



Come and See the Seitz
creative sewing projects by Sarah Seitz

SIMPLE ZIPPER CLOSURE PILLOWCASE TUTORIAL

Supplies:

- 1 pillow form (in whichever size you want your finished pillow)
- 2 square pieces of fabric cut to the exact same size as your pillow form
- 1 zipper that is at least as long as one side of the pillow form

Instructions:

1. Determine the size of pillowcase you would like to make, and cut two squares in the same size as your pillow form.
 - For example, I bought a 21" square pillow form, so I cut a 21" square piece of my fabric for the front of my pillow and a contrasting 21" square piece of my fabric for the back of my pillow.
2. If your zipper is too long for your pillow, you will need to cut it so that it is about 1.25" shorter than the length of your square. To do this, mark the cutting line on your zipper, sew along this line several times and then cut the excess off (**Figure 1**).
3. Lay your 2 fabric squares, right sides together. Matching one end, pin together. Since I used 2 fabric napkins to make my pillowcase, I pinned just inside the hem line (**Figure 2**).



Figure 2

4. Begin sewing along this pinned edge using a 5/8" seam allowance and a normal stitch length for 1 inch, then increase your stitch length and BASTE the rest of the seam until you get 1 inch from the end. Finally, shorten your stitch length again and stitch until the end of the seam. Although 5/8" might seem like a large allowance, it will make sewing the zipper in much easier! This seam will soon become the home of the hidden zipper.

5. Iron this seam open (**Figure 3**).

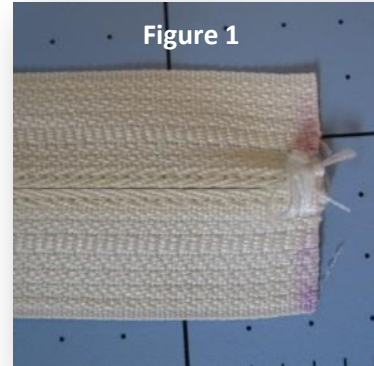


Figure 1



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

6. Turn to the back of the fabric, so the right side is facing down. Starting about 5/8 from one end, place the closed zipper, right side down, on top of the seam that you have just basted (**Figure 4**).
7. Pin the zipper so that the zipper teeth fall directly over the basted seam. Use a lot of pins here, to prevent shifting when we flip to the right side (**Figure 5**).
8. Once you have completely pinned the zipper in place, flip over the right side of the fabric. You will now need to pin the zipper in place on the right side of the fabric. Take care to put your pins in so that they will be easy to remove as you sew around the zipper (I forgot to do this for the picture below). Once you have completely pinned it, you can remove the pins from the wrong side of the fabric. You are now ready to topstitch around your zipper (**Figure 6**)!
9. Attach your zipper foot. I like to start at the end closest to the zipper pull. Starting an inch down from the zipper pull, begin sewing about 1/4" away from the center seam (**Figure 7** - backstitch to secure). Continue all the way to an inch from the bottom and then pivot across the seam, and continue up the opposite side towards the zipper pull (starting at the star, follow red arrows on **Figure 6**). Stop when you are an inch away from the zipper pull. Backstitch.
10. Pushing down on the zipper pull, force the zipper pull into the seam. This will allow you to finish topstitching the zipper.
11. Starting when you left off in step 9, continue sewing around the zipper, pivoting at an inch from the top, to reach when you began in step 9. Backstitch to secure.

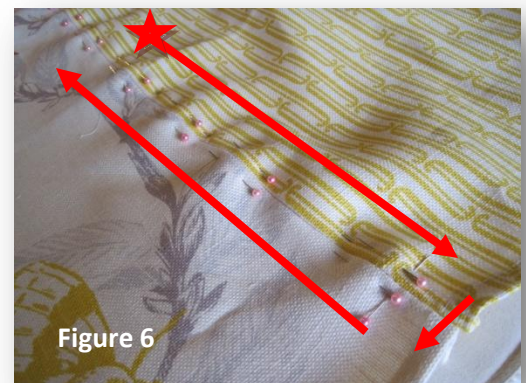


Figure 6

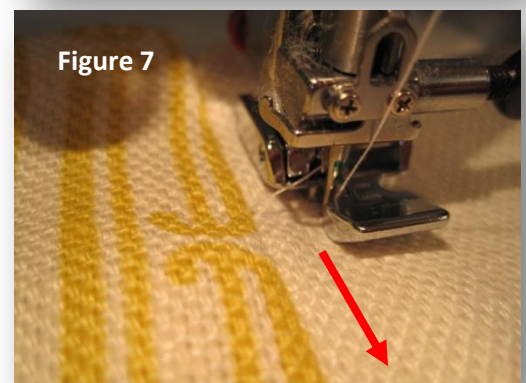
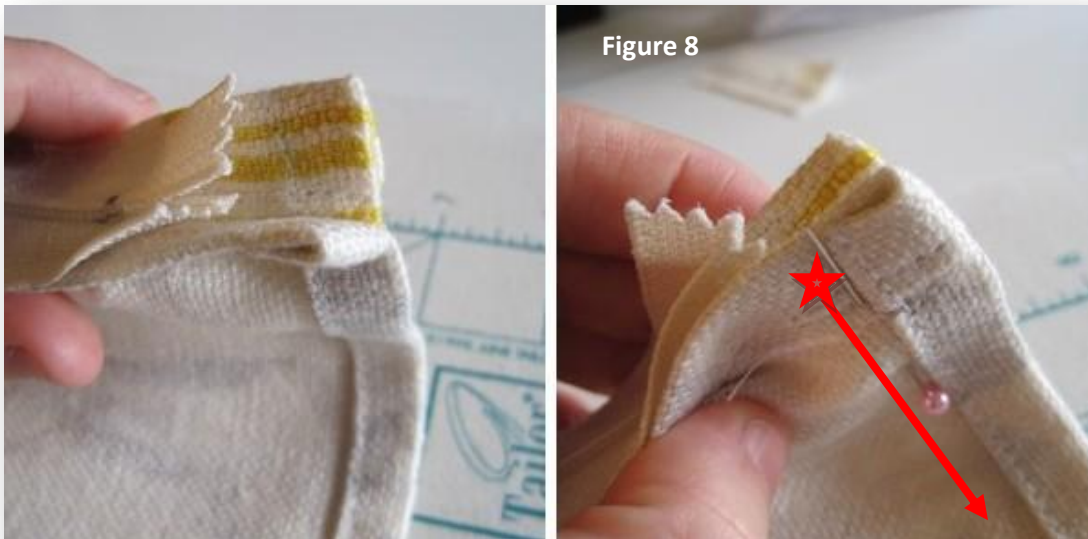


Figure 7

12. Now that your zipper is completely sewn into the seam, you can now remove the basting stitches from step 4.
13. Open the zipper so there is at least a 4 inch opening.
14. Place the right sides of the pillowcase together, and pin around the 3 open sides. At the sides where the zipper ends, pinch the seams together and begin sewing near the red star in **Figure 8** below. Continue around all 3 open ends. I recommend using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance and a short stitch here, for added strength.



15. Turn the pillowcase right side out through the opening left by the zipper and admire your new zipper closure pillowcase! Your pillow form should now fit (very snugly) into your new pillowcase and it will now be completely removable for washing.



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