Inset Zipper with Bag Pocket

Cut pocket fabric piece 2 inches wider than pocket opening and twice the length of pocket depth. For example, cut pocket fabric 9 inches wide for a 7-inch zipper opening. Placement stitching should be the length of the zipper opening and approximately ½ inch apart. Adjust according to weight of zipper; heavier zippers may require a wider opening.

1. Interface outer fabric around the zipper opening/pocket placement area with fusible interfacing with interfacing extended 1 inch beyond zipper opening on all sides. Transfer placement stitching line to interfaced side of outer fabric (underside).
2. Sew reinforcement stitching around pocket placement stitching rectangle.
3. Bar tack ends of zipper tape together at open end. With zipper facing up, position it to the right side of the pocket fabric, tape edge even with pocket top edge. Baste zipper ¾ inch from edge (Figure 1).
4. With zipper facing right side of outer fabric, pin, matching the zipper basting line to lower line of pocket placement stitching. Ends of zipper should be even with ends of stitched rectangle (Figure 2). Stitch over reinforcement stitching along lower line, backstitching at each end. Do not stitch beyond or turn the corners of reinforcement stitching.

5. Cut outer fabric between reinforcement stitching, stopping ½ inch from each end, angle cut to corners. Be careful not to clip stitching line (Figure 3).
6. Push pocket and zipper through opening to underside. Fold outer fabric back exposing end of zipper. Pull small triangle end to inside (Figure 4) and stitch close to fold. Repeat for other end of zipper. Press.

7. **Optional**: Topstitch ¼ inch below zipper starting and stopping ⅜ inch beyond the zipper opening, through outer fabric, zipper tape, and pocket.

8. On back side, bring lower edge of pocket up to meet top edge of zipper tape and remaining upper edge of pocket opening. Stitch across top of pocket through these three layers while following the reinforcement stitching for the width of the pocket and length of the zipper tape.

9. Fold outer fabric back and away from pocket; stitch sides of pocket together. Repeat for other side of pocket.

10. **Optional**: On outside, topstitch ¼ inch around remaining three sides of zipper, beginning and ending stitching at ends of first/lower topstitching line (Figure 5).

Marjorie M. Baker, M.S.
Extension Associate for Clothing and Textiles

July 2008