

Optimiser

Guide & Tips to Zip Fasteners



Opti
for quality

Optimise your life

For over 100 years

Opti zip fasteners have brought you satisfaction, quality and inspiration for over 100 years. On every step of the way, it has been our aim to answer our consumers' expectations and to invest in research, seeking innovation in technology and fashion with each product launch.

Zip Fasteners for over 100 years



Most of the fastening devices used in clothing today, like the shoelace, the button, and the safety pin, have existed in some form in various cultures for thousands of years, but the zip fastener was the brainchild of one American inventor, named **Whitcomb Judson** of Chicago in 1884.

We weren't around then, but are proud to have been associated with renown garment manufacturers for much of the century, developing zip fasteners with greater power yet sleeker lines. The model on the right is 562% stronger than its ironware ancestor on the left.

Take the best out of Opti

In an increasingly demanding society, **Opti**'s expertise in zip fasteners has evolved with you, to **Optimise** your life. Experience and modernity join together to create lighter and better zips that simplify your life!

Today, a wide range of **Opti** zips assure your garments, accessories and home decorations are more comfortable, safer, stronger and trendier.

In this leaflet, you will be shown how to get the best from our zip fastener range, learn about its quality and how to choose the right product for your specific need. We will help to ensure you get the **Optimum** results whether you are choosing to update, personalise or simply replacing your zip.

Select the wrong zip fastener or one of poor quality and it will cost you in repeated replacements and embarrassing situations...

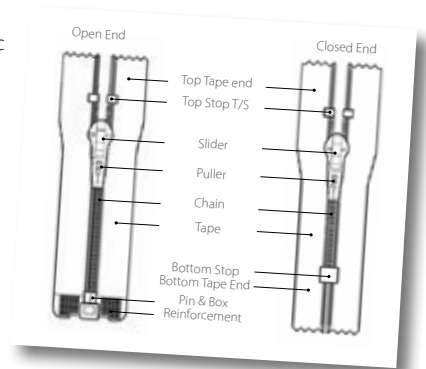
The basics of a zip fastener

Depending on the type of garment and application, you will decide on an open or closed end zip fastener. In either case there are several parts in the zip that contribute to the overall quality and performance of the zip.

Is your zip not staying closed? Well, a slider with an automatic locker would easily solve that.

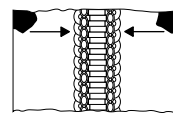
Have you closed your jacket too quickly and pulled the slider off? That happens when the top stops are not secure and fall off.

Next time when buying a zip look at all the components and assess how trustworthy they are...



Optimise your zip selection

A variety of zip fasteners are available so you can choose the one that **Optimises** your specific needs in terms of strength, end usage and appearance.



The strength of the zip fastener is related to the chain width and is measured in millimetres (mm), the higher the number the stronger the zip fastener. The most common chain widths for domestic application are 4mm and 6mm.

The strength of zip fastener that you select should also be related to the weight of fabric. Fine fabrics usually require lighter zip fasteners and heavier fabrics a thicker zip fastener.

Zips are mainly available in 3 different types

Metal Zip Fastener - Single metal members are pressed onto textile bead tape. The chain is mainly made of brass. In **Opti** you can easily identify these zips by the grey tags.



Spiral or Polyester General Purpose zip fasteners - a spiral is sewn on or woven into textile tape (S - technology). The chain is mainly made of polyester. In **Opti** this group is presented with yellow tags.

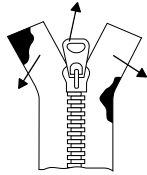


Profile / Sport zip fasteners - Melted granules are injected/moulded onto textile bead tape. The chain is mainly made of POM (Polyoxymethylen). In **Opti** the blue tag refers to this type of zip.



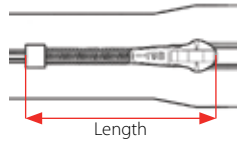
The selection of the zip fastener type should match the look and feel of your garment.

