

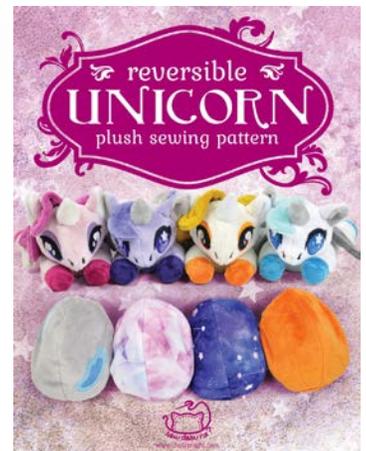
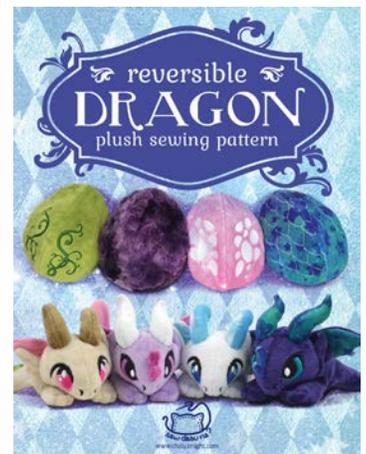
# reversible DRAGON & UNICORN plush sewing pattern update

This update is meant to work alongside either the Reversible Dragon or Reversible Unicorn Plush sewing pattern from Sew Desu Ne? It provides additional guidance and instructions for closing up the dragon egg or unicorn jewel with a zipper rather than just a button and loop.

## NEW SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- 8" long **reversible** zipper

see next page for  
**LOTS** of info on  
choosing zippers

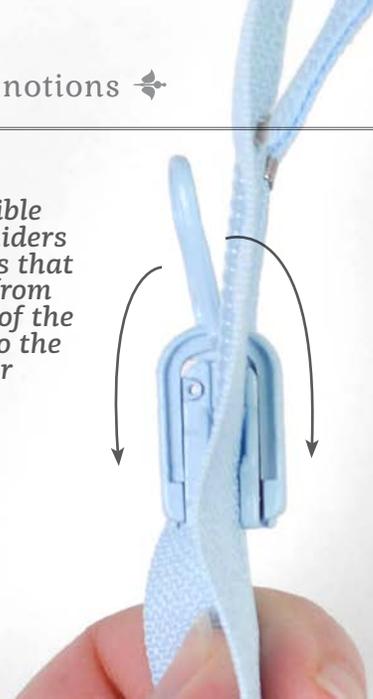


## choosing zippers: reversible zippers

A **REVERSIBLE ZIPPER** is needed for this project so the zipper can be used on both the egg and dragon sides. It's essentially a zipper that allows the pull tab to swing from one side of the slider to the other.

The most common uses for reversible zippers are for *jackets* and *sleeping bags*. So you'll likely need to shorten whatever you find. Below you'll see some examples of what you might find available.

reversible zipper sliders have tabs that swing from one side of the zipper to the other



## zipper types:

**COIL ZIPPERS** are most recommended for this project. The teeth are made from a nylon coil. Unlike the other varieties, these can be sewn over (*carefully!*), which makes them easier to install.

**MOLDED PLASTIC ZIPPERS** are more common. The teeth are made from molded plastic and cannot be sewn over. Therefore you'll have to remove the teeth before you shorten the zipper (see the next page for how to do this).

**METAL ZIPPERS** are like molded plastic but

with metal instead. They also can't be sewn over and have to have the teeth removed before you shorten the zipper.

If you can't find any of these zippers, you can actually build your own with **ZIPPER TAPE**. Zipper tape is just a length of zipper teeth without a slider or stop. Look carefully for the *type and size of your tape*. For example **COIL ZIPPER #5**. Then find a reversible zipper slider that matches the type and size of your tape. You can now install it yourself to make your own zipper (see page 8 for how to do that).

