

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Click on a title to go to that page.)

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Introduction.....                          | Page 1  |
| Interfacing.....                           | Page 7  |
| Chapter One: Centered Zippers.....         | Page 14 |
| Chapter Two: Lapped Zippers.....           | Page 24 |
| Chapter Three: Invisible Zippers.....      | Page 46 |
| Chapter Four: Separating Zippers.....      | Page 52 |
| Chapter Five: Other Zipper Techniques..... | Page 62 |
| Chapter Six: Linings and Facings.....      | Page 81 |

Please visit us online at  
[www.sensiblesewing.com](http://www.sensiblesewing.com)

### About This Book:

Sensible Techniques: Zippers contains detailed, step-by-step instructions PLUS over 280 photos. As a bonus, we've given you access to eight different instructional videos, each of which is designed to assist you with various techniques in the book. If you feel that you could use a little more help, just click on the "View Bonus Video!" image wherever it appears in the book and you'll be taken to a video of that particular technique.



### About the Videos:

You'll need an internet connection (preferably high speed) to view the videos. You'll also need the email address you entered and the password you created when you purchased the book. When you click on one of the "View Bonus Video!" images, the sensiblesewing.com website will open to the login page. Log in and you will be taken to the video of your choice. If you keep your web browser open while you're reading the book you'll be able to click through to each video without logging in again.

For technical questions, please email customer support at [customerservice@sensiblesewing.com](mailto:customerservice@sensiblesewing.com).

Thanks for purchasing Sensible Techniques: Zippers.

Happy Sewing!

Published by New Heights Marketing, Inc. - Cartersville, GA

All text, photos and video are Copyright 2008, Shannon Gifford. The purchaser of this book may print out one (1) copy of it for personal use only. Other than that, no part of this document or the related files may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, by any means (electronic, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the author and publisher.

A zipper is a fascinating piece of hardware. This short series of interlocking coils is strong, yet lightweight. It provides closure for openings in garments, slipcovers, drapery, and shoes. Yet many who sew are almost fearful of applying zippers to their projects!

Zipper openings are not difficult to sew. They simply require thought, preparation, and good technique. In *Sensible Sewing Techniques: Zippers*, we will learn several methods for sewing a variety of zipper applications. We will determine which technique is best for the project at hand, based on the strengths and weakness of the method used.

Each technique will be presented with a step-by-step demonstration of the process. These demonstrations will include many photos. As a bonus, you'll find links to videos of some of the techniques that might be difficult to visualize in still photography. Each technique begins with a bulleted outline of the process, followed by a heavily illustrated guide.

Note: For the individual samples, I will be using a variety of colors of thread and zippers. This is done so you can more easily see each step in the process. You will, in most cases, prefer to choose threads and zippers that match your project.

If you are new to sewing zippers, you'll want to begin with the super-easy zipper in chapter one. Try a sample of this technique on a scrap of fabric, and keep the sample with a copy of the basic outline in your sewing notebook. In fact, I recommend doing the same for all the techniques in this book; you'll appreciate having the visual reminder of each technique!

## **Tools of the Trade:**

Every sewing technique requires specific tools, and zipper openings are no exception. The tools you will need for sewing zippers are minimal, but necessary.

To create beautiful zipper openings, you will need the following items:

Your zipper

Zipper foot attachment for your sewing machine

Standard machine foot

Your fabric (your garment, or scraps for practice)

Interfacing, fusible or sewn-in product

Standard sewing supplies: sewing machine, scissors, pins, hand-sewing needles, thread

Optional items:

Thimble

Quilter's  $\frac{1}{4}$ " masking tape

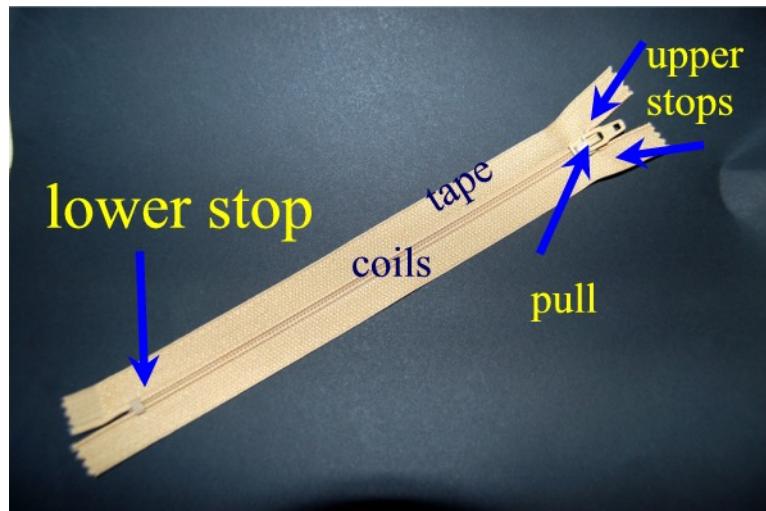
Fusible webbing strips,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide (such as Steam a Seam 2, or Wonder Under)

Mailing labels, Butcher paper, or cardboard for making templates

Marking tools (chalk, washable marker, fadeaway marker)

## Anatomy of a Zipper

All zippers have the same basic anatomy. The “coils” are the working part of the zipper. They interlock in an alternating grid to open and close the zipper. The “slide” is designed to separate or to close the coils. The two “stops”, one at the bottom and two at the top of the zipper, prevent the slide from extending beyond the desired length. The zipper “tape”, usually a twill-woven ribbon, holds everything together.



Zippers can vary in the makeup of the coils (metal, nylon, or plastic). The tape might contrast with the color of the coils and pull. The coils might even be decorated with rhinestones!

The length of a zipper can vary, as well. It is possible to purchase zippers as short as 4 inches. On the opposite end of the spectrum, stock zippers usually end at about 30 inches. However, zipper components can be purchased to create zippers that are yards and yards long, perfect for upholstery and costuming.

Your pattern envelope will make some general recommendations regarding length, but here are a few additional guidelines for choosing the correct product for your project.

1. Choose your zipper color to match the primary color of your fabric as closely as possible. If a perfect match is unavailable, choose a zipper slightly darker in tone than your fabric.
2. Metal zippers are primarily for use in pants made from heavier weight fabric such as denim or canvas.
3. An invisible zipper cannot be used in a fly opening. On the other hand, invisible zippers are great for use in center back seams, side seams, or pockets.
4. If you cannot find the length of zipper you need, choose a longer zipper. Zippers can easily be shortened by zigzagging over the teeth at the desired location, then cutting off the excess. The one exception to this rule is the separating zipper; it must be shortened from the top. See specifics in the discussion of separating zippers in Chapter Four.