For strong and outdoor applications choose Sport (Profile) zip fasteners. For finer fabrics and a classic look a Polyester (Spiral) zip fastener is best. If looking for a more casual, decorative and trendier image then select a metal zip fastener. By combining the type of zip fastener with the type of puller/slider (smaller and discreet or bigger and fancier) you can achieve the image you are looking for.



Before making your final choice you may want to have a look at the slider type as depending on the end usage you can choose between locking or non-locking sliders. For auto lock sliders, test by positioning the puller up and pushing the side tapes down. In some cases the zip will lock only if you bring the puller down and press the locking prong/pin.

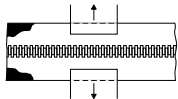
Tip: To measure the zip fastener correctly it must be fully closed and include the complete slider and bottom stop or box (in the open end zips)



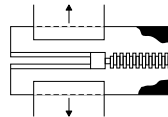
Final Optimization – how to assess the quality of a zip?

To be sure you are choosing a good quality zip, here are some recommended tests you can perform:

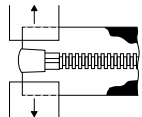
Lateral strength



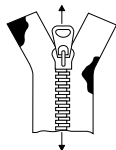
Lateral strength bottom stop



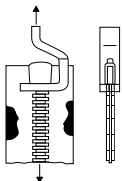
Lateral strength open end



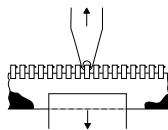
Slider against top stop



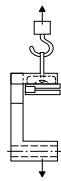
Box pull off strength



Member pull off strength



Puller pull off strength



Product Range



1. Polyester general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and fulda painted puller. This is a closed end zip used mainly for trousers. It is available in a large shade range and lengths from 10 to 22cm.

2. Polyester general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and drop painted puller. This is a closed end zip used mainly in dresses, skirts, blouses and home decoration items. It is available in a large shade range and lengths from 15 to 60 cm.

3. Polyester general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and drop painted puller. This is an open end zip used mainly on women's light knitwear. It is available in lengths from 25 to 60cm.



4. Polyester general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and silver bedlinen nickel free slider. This is a closed end zip used for bed linen. It is available in two shades and three lengths, 76, 135 and 155cm.



5. Polyester general purpose concealed zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and drop painted puller. This is a closed end zip used mainly in women's light fabrics. It is available in a medium shade range and lengths from 15 to 60cm.

6. Polyester general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and fulda silver nickel free puller. This is a closed end zip used mainly for trousers when colour matching is difficult. This is a transparent zip fastener available in lengths from 10 to 22cm.

● ● ● **Product Range**



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7. Polyester general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and drop silver nickel puller. This is a closed end zip used mainly in dresses, skirts, blouses and home decoration items when colour matching is difficult. This is a transparent zip fastener available in lengths from 15 to 60cm.

8. Polyester general purpose zip fastener, with 6mm chain width and fulda painted puller. This is a closed end zip used mainly on shoes, bags and baby sleeping bags. It is available in a medium shade range and lengths from 15 to 80cm.

9. Polyester general purpose zip fastener, with 6mm chain width and fulda painted puller. This is an open end zip used mainly in light knitwear and indoor sport jackets. It is available in a medium shade range and lengths from 25 to 90cm.



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10. Sport zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and ring painted puller. This is an open end zip used mainly on children's jackets. It is available in lengths from 18 to 40cm.

11. Sport zip fastener, with 6mm chain width and werra painted puller. This is a closed end zip used mainly on pullovers, pockets and sport bags. It is available in lengths from 15 to 70cm.



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12. Sport zip fastener, with reflective safety strip, 6mm chain width and mosel painted puller. This is an open end zip used primarily on raincoats, heavy knitwear and outdoor sport jackets for visibility/safety reasons. It is available in black and lengths from 30 to 90cm.

