THE ORIGINAL ZRK MANUAL

AFTER REPAIRING AND REPLACING THOUSANDS OF ZIPPERS IN TWELVE YEARS AT MY CANVAS BUSINESS, I DESIGNED THIS KIT FOR FIXING ZIPPERS WITH WORN, BROKEN, OR MISSING SLIDERS. **READ THIS MANUAL ALL THE WAY THROUGH**. THEN GRAB THE ZIPPER THAT'S BEEN GIVING YOU TROUBLE AND LET'S RESCUE IT!

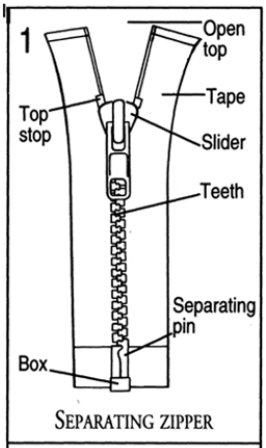
HAVE FUN! MIKE MCCABE

ZIPPER TRIVIA

The first zipper was invented by Whitcomb Judson and patented in 1893. The design was improved upon, and in 1913 a metal tooth zipper was used on a flying suit. The usefulness of the fastener became well-recognized in 1923, when B.F.Goodrich put zippers on its galoshes, but the name "zip" did not appear until 1926. The zipper of 1913 is very similar to the metal zipper we use today; however, the majority of zippers are now made of nylon.

THE ORIGINAL "ZIP" PATENTED IN 1893

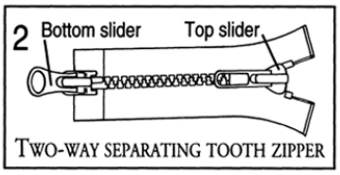
PUBLISHED BY ZRK ENTERPRISES, INC.



SEPARATING ZIPPER

ZIPPER ANATOMY

There are two types of zippers. Coil zippers (often called self-repairing zippers) are a spiral piece of nylon *(fig. 3)*. Tooth zippers have individual metal or plastic teeth *(fig. 1)*.

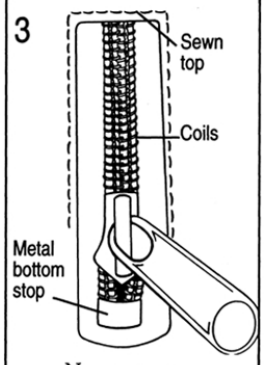


TWO-WAY SEPARATING TOOTH ZIPPER

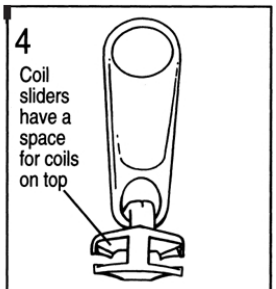
SEPARATING ZIPPERS are most commonly found in coats, life jackets, and sleeping bags *(fig. 1)*.

TWO-WAY SEPARATING ZIPPERS are often found in coats and sleeping bags; these zip open from the bottom and the top *(fig. 2)*.

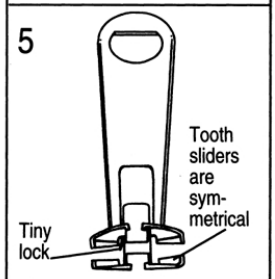
NONSEPARATING ZIPPERS are used in packs, bags, pants, wetsuits, etc. *(fig. 3)*.



NONSEPARATING COIL ZIPPER

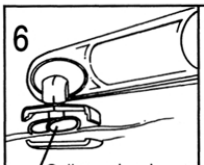


SINGLE PULL COIL SLIDER

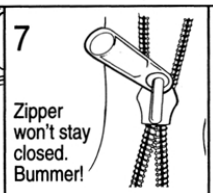


LOCKING TOOTH SLIDER

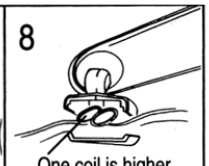
THE SLIDER is the small metal or sometimes plastic thingamajig that spreads open and then meshes the teeth together as they pass through it *(figs. 4-6)*. Locking sliders have a tiny spring-loaded spike inside *(fig. 5)* that keeps the slider in position until it is pulled. Sliders are single pull (for pants and packs) or double pull (for sleeping bags and tents). I have chosen the most common sizes of sliders for my **OUTDOOR, CLOTHING, AND MARINE KITS.** These sliders will solve the majority of zipper problems you encounter. Sliders are the most common reason for zipper failure! A slider can become worn out by hard use, especially if dirt and sand get caught in the teeth and wear down the metal or plastic. Sliders can get bent open if caught in nearby material and forced up and down. Some metal sliders will corrode in salt water and then stick *(fig. 11)*.



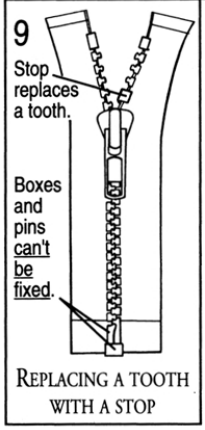
A GOOD SLIDER (CROSS SECTION)



A SLIDER NOT MESHING COILS



A WORN SLIDER (COILS NOT MESHING)



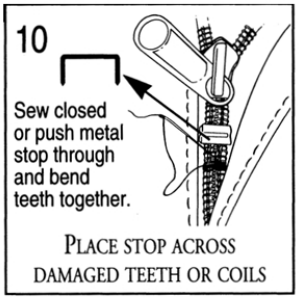
REPLACING A TOOTH WITH A STOP

ZIPPER REPAIR

ZIPPERS YOU CAN'T RESCUE

BROKEN COILS OR MISSING TEETH cannot be replaced. But if they are close to the top of a separating zipper, you can place a stop on the tape to keep the slider from coming off *(fig. 9)*. If the damage is near the bottom of a nonseparating zipper (as in a duffel bag or pants), place a stop or sew across the zipper to keep it closed *(fig.10)*.

