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Farm and home

Brenda Cleeve

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ATTACHING ZIP FASTENERS

By BRENDA CLEEVE

ZIP fasteners have now almost replaced all other types of fastener for plackets. Not only are they easier and quicker to attach but they give a neater result with less effort.

Of the many possible methods of attaching zips or slide fasteners, the two most commonly used are perhaps the simplest to do. For either of these methods the two edges of the placket opening should be turned under on the exact seam line and tacked carefully. Special care should be taken at this stage as these two edges are usually on a cross grain and can be stretched easily, resulting in a bulky finish.

Before tacking a zip in position check that the turnings on either side of the opening are wide enough to enable them to be caught under with the row of machining. Where they are very narrow a facing may need to be put on first. The second method described below requires a wider turning on the front edges. Where the turn under is small on both sides the first method of attachment will be found to be more satisfactory.

An alternative to this step is to sew the seams up, leaving no opening at all. When the zip has been attached, the part of the seam over it can then be unpicked so that the zip can be opened and closed. This method requires extra care in tacking the zip into place as a very uneven result can be obtained when the seam is undone and the zip has slipped while being machined. The disadvantage in using this method is that the garment cannot be fitted to check the placement of the zip before machining.
—unless another seam is left undone and this is not always easy when making a frock.

To fasten a zip in position place the opening, with edges tacked under, flat on the table or over a sleeve-board and insert a flat book, pad or piece of cardboard between the layers of the garment. With this simple aid the zip can be pinned and tacked in place without moving it from the table and without pinning the garment together completely. Avoid placing a zip in position with the garment held over your hand as it is very easy to get a buckled result. Pins should be inserted at right angles to the zip rather than along it as this can stretch the edges also.

Before attaching the zip, check the length of it with that of the opening. A large space at either end of a zip gives a very ugly finish especially on a fitted garment as these will gape just as a break in a seam.

**Method 1.**

In this method the zip is fastened evenly under both edges of the opening so that the metal section is covered.

Place the fastener in position and pin one edge of the opening into place with the edges covering half of the metal. The other edge is then placed so that its edges meet those of the other side of the opening and thus conceal the metal section of the zip.

For a skirt opening, commence machining at the top of the zip. On a dress start about 2in. from the top so that these stitches can be overlapped after machining completely around the zip. If the dress has a belt, the neatest finish is obtained by commencing on the seam joining the bodice and the skirt, so that the overlapped stitches will be covered by the belt.

Machine an even distance on each side of the opening being careful not to stitch over the metal. For the best results sew close to the edge of the metal leaving just enough room for the zip tab to be moved up and down without cutting the cotton each time.

Leave the zip closed while it is being stitched into place except when machining around the top where the metal tab lies. With most zips this will be wider than the remainder of the zip and is sometimes quite bulky. To allow for this, and to enable the tab to lie flat, the stitching may need to be fanned out around the top end. When about 2in from the top end of the zip, finish stitching with the needle still in the material. By raising the foot it should be possible to slide the tab section down 2 to 3 inches so that the machine can be guided smoothly around this end. When this section has been sewn, slide the tab back to its closed position to complete the sewing of the fastener.

**Method 2.**

In which the zip is placed off centre and covered by the front section only.

On soft material or fabrics which slip easily out of place, it may be easier and more satisfactory to catch the two edges of the opening together with oversewing stitches to hold them in place. They can be removed as soon as the fastener has been machined into place.

**Method 2.**

The fastener is attached unevenly in this method and is completely covered by the front section of the opening.
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Place the zip in position as above and commence by pinning and tacking the back at right hand edge in position so that it just meets the edge of the metal.

The front section is placed so that its edges meet those of the back section and in this way it covers the metal of the fastener.

To attach to zip, machine along the right hand edge as close to the edge as possible. On the front section it is necessary to machine about ½ in. from the edge of the material to avoid the metal slide. The distance from the edge for this row of stitching should be ascertained while placing the zip in position, and when tacking, a guiding line can be made. By stitching this way, a tuck is formed to cover the fastener.

Most people will find that it is easier to obtain a neat result with the latter method.

**NEATENING THE ZIP**

To avoid the cloth backing of the zip curling up during washing, fasten this to the seam edges where possible by hemming or slip-stitching to the seams on the wrong side. If the seams are wide enough, do this all around the zip. Where they are not, attach firmly at the centre or waist seam at both ends.

