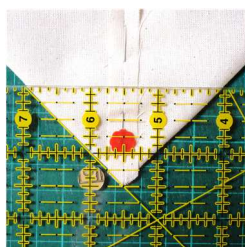
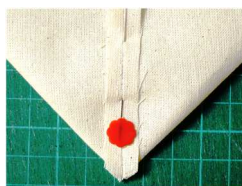
19. If you want this to be a flat pouch (for a phone or tablet for example) turn your pouch the right way out through the gap in the lining and the open zip, then stitch the gap closed by hand or machine, and move straight onto the information on finishing the zip.

If you want to 'box' the bottom corners to make a pouch with capacity, see the next page

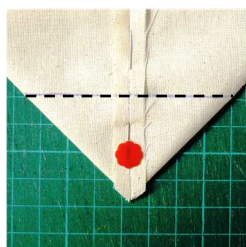


Boxing Corners: To make a pouch with a pretty bottom you will need to box the four bottom corners (two in the lining and two in the outer). The photographs left show you three pouches which all started off the same size (the panels were 17 x 9 inches) the base of each was then boxed using seams of increasing length creating three very different pouches.

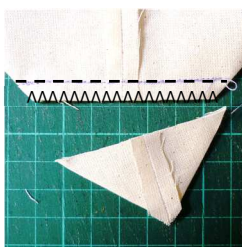
Keep your bag inside out and start with one of the lining corners. Squash the corner so that the side seam ends up in the centre, running directly up from the corner point and pin the two layers together.



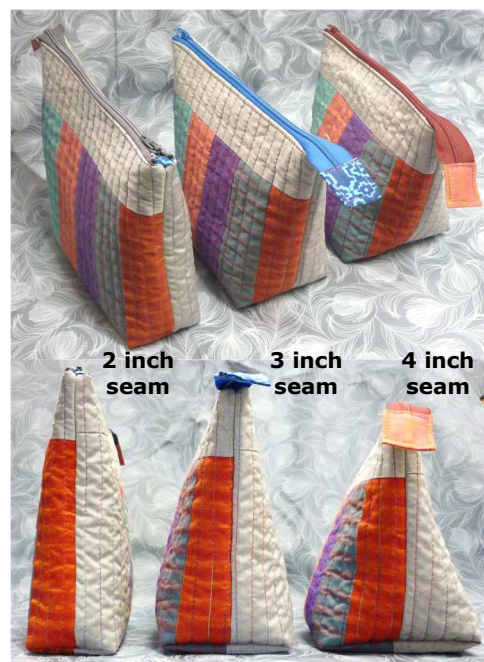
Mark a line your chosen length at right-angles to the side seam



Stitch on the line with a couple of back stitches at each end



Trim off the corner leaving a ¼ inch seam allowance and zigzag



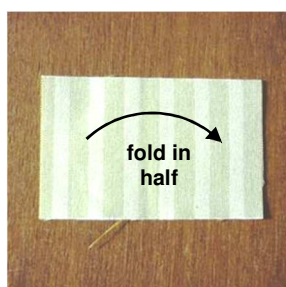
Repeat these steps to box the other three corners of your pouch

Turn the pouch the right way out through the gap in the lining, and stitch the gap closed by hand or machine

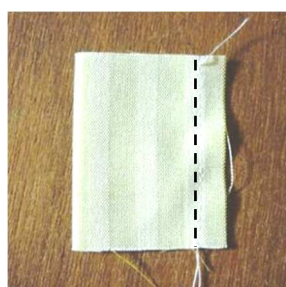
Finishing the end of the zip: The overlong zip makes stitching this project much easier, but it is now time to shorten the closed end. You could use a small piece of leather to create a stop-end (charity shops are a great source of worn handbags which still have plenty of useable leather on them – often in great colours). Alternatively you can make a stop-end in fabric as shown here.



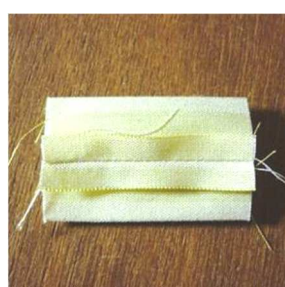
Measure the width of your zip, most zips are 1 inch wide, but it is worth checking. Cut a strip of fabric 1¾ inches high by twice the width of your zip plus ¾ inch. (For a standard zip the piece would be 1¾ x 2¾ in)



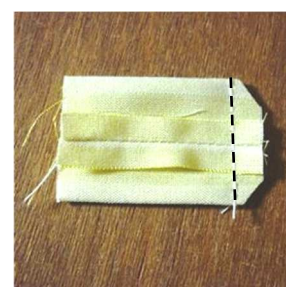
1. Fold the piece RST so the short edges meet



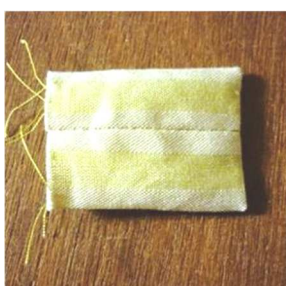
2. Stitch the short edges together with a ¼ inch seam



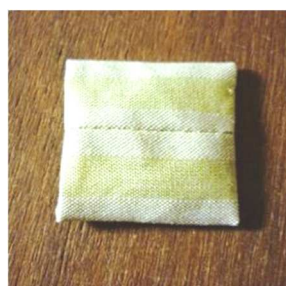
3. Press the seam open and centre it on one side of the tube



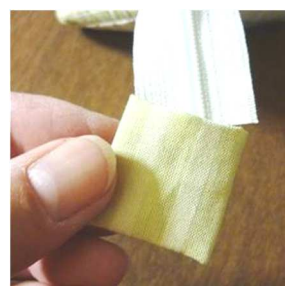
4. Stitch one end of the tube closed and clip the corners



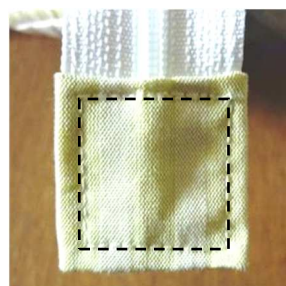
5. Turn the tiny pocket the right way out. This is fiddly (especially if you have fat fingers like me) but persevere – it will be worth it!



6. Turn the top of the pocket in to hide the raw edges and press carefully – mind your fingers!



7. Trim the end of the zip 2 inches from the edge of the pouch and slip the pocket over the cut end



8. Stitch the pocket in place, backstitch over the zip a couple of times... **AND YOU'RE DONE!**