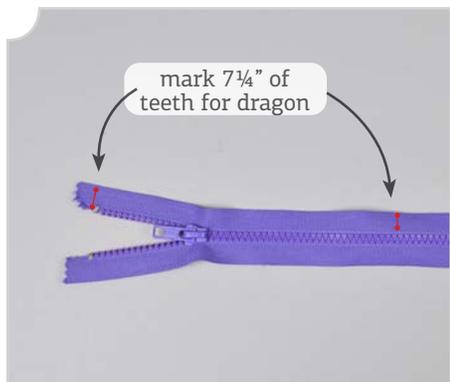


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## zipper skills: shortening a plastic or metal zipper

Plastic and metal zippers are a bit more complicated in that you can't sew over the teeth. This is why coil zippers are more highly recommended. Plastic or metal teeth will very likely break your machine needle. So the goal is to remove all the unnecessary teeth and add new zipper stops so the slider doesn't fall off. You'll be left with fabric on both ends which is safe to sew and only have zipper teeth where you need it.



### 1. MARK THE ZIPPER.

Mark the desired length for the zipper. For the reversible dragon, you want the teeth to be 7 1/4" long. For the reversible unicorn, you want the teeth to be 6 3/4" long.



### 2. TRIM THE ZIPPER.

Trim the zipper to be about 1"-2" longer than the markings. This is just to give some working room. Use craft scissors (not your good fabric scissors) and cut between the teeth.



### 3. REMOVE THE PLASTIC TEETH

Remove the teeth starting at the end and working down to the marking you made. For plastic teeth, you can typically cut them away with craft scissors, though wire cutters work even better. Carefully cut away the plastic on both sides and the pieces will fall away from the fabric.



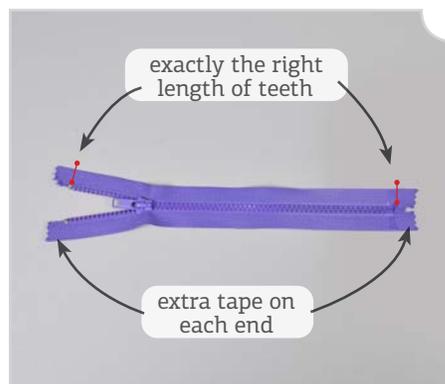
### 4. REMOVE THE METAL TEETH.

For metal zippers, you'll likely need pliers to pry off each tooth.



### 5. ADD THE NEW ZIPPER STOP.

Create a new zipper stop by hand sewing a bump of thread around the top of the teeth. Heavy duty thread works well for this.



### 6. YOUR FINISHED ZIPPER.

The finished zipper should have exactly the length of teeth you need with a bit of fabric on each end to give you room for sewing.

## zipper skills: installing a zipper slider

This technique uses a household fork to hold the slider while you insert the tape. This can also be used to fix a broken zipper. It's a widely spreading technique so you can often find many videos for it online if you prefer to see it in action.



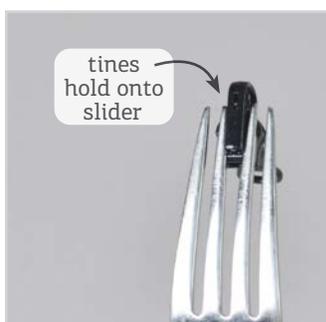
### 1. FIND A FORK.

Find a fork that has tines wide enough to hold onto one side of the zipper slider. You can also use a plastic fork if that is sized better.



### 2. SECURE THE SLIDER.

Secure the slider between the tines of the fork so it's snug. Position it so the wide end is pointing up. Try to also get it so the right side is facing up. It can be hard to tell with some brands. So don't worry too much.



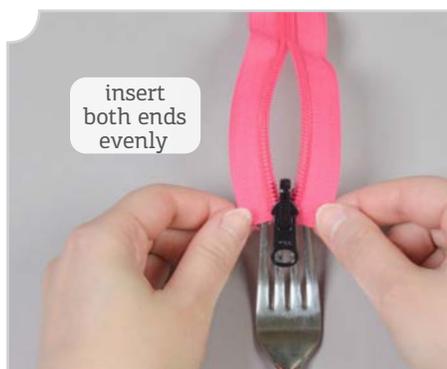
### 3. CHECK THE PLACEMENT.

The goal is to hold the slider between the tines. The tines don't go into the slider itself.



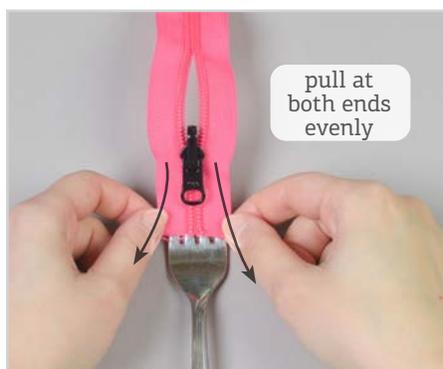
### 4. GRAB YOUR ZIPPER TAPE.

