

Zippers Tutorial

1) Prepare Backing Fabric For Zippers:

-Make the backing fabric 6" - 8" larger than the quilt top. For example, if your quilt is 50"x50", you need a backing at least 56" x 56".

-Square up backing fabric on all sides. The best way to do this is snip a little cut in the fabric and rip it. That is the best way you know you've got the fabric on grain and square.

-Identify which side of your backing is going to be pinned to zippers. If your pattern and/or quilt are not directional, it is always preferable to load your quilt longways against the zippers to minimize the number of fabric advances you must take while quilting.

-Fold top and bottom edge of backing in half with wrong sides together and mark the center of both top and bottom edges, using a non-bleeding fabric marking pen or chalk.

2) Pin Zippers to Backing Fabric:

Bottom Edge of Backing Fabric:

-Lay backing fabric flat on table, with *the wrong side face-up*, and bottom edge closest to you.

-Take the zipper marked "**Bottom Left Corner**" and place zipper *under backing fabric so the backing fabric's "right" side is against the side of the zipper flange that has the writing* (Figure 1).



Figure 1



Figure 2

-Line up the center mark of the backing fabric with the black center mark of the zipper, and pin together, leaving fabric approx. 1/8" from zipper teeth (Figure 2). You can purchase the pins we recommend in our shop. If you are renting our 10' table, which quilts up to a queen size, use the 10' center mark. If you are quilting on one of our 12' tables, which will quilt up to a king, use the 12' center mark. If you aren't sure which table you will be using and your quilt is less than a King, just use the 10' center mark and it will work on any of our tables. Instead of pinning with safety pins, you could also use your domestic sewing machine and run a line of big basting stitches. Use a 5.0 size stitch length and you'll be able to just snip and pull the zippers off when you are done.

-The side of the zipper with the **Dark** center mark should be facing up towards the backing fabric, and the zipper teeth should be facing away from the fabric edge.

-Place one pin in the center, then pin the zipper to the fabric, placing pins 1" to 1-1/2" apart. Pin from the center out in one direction until entire side is pinned to zipper (Figure 3).

-Make sure to keep fabric an even 1/8" away from teeth as you pin, to maintain a straight edge.

-Please note that the writing for this zipper "**Backing Bottom Left Corner,**" should be on your side as you pin this zipper to the backing bottom edge.

-After pinning from the center out on one side, move back to the center and repeat.



Figure 3

Top Edge of Backing Fabric:

-Once the zipper is pinned to the bottom edge, turn the backing fabric so that the top edge is nearest to you.

-Backing fabric should still be flat on the table with the wrong side face-up, and now the top edge is closest to you.



Figure 4

-Take the zipper marked "**Backing Top Right Corner.**" In same manner as above for bottom edge of backing, pin zipper to top edge (Figure 4).

-Please note that you are working kind of upside down for this side to make it easier to reach.

-Remember to have the **Dark** center mark of the zipper facing up towards the backing fabric, and the zipper teeth should still be facing away from the fabric edge.

-Place one pin in the center, then move out to one side at a time in the same manner as for the backing bottom edge, being sure to maintain 1/8" distance from zipper teeth.