● ● ● **Product Range**



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13. Sport zip fastener, with 6mm chain width and werra painted puller. This is an open end zip used mostly on raincoats, heavy knitwear and outdoor sport jackets. It is available in a large shade range and lengths from 30 to 90cm.

14. Sport zip fastener, with 6mm chain width and two werra painted pullers. This is a two way open ended zip used essentially in outdoor sport jackets. It is available in lengths from 30 to 90cm.

15. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and werra silver nickel free puller. This is a closed end zip used mainly in casual trousers and skirts. It is available in a medium shade range and lengths from 6 to 22cm.



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16. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and werra gold puller. This is a closed end zip used mainly in casual trousers and skirts. It is available in lengths from 12 to 20cm.

17. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and werra antique gold puller. This is a closed end zip used essentially in casual trousers and skirts. It is available in a medium shade range and lengths from 6 to 20cm.



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18. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and werra silver nickel free puller. This is an open end zip used mostly in children and women's casual jackets and men's smart knitwear. It is available in lengths from 25 to 70cm.

●●● Product Range



19. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 4mm chain width and werra antique gold puller. This is an open zip used mostly in children and women's casual jackets and men's smart knitwear. It is available in lengths from 25 to 70cm.

20. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with jeans tape, 4mm chain width and flatlock gold puller. This is a closed end zip used on denim skirts and trousers. It is available in one colour and lengths from 6 to 22cm.

21. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 6mm chain width and werra silver nickel free puller. This is a closed end zip used mainly in pockets, sleeves and legs where the zip gives a decorative touch. It is available in lengths from 12 to 20 cm.



22. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 6mm chain width and werra gold puller. This is a closed end zip used essentially in pockets, sleeves and legs where the zip gives a decorative touch. It is available in lengths from 12 to 20cm.



23. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 6mm chain width and mosel antique gold puller. This is a closed end zip used essentially in pockets, sleeves and legs where the zip gives a decorative touch. It is available in lengths from 12 to 20cm.

24. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 6mm chain width and werra silver nickel free puller. This is an open end zip used mostly in women and men's jackets where the zip gives a decorative touch. It is available in lengths from 30 to 90cm.

●●● Product Range



25. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 6mm chain width and mosel antique gold puller. This is an open end zip used mostly in women and men's jackets where the zip gives a decorative touch. It is available in a medium shade range and lengths from 30 to 90cm.

26. Metal general purpose zip fastener, with 6mm chain with and two werra antique gold pullers. This is a two way open ended zip used mainly in leather and casual jackets where the zip gives a decorative touch. It is available in lengths from 30 to 90cm.

Tip: Choose a zip fastener that is slightly longer than needed. It is usually easier to shorten it than to place it precisely into the available space.

Zip fasteners are not only easier and more comfortable to use than other types of fasteners (e.g. buttons and pins) but can also add a very special and distinctive touch to your clothes, particularly metal zips. Be creative & personalize with zips!



Finally, the table below shows the pictograms used on the packaging for Opti zip fasteners. These will guide you quickly to the correct end usage application if you can't remember all that you have learned in this guide!

Closed End	Home Deco	Bedlinen	Skirts	Blouses	Pullovers
Open End	Bags	Shoes	Sports Bags	Baby sleeping Bags	Kids Jackets
2 Ways Open End	Dresses	Light Fabrics	Raincoats	Trousers	Pockets

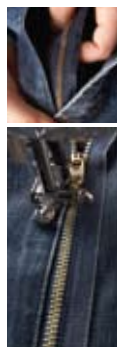
Tip: To shorten a zip fastener, stitch a new bottom stop by whipstitching tightly across the teeth 8-10 times and cut off at the bottom 10mm below (for an invisible zip add 25mm). It is not advisable to shorten the zip from the top because without upper stops the slider is likely to slide off (unless the edge is finished with a waistband or collar).