Take your zipper tape and separate one end. Hold it over your slider so the right side is also facing up.



### 5. INSERT THE TAPE.

Insert both ends of the tape into the slider from the top down. Just rest them there for now. The goal is to get them as even as possible before pulling. You may want to hold down the fork with something heavy or just use the base of your hand.



### 6. PULL THE TAPE.

Gently pull the tape through the slider with equal pressure and speed on both sides. It may take a few tries. But if it's still not working, you may need to flip your tape wrong side up. (Your slider might be wrong side up without knowing it; remember step 2).



### 7. YOUR FINISHED ZIPPER.

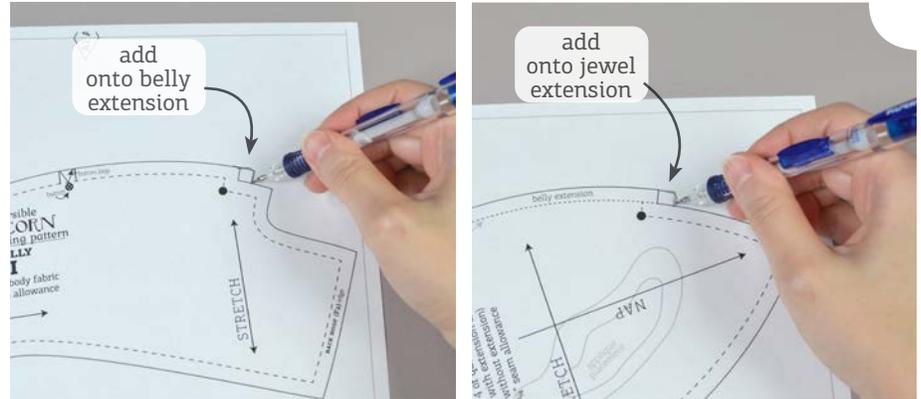
When complete, the zipper slider should be secured inside the tape and allow you to open and close it. If the tape is uneven, you can trim off any extra.

# ZIPPER PREP

let's get started!

## 1. ADJUST THE BELLY & JEWEL OPENINGS

- A.** For the **UNICORN PLUSH**, the added zipper prevents the belly from opening as wide. So the plush benefits from a larger **BELLY (I)** and **JEWEL (J)** opening. Redraw the belly and jewel extensions about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " longer on each side before cutting your fabric.



## 2. TRIM THE ZIPPERS



Grab the zipper you plan to use. Chances are it's much longer than 8" since most reversible zippers are marketed for jackets and sleeping bags. Trim it to about 8" long for the fabric section.

For a **COIL ZIPPER**, you can just cut it with craft scissors. If you have a **METAL** or **MOLDED PLASTIC ZIPPER**, you'll need to remove the teeth and follow the instructions on page 3.

- A. FOR THE DRAGON:** the teeth should be about  $7\frac{1}{4}$ " long.  
**B. FOR THE UNICORN:** the teeth should be about  $6\frac{3}{4}$ " long.

**ASSEMBLE YOUR DRAGON OR UNICORN**

Follow the instructions like usual for construction. But stop when you reach the button closure steps. For the dragon, this is step 24, for the unicorn this is step 25.

### 3. BASTE THE ZIPPER (1ST SIDE)



- A. TIP:** If you can, switch to a **HEAVY DUTY SEWING NEEDLE** in case you have to sew over your zipper. Grab your zipper as well as one of your **BELLY** pieces (I). Align it right side facing down over the *belly extension* on your belly piece so the edges match up.
- B. PRO TIP:** If you can, try to get the ends of your zipper to merge off the edge about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " into the extension. This avoids a lot of bulk later, but isn't absolutely necessary.
- C.** Baste the zipper to the edge of your belly piece within the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. If you sew through the zipper teeth, be sure to sew very slowly and carefully. Use only the hand wheel if you can.

