



[1] A fly front is often used in pants. They are mainly inserted in the front, and as well as for decorative purposes, they allow the wearer to get in and out of the pants. They are generally always used on men's pants (so its easy for them to pee). They are good for pants like jeans, which are generally not too high waisted. On high waisted pants, the fly opening would need to be long, and I think that looks a bit weird. Also, if you wanted to create an elegant



pair of pants, you possibly wouldn't choose this kind of zip. It's a bit of a more casual/boyish style. They are also sometimes used on coats, especially rain or wind jackets. The idea is that, as well as being decorative and a way of getting in and out of the coat, they are also good protection from wind, rain etc. In both cases, they are good for a woven fabric that has no stretch. That is, the garment can't be stretched to get in and out of it.

They are also good for more heavyweight fabric, like denim. This is because the zips themselves that are used tend to be more heavy weight.

The fly front is good too because it has a flap (made from a fold of fabric) down one side which hides the zip.

It also has an under flap that helps to shield the zip from other garments that might be underneath (eg undies, a shirt) that could get stuck in the zip.

[2] Inserting a fly front zip



Cut out the fly facing and fly shield. Iron the interfacing to the wrong side of each piece.



Fold wrong sides of front together. Iron flat.

Over lock around both pieces



Put fly facing right side down (straight side) on left front edge.

Stitch from top to start of crotch seam.

Trim back the fly facing seam.

Press fly facing away from pants



Lay the closed zip on the fly facing so that the bottom stop on the zip is almost 2cm from the bottom edge of the facing.

Using a zipper foot, baste along right edge of zip with the bottom edge of the zip turned up.

Sew the left side of the zip both along the outside edge and next to the teeth.





Turn fly facing to inside along the seam line. Press.
Baste along the curved edge about 0.5cm in from edge.
Turn pants right side out.
Top stitch along the basted line



(or one line on either side), going from bottom to top.
Remove basting threads.



Fold the right side of the pants under about 0.5cm.
Pin and baste to zip.
Close zip to make sure it all looks good ie even and the tops of the pants meet.



With the zip closed, position the fly shield from the inside of the pants, aligning the folded edge with the top stitching of the fly facing. Pin in place and flip pants to the right side. Baste along the zip through all layers. Remove pins, open zip and stitch along the zip.



Sew a bar tack across the bottom of the fly to catch both the fly facing and fly shield. With the zip open, stitch across each side of the zip tape. Trim off any excess zip so it is even with the top of the pants.

[3] Requirements for a quality finish

Choosing a fly zip because it is the most appropriate zip/closure for the finished garment. This judgement should be based on the design of the garment, and the fabric type and weight.

The front flap should line up parallel with seams eg the crotch seam on a pair of jeans.

The front flap should be the same width all the way down.

Any fabric design (eg checks) should match up. The picture on the right shows how bad it looks when they don't match up.

The fabric pieces should be well pressed

The zip should match the length of the fly front.

When the zip is closed, the fabric should be sitting flat (ie not puchering, pulling etc)

Top stitching should be straight and, if there are two lines, evenly spaced.

Be firmly stitched just below the bottom opening of the zip

Have thread ends secure or cut off, so they don't get caught in the zip

The zip should be of a weight that suits the weight of the fabric

The colour of the zip should coordinate with the fabric eg either match it or provide an intended contrast

Use a zipper foot to sew close to the teeth