**ZIPPER ATTACHMENTS**

Attachments for the purpose of fastening zips can be obtained for most modern sewing machines. These usually have one side of the foot cut away so that the needle can be placed right on the edge of the metal if desired. One type of attachment has a sliding arm which enables the needle to be placed on the right or left of the zip as required.

These attachments are also designed for stitching of pipings and are especially useful in making of soft furnishings such as loose covers, cushions and bedspreads.

**SNACKS WITH POTATOES**

**JACKET-BAKED** potatoes can form the basis of tasty meals without a meat dish. They lend themselves to many combinations of flavours to tempt the appetite on numerous occasions.

To bake potatoes choose tubers of the same size. Scrub them and prick with a fork and place on the oven slide, in a moderate oven. Medium sized potatoes take about 45 minutes to one hour to cook. Do not use a covered dish such as a casserole as the steam formed in cooking makes the potatoes heavy and sodden.

To serve potatoes plain, cut a deep cross in the vegetable and squeeze from beneath in a clean cloth so that the flesh is forced through the cut. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, add a piece of butter and a sprig of parsley.

For variety try some of these ideas to make a more complete meal. The quantity given is for each medium-sized potato.

1. Scoop out the filling of the potato, mash up with a beaten egg, seasoning and a little chopped parsley. Refill the potato cases and bake for 5 to 10 minutes.
2. Add 1-2 tablespoonfuls grated cheese to the above filling. If too rich the egg can be omitted. Extra grated cheese may be sprinkled on top.
3. Add 2 teaspoonfuls of finely grated or chopped onion to the potato pulp.
4. Mash the pulp with 1 dessertspoonful butter, 1 teaspoonful caraway seeds and 1 teaspoonful chopped parsley.
5. Add 2 tablespoonfuls chopped grilled bacon or ham.
6. To the ham mixture add 2 teaspoonfuls grated onion and a pinch of nutmeg.
7. Use 2 tablespoonfuls flaked smoked fish (already cooked), 1 teaspoonful parsley and 1 dessertspoonful of chopped or minced onion.

For richer fillings use cream instead of milk for mashing pulp.
A NEW IDEA FOR A KNITTING OR EMBROIDERY BAG

By BRENDA CLEEVE

AN apron-bag combination is a new idea for the ardent knitter or needlewoman and can save the time usually wasted in searching for lost scissors or retrieving wandering balls of wool.

The apron ties around the waist and forms an apron-cum-bag in which spare wool, needles, book or embroidery can be carried. On the front a triangular pocket forms a holder for wool and scissors and cottons being used. When you have finished your work, slip off the apron, place your work inside the bag and roll it up until next required. The apron ties are used to fasten the bag to keep your work secure.

To make the bag you will need 20in. of material 36in. wide. Colourful cotton or silk scraps make an attractive bag.

Open out the material to its full width and cut off a strip 36in. by 4in. to form the waist ties. From the shorter edge cut a piece 4in. by 16in. for the front band of the apron.

This should leave a piece of material 32in. by 16in. and this is now folded over to make a square 16in. by 16in. On the
SLASH silage costs by TWO THIRDS with the **AMAZING** "GRASSLANDS" Forager

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folded edge and at one end measure down 9in. Join the 9in. marks to make a diagonal line. Cut off the triangular corner piece thus formed and this piece, opened out, is the front pocket section.

To make up the apron, take the body section and cut through the fold so that the back and front are separated. Turn a hem on the longest side of the pocket section. On the remaining sides turn a single fold. Place the pocket in position on one of the body pieces to form the front and machine into place.

The front and back sections are joined together on the two long sides leaving the shorter sides and the waist section open. The shorter sides should be finished off with bias binding or with a small hem, carrying the finish across the back and front pieces.

The shortest strip cut first should be doubled over to form a band. This is joined to the front waist section. It will be found that this band is too long for the front waist so leave an overlap of 1½-2in. at each end.

Use the long strip to make the back waist band, placing it evenly on the waist line so that the free ends form the apron ties.

Fasten the front band to the back band by means of buttons and buttonholes (or press studs) so that the front piece can be let down to enable work to be put into the band.

**PEG APRON**

This same idea can also be used to make a peg bag and washing apron. In this case a firmer type of material should be used for the body of the apron. Hessian or duck could be used for this section and a softer material for the ties and bands.

A bib attached to the waist-band is a good idea on a washing apron, too.


## Utility Implement Sheds

### Open Front Implement Sheds

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