Type	Function	Puller	Main Usage
S40 Transparent	CE	Fulda	Smart trousers when colour matching is difficult
		Drop	Female dresses, skirts, blouses and home decoration when colour matching is difficult
S40	CE	Fulda	Smart trousers
		Drop	Female dresses, skirts, blouses and home decoration items
		Bedlinen	Bed linen
	OE	Drop	Women's light knitwear
S43	CE	Drop	Light feminine fabrics
S60	CE	Fulda	Shoes, bags and baby sleeping bags
	OE	Fulda	Light knitwear and Indoor sport jackets
M40	CE	Werra	Casual trousers & skirts
	OE	Werra	Children and women's casual jackets and men's smart knitwear
M45	CE	Flatlock	Denim skirts and trousers
M60	2WOE	Werra	Women and men's leather and casual jackets where zip gives a decorative touch
	OE	Werra & Mosel	Women and men's jackets where zip gives a decorative touch
	CE	Werra & Mosel	Pockets, sleeves and legs where the zip gives a decorative touch
P40	OE	Ring	Children's jackets
P60	2WOE	Werra	Outdoor sports jackets
	OE	Werra	Raincoats, heavy knitwear and outdoor sports jackets
	CE	Werra	Pullovers, pockets, sports bags
P60 Reflector	OE	Mosel	Raincoats and Sports Jackets – with reflective strip, if for safety reasons you need to be visible in the dark

● ● ● How to Optimize broken zip replacement in trousers and skirts - in 5 steps

1. Remove the broken zip fastener without undoing the visible top stitching. On the fly underlap you'll create a slot between the front and the fly shield.
2. On the overlap remove the stitches and cut the zip fastener tape at the waistband and bottom to release the zip. Don't unstitch the waistband.
3. Place one side of the tape into the slot – with the zip right side up. Fold and baste the tape in position. With a zipper foot stitch the zip close to the edge, sewing from the top as far down as you can.



4. Pin the free tape in place aligning along the original top stitching. Fold the top extra tape under.

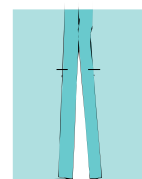
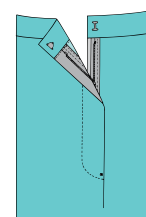
5. Open the zip fastener and using a Coats Duet Extra Strong or Coats Creative thread, backstitch the overlap side by hand so that no stitches are visible outside of the fabric.



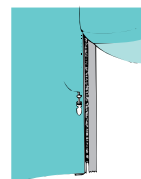
● ● ● How to quickly sew in a zip fastener – lapped method

When this method is used the zip fastener is completely covered. Use in skirts, trousers or the centre back seam of dresses. Only two rows of stitches are required for this quick technique.

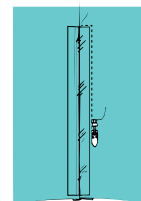
Stitch the seam below the zip fastener opening with backstitch. Press the seam allowances open. (Do not baste the zip opening closed.)



Place the garment wrong side up on the ironing board. Press seam allowances to the wrong side of the zipper area: 1/2" (1.3 cm) on the left or underlap side and 5/8" (1.5 cm) on the right or overlap side. Place the zipper foot on the sewing machine.



Turn the garment right side up. Slip the closed zip facing up under the zip opening. Place the fold in the underlap side next to, but not touching, the coil or teeth, with the bottom stop at the bottom of the opening. Starting at the bottom, stitch along the fold; backstitch.



Lay the overlap side of the opening on the zip with the fold just covering the stitching. Centre 2 cm wide adhesive tape over the fold to hold the opening closed and to provide a topstitching guideline (for easier guiding you can also use a zipper foot). To topstitch the zip, stitch across the bottom of the zip, pivot, and continue along the guideline.

At the top of the zip, backstitch. Remove the tape. Pull the thread ends to the wrong side and tie in a knot; press.

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