Replace a zip

Replacing a zip might seem like a tricky task but it can be mastered by following some simple steps. This card explains how to replace a zip on a pocket. Be aware that these basic principles might need adapted slightly depending on the garment.

What you need:

- Needle
- Thread
- Measuring tape
- Seam ripper
- Zip
- Sewing pins
- Running stitch
Instructions

1. Measure the broken zip and source a replacement in the same size and colour.

2. Use the seam ripper to remove the stitches holding the broken zip in place, make sure to pull out any lose threads. Once removed, there should be a seam for the new zip to fit into.

3. Open up the front of the seam from the garment so that the raw edges are exposed. Position one side of the zip top-side-down onto one raw edge. The edge of the zip tape should line up with the edge of the fabric.

4. Secure the zip into place on both sides and pin down close to the edge. Once secure, try to fasten the zip to ensure it is aligned.

5. Sew the zip down using running stitch.

6. Zip up again to make sure everything will line up, and then sew the other side of the zip down using running stitch.

Hint: If the zip pull has come off but the rest of the zip is intact, you don’t need to replace the whole zip. You can order a replacement zip pull and attach this separately.