

## Sewing an Exposed Zipper in Knits

For a smooth zipper opening, void stretching. Always use a ruler or the paper pattern to measure the garment opening, zipper length and basting tape. *Wash Away Wonder Tape*, a pressure sensitive fusible basting tape, is key to sewing a zipper in knits. It is not an iron-on product, therefore it is repositionable. *Wash Away* is ¼" wide, double-sided and paper-backed. It can be sewn through and does not gum up the needle.

### A. Alter the Pattern

1. If needed, adjust the center front seam allowance. The garment center front falls at the center of the closed zipper.
2. Zipper widths vary. Typically a ⅜" seam is used when sewing a zipper.

### B. Prepare Garment

1. Stabilize the shoulder and neck seams with stay tape.
2. Sew or serge the shoulder and side seams. Attach the lower band. Press the seam allowances.
3. Stabilize the front edge of the bodice and lower band with ½" woven stay tape.

### D. Measure and Mark the Zipper

1. Measure the length of the garment opening. Shorten the zipper leaving about ⅝" of tape at the top.
2. Mark or key the zipper to align horizontal seams and fabric stripes or designs.
  - a. Place the closed zipper on the stabilized cardigan opening. Pin or clip the top and bottom of the zipper.
  - b. Mark each side of the zipper tape at the neckline and lower band seams. Mark points to match plaids or other designs.

### E. Baste the Zipper

1. Cut the basting tape to the length of the zipper.
2. Separate the zipper. Use your fingers to press *Wash Away Basting Tape* on the right side of one zipper tape. The basting tape is on the outer edge of the zipper. Remove the paper backing.
3. Position the zipper and garment right sides together, edges aligned.
4. Baste by finger pressing the zipper to the front edge of the garment.
5. Fold the top end of the zipper tape under. It may need to be trimmed.

### F. Sew the zipper onto the garment

1. Use a wide or over-edge stitch to sew along the outer edge of the basted zipper. Knits tend to curl, a wide stitch will keep the fabric flat.
2. With a zipper foot stitch sew a second seam about ¼" from the zipper teeth.
3. Close the zipper and check the alignment marks made in Step D.2.
4. Baste and sew the second side of the zipper (steps E.1-5).

