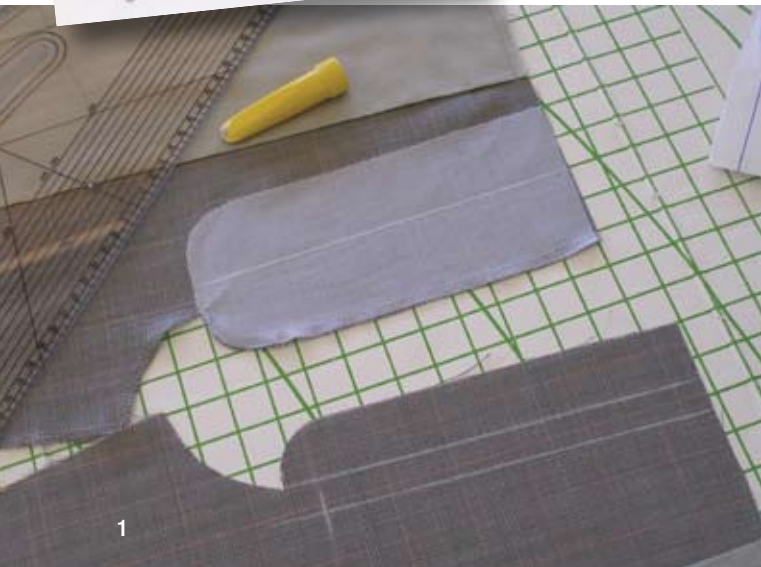


# Trouser Fly THAT'S EASY!

By Martyn Smith

This tailored fly method can be used for either men's or women's trousers as the only difference is the way the fly opening opens; topstitching on the left for men and on the right for women (women are always right)!

This foolproof method will ensure the same result every time.

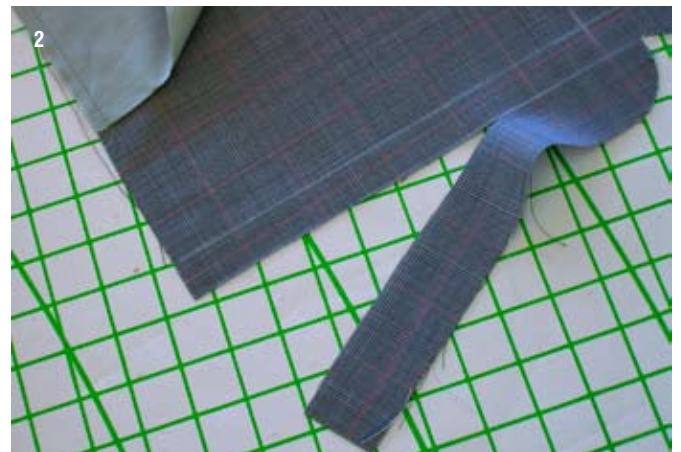


Most patterns have a 'grown-on' fly extension these days, this means that the fly opening has been added on to the pattern rather than having to stitch a facing on. The trouser facing is the outer piece that is turned under, in this case, and the fly facing is the separate piece that 'saves one's modesty' should your zip be open. The word fly is similar in its nature when talking about a theatre stage; the flies on a stage prevent the audience from seeing into the wings (same thing really when talking about a garment).

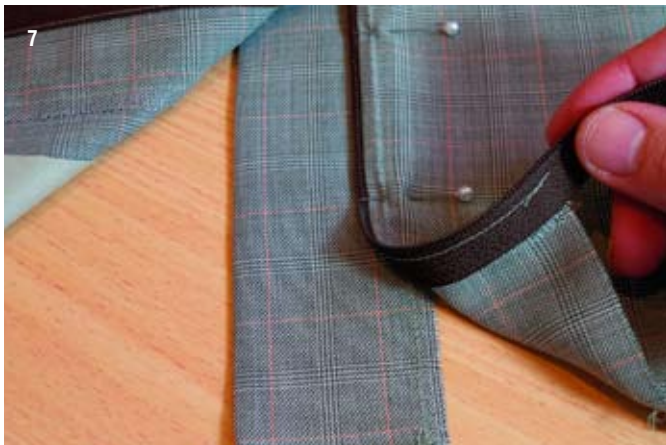
Before commencing, overlock all your trouser pieces and make sure the fly area is interfaced with a lightweight product. You can see in the photo the interfacing goes over the fold line into the actual garment; this will ensure that there will never be a twist or dragline when completed, will make this area sit completely flat and makes it much easier to get a good topstitching line. The right side of the garment has had the fly extension trimmed off to 1.5cm (3/8in) from the fold line.

See photos 1 and 2.

Stitch from the crotch area up to the zip notch marking (this will be marked on the pattern piece). This seam may need a couple of reinforcing rows of stitching or use the 'triple stitch' if your sewing machine has one. With a large machine tacking stitch, sew the fly opening closed by stitching up the centre-front lines but don't back-tack at either end as this stitching will be removed at a later stage. Firmly press this seam open to as far past the zip notch as possible. See photo 3.



Stitch one edge of the zip to the 'trimmed' side of the fly opening (which has just been pressed open). This is done with a 1cm (3/8in) seam as the 'zip tape' (the fabric part either side of the zipper teeth) is generally only 1cm (3/8in) wide for standard zips (sometimes wider on metal or chunky zips so be aware of this). See photo 4. In the photo you can see that a much longer zip has been used than the pattern suggests. This is done so you don't have to bother with sliding the zip runner up and down while trying to keep your topstitching neat. Place the zip stopper (the thing that always seems to be right in the path of your needle while topstitching your curve on the outside fly) 3mm (1/8in) above the zip notch so it's well out of the way when it comes to the final stitching.



Lightly press this seam from the right side of the zip and there should be a shy 5mm ( $\frac{1}{4}$ in) welt which will form the 'lap' that is required to keep the zip well hidden when the fly is completed (it's like a small pleat). Check that your zip stopper is 3mm ( $\frac{1}{8}$ in) above the zip notch as the zip tape sometimes creeps when being stitched to fabric. [See photo 5.](#)

Lay the remaining side of the zip against the fly extension and pin it in position. Make sure that the small pleat that forms the 'lap' is still in place. Stitch the remaining free edge of the zip tape to the trouser facing. [See photo 6.](#)

You will now have an almost finished fly that can be topstitched. Marking a line to follow is not cheating and marking the curve with the template or a shot glass (as it's a great size) is a great idea. Only ever use chalk as fade-out

marker may not fade as promised, or return at a later date!

Complete the topstitching through all layers and beware of the lurking zip stopper that is waiting to get your needle! Remove the basting stitch from the centre front.

Pin the fly facing in position. [See photo 7.](#) Topstitch the fly facing through all layers as if edge-stitching (stitch from the top to the bottom as it is much easier) as far as you possibly can. Lower the zip runner into the fly area and trim off the excess zip tapes at the waist area. Put a tacking stitch within the waist seam allowance to prevent the zip runner from coming off the zip accidentally (yes this does happen and no you can't put it back on with any degree of ease)! The first couple of times doing this technique seems a little odd – especially not attaching the zip underlay facing until the very end. [See photo 8.](#)