BROKEN SEPARATING PINS OR BOXES cannot be fixed *(fig. 9)*. But on sleeping bags and boat-top side curtains, cut off the box and pin and remove the slider. Put the slider back on *(fig. 16)*, push on a stop *(fig. 10)*, and presto.



PLACE STOP ACROSS DAMAGED TEETH OR COILS

ZIPPERS YOU CAN RESCUE

Sometimes a coil zipper may have a rough spot where the teeth won't mesh *(fig. 7)*. This type of failure is often exaggerated by a worn slider. The coils that are damaged can sometimes be straightened out by sticking a needle under each crooked coil and aligning them with the other coils. Replace the slider and rub a little soap on the rough spot. The new slider should help to realign the crooked teeth...Okay, okay! How do you replace the slider?! I'll get to that, but first...

REPAIRING SLIDERS

Now I'd like to tell you how to repair or adjust a worn slider. Remember that sliders either wear out by sheer use or become pried apart when jammed with material and are forced to move (remedy: grab those vice grips and pull the material out). Sliders can be adjusted by a technique I call **"PINCHING."** Pinching a worn or bent slider will extend the life of a zipper, depending on the amount of wear and how much you pinch it! * Note: Plastic sliders won't pinch.

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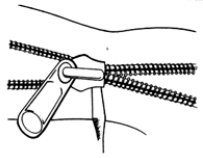

IF A SLIDER IS HOPELESSLY STUCK, PRY IT OFF!

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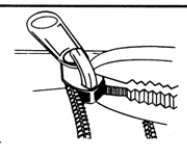

NONSEPARATING ZIPPER OPEN FOR PINCHING

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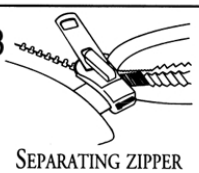

SEPARATING ZIPPER OPEN FOR PINCHING

PINCHING

To pinch a worn slider, you must open the zipper all the way. This may be difficult, but pre-aligning the teeth first as you slide the slider backward to the end of the zipper will help. For hopelessly stuck sliders, grab a screwdriver and pry them in half *(fig.11)*. O.K, vise grips ready? Pinch the slider at the center of each side of the slider, the top and bottom together *(figs.12 &13)*. Start with one side and remember: a little at a time! Too much will cause the slider to bind. Next, move the vise grips into position on the other side and pinch the same amount again. Test-close the zipper to see if you have pinched enough. If not, try a bit more on each side. It may take two or three small pinches on each side to get the zipper working. Sometimes a slider may be so worn out it may not work at all! However, this pinching technique has amazed many of my customers as I miraculously rescued zippers that had caused them months of grief.

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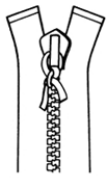

IMPROVISE!

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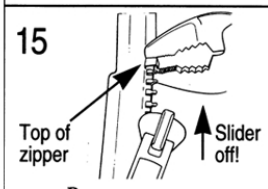

REMOVING A STOP

BROKEN PULLS

Some sliders may lose their pulls. Here at ZRK we like to improvise - almost anything can be used. A thin strip of leather *(fig. 14)* or a paper clip will do.

REPLACING SLIDERS

To replace a slider, first determine what size zipper you have. I have provided the most common sizes of sliders for my kits. These are the sizes I most frequently encounter in my zipper-repair work. Examine the worn slider on your zipper and use a matching slider from the kit. If you can't find one that fits your zipper, please call us. We have parts for nearly every zipper alive.

REPLACING SLIDERS ON COATS, LIFE JACKETS, ETC.

For separating zippers, first separate the zipper. For metal or plastic tooth zippers, grab top stop (on slider side of zipper) with pliers and pull hard. For coil zippers, pry open stop with needle-nose pliers (fig.15). Remove old slider at top of zipper. Back the new slider on. Replace the stop and voila! You have passed Zipper 101.

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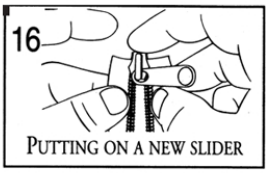

PUTTING ON A NEW SLIDER

REPLACING SLIDERS ON PANTS, WETSUITS, TENTS, ETC.

Sliders on nonseparating zippers are replaced where they meet the fabric (or stop) at the open position. To remove the slider, undo the stitches where the zipper enters the fabric or cut across the zipper teeth with scissors. A clean cut is important. Frazzled coils make sliders difficult to put on. Put the new slider on with the teeth apart and enter them evenly into the front (larger) end of the slider. When teeth are halfway into the slider, push it with your index finger while holding onto each side of the tape *(fig.16)*. Put in a stop or sew closed *(fig.10)* and voila! Congratulations, you have passed Zipper 202 and are a certified zipper-repair technician!

MORE ZIPPER TIPS

- Rubbing silicone on your zippers will reduce the friction that causes slider wear.
- To replace zippers on older gear, cutting the zipper tape with scissors close to the fabric saves lots of time. Sew the new zipper behind the old one.
- Some fabrics tend to unravel over time. Little tassels can get stuck in sliders and bend them open. Trim off the tassels and apply a little glue or seam sealer to the seams.