### 4. SEW THE EGG/JEWEL TO THE ZIPPER



- A.** Grab one of your **EGG** (K) or **JEWEL** (J) pieces with the *extension*. The *extension* areas will be sewn together next. Also note the *notches*. These should align to ensure they're joined in the right direction.
- B.** Line up the belly with the egg/jewel, matching up the *extensions* and the *notch*. The wrong side of the zipper should be facing the egg/jewel, and the zipper should be sandwiched between the layers.
- C.** Sew the egg/jewel to the belly with the regular  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. This should secure the zipper in between.

## 5. BASTE THE ZIPPER (2ND SIDE)



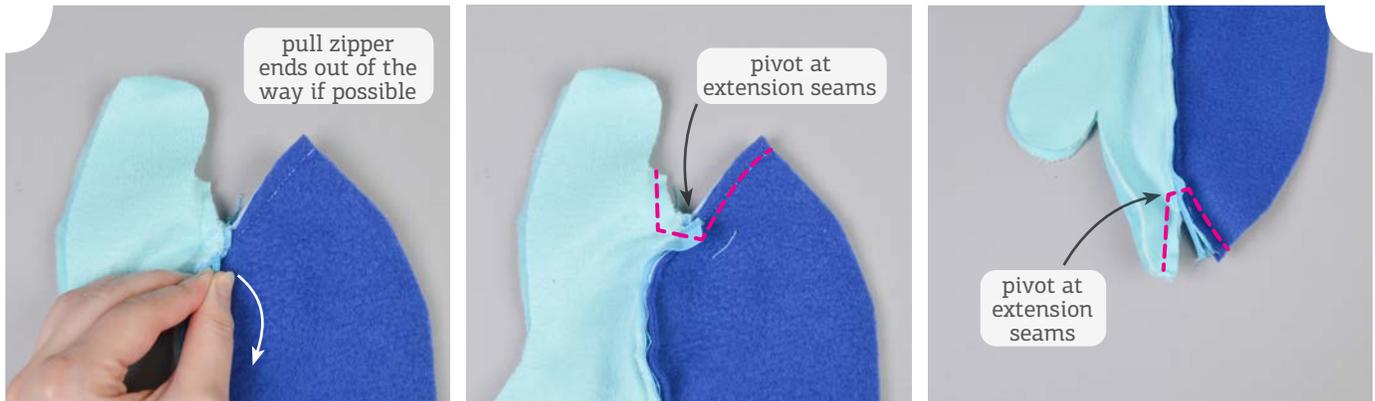
- A. Open up your **EGG** (K) or **JEWEL** (J) and **BELLY** (I) pieces. The zipper should be secured between the two fabrics.
- B. Grab your remaining belly piece and repeat the same process. Align the zipper over the *belly extension* with the right side facing down.
- C. Baste the zipper to the belly within the seam allowance to hold it in place.

## 6. FINISH THE ZIPPER



- A. Align the second **EGG** piece (K) or **JEWEL** (J) over the **BELLY** piece (I) so the zipper is sandwiched between the layers. Sew the egg/jewel to the belly with the zipper in between.
- B. Open up your belly and egg/jewel pieces and the zipper should be secured in the middle.
- C. Take your sewn **BELLY** (I) pieces and line them up with right sides facing and raw edges matching. Also line up the egg/jewel pieces with right sides facing. In the next step, we're going to attach these pieces at each end around the top and bottom of the zipper.

## 7. SEW THE ENDS



- A. PRO-TIP:** If your zipper ends run off the edge of the fabric, fold them out of the way at the corners so you can sew past them. If not, you'll have to sew over them, so make sure you have a **HEAVY DUTY NEEDLE** installed.
- B.** Start at the wide corner of the egg/jewel and sew toward the zipper seam. Stop when you reach the *circle marking* from the paper pattern (about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the extension). Pivot and sew across the seam about  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".  
This is where you might have to sew over the zipper, so **go very slowly** and use just the hand wheel of your machine. You may want to go over this area twice for extra strength. Pivot again and go to the belly edge of the dragon, going up the neck using the regular  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
- C.** Repeat this on the tail end of the egg/jewel. Sew down to the marking, pivot, and then sew down the tail of the dragon or unicorn.

## 8. TEST & TRIM THE ZIPPER



- A.** When both corners are sewn, check that your zipper works and both ends are secure.
- B.** Once your seams are how you like them, trim the excess zipper tape at each end.
- C.** Also clip the seam allowance at the corners so they turn better.

### THAT COMPLETES YOUR ZIPPER!

You can now install this into the rest of your plush following the remaining instructions.

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