

## Cushion Zips by Hazel Williams

Sewing a zip neatly into a cushion back is easier than it looks! I like to use budget plain beige cushion zips and hide the zip behind a folded flap and have two ways of doing this with different finishes. I like to use a Sewline Glue Pen to glue my zip to the fabric before sewing rather than pinning as I find stops the zip moving and gives a much neater finish.

### Method 1: Self Coloured Zip Flap

1. Cut the fabric for the back of your cushion 3 inches longer in one direction than the cushion front. Don't forget to add seam allowances too. e.g. for an 18" finished square cushion cut the cushion back 18½" by 21½"
2. Cut the fabric in half (making 2 pieces 18½" by 10¾" for an 18" cushion)
3. Press under about ¼" on one long side of each piece
4. Pin or glue the folded edge of one piece to one side of the zip, making sure the folded fabric edge is close to the zip teeth. Don't worry if the zip is too long – the excess can be cut off later.
5. Using a zipper foot, stitch close to the edge of the zip teeth along the length of the zip then turn round and sew back to the beginning, again keeping your zipper foot against the zip teeth – this will give a second line of stitching approximately ¼" away from the first.
6. Repeat with the second piece of fabric to attach it to the other side of the zip.



Now to make the flap:

6. Take the fabric at one side of the zip and fold it right sides together across the zip so the fold is just beyond the edge of the zip tape. Turn the cushion back over so the wrong side of the zip is now underneath
7. Fold the fabric back on itself to create a flap which covers the zip. Press well.
8. Pick up the cushion back by the edge of the zip flap and lay it flat on the table.
9. Stitch along the fold line (through two layers of fabric) with a matching thread.



10. Stitch the flap down in the seam allowance at both ends and trim off the excess zip.

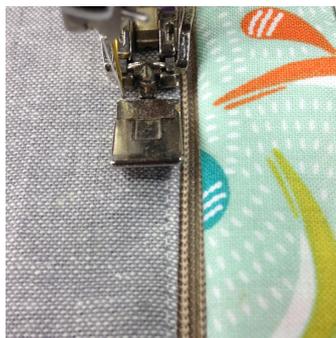
## Method 2: Contrast Flap



1. Prepare your flap: cut a strip of contrast fabric  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " by the width of your cushion and press it in half along the length.
2. Cut 2 pieces of fabric for the cushion back e.g. for an 18" cushion I cut these  $18\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $9\frac{1}{2}$ "
3. Lay one of your backing pieces on a flat surface, right sides up, place the flap on top with the raw edges together, then place the zip on top with the wrong side facing up.
4. Using a zipper foot sew close to the zip teeth. Even though the zip is wrong side up you should still be able to run the zipper foot along the ridge of the teeth.
5. Press the flap and zip away from the main fabric.



6. Topstitch on the main fabric approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam.
7. Fold the flap up to reveal the zip and temporarily pin it out of the way.
8. Take the second piece of main fabric and press under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " then pin or glue this folded edge next to the zip teeth.
9. Stitch close to the zip teeth then turn around and stitch back again  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the first stitching line.



10. Press the flap down to cover the zip and stitch in place at each end in the seam allowance.
11. Trim off the excess zip.

I usually just place the cushion front and back right sides together, with the zip partially unfastened, and sew all the way round. For a more decorative finish try sewing the front and back wrong sides together, then sewing a quilt binding around the cushion.