

# THE COMPLETE ZIPPER BUYING GUIDE

If you're in the market to purchase zippers or would like to increase your knowledge on how to order zippers, here is everything you need to know.

This guide will help you make an informed decision so you can confidently order zippers for your next production run.





# ZIPPER TYPE

What type of zipper are you looking for?

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What will the final zipper application be?

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Are you looking for nylon coil, metal, plastic molded, invisible, invisible identical, or a water-resistant zipper?

Every type of zipper that is produced should meet the functional needs of the piece you are producing and be balanced with the aesthetic that the designer is trying to achieve.

Are you looking for a luxury zipper or a standard metal zipper? Once you know what zipper kind of zipper you'll be using, then you can move on to the zipper style.



# ZIPPER

# APPLICATION

The zipper application is referring to the actual usage of the zipper. For example, if you are designing and producing a jacket, with a center front zipper, you will need a **Separating Bottom** zipper. For fly in denim or the pocket of a jacket a **Closed Bottom** will suit you fine.

Below are zipper applications for items you may produce...

**Closed Bottom** - Are zippers that do not separate at the bottom. They are used on handbags, ¼ zip shirts, pockets, cosmetic bags, pillows, footwear, dresses, skirts, the fly of jeans or trousers, and luggage.

**Separating Bottom** - Are zippers that separate at the bottom. They are used on jackets, hoodies, coats and outerwear.

**Two Way Separating Bottom** - Are zippers that have a pin and box on the top and bottom. They also have two zipper pulls. These are used on ski parkas, coats and sleeping bags.

**Two Way Closed Bottom** - Are zippers that are closed on both ends and have two zipper pulls. They are used on handbags, tents, weekender bags, mattress covers and pillowcases.

**Zippers by the Yard (long chain)** - If you or your contractor prefer to build your own zipper, this is for you. Zippers are ordered by the yard and gauge size. You choose the pulls that correspond with the type of zippers on our zipper collection and if needed, top and bottom stops.

You will also need to determine if your slider needs to be locking or non-locking. It would be disastrous if you would have a non-locking slider on the back of a dress. If you are not sure please ask customer service and they can help you with your order.



# ZIPPER GAUGE



Here at UCAN Zippers USA, when we refer to gauge size, we are talking about the size/width of the teeth measured in millimeters.

We produce gauges from #2 - #10 across all the different types of zippers.

You will need to know how big you would like the teeth to be, to meet the functional demand of the piece as well as the aesthetic desires you are looking for. It is common for handbags to have a #5 gauge for the outside zipper with a #3 or #4 on the inside pockets. On denim, it is usually a #4 with some instances of a #5 brass.

If the zipper is a metal zipper, then move on to the zipper finish. If it's a nylon coil or plastic molded zipper, then skip to the zipper length.

Gauge = Width of teeth  
in millimeters

# ZIPPER FINISH



Zipper finish only applies to metal zippers. Are you looking for brass, nickel, gun metal, antique nickel, antique brass or any of the other finishes that we offer? For some the finish is for aesthetics and others choose the finish to compliment the garment or bag. There are occasions where the type of finish should be considered for the kind of processing the garment will be going through. Most often we see this with the denim industry. With all of the chemical washes used to achieve a certain finish or look, the type of metal zipper finish should be planned in advance to ensure the zipper will survive the garment wash required.

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# ZIPPER LENGTH

Zipper length is pretty straight forward. What length will you need your zipper to be?

When you measure a zipper, you DO NOT include the length of the tape extenders. You only measure from top stop to bottom stop for your TRUE zipper length - metal to metal.



Only measure  
the metal teeth

# ZIPPER TAPE COLOR

Colors are probably the most subjective zipper part that we deal with. While you may think that red is red or blue is blue, it's not.

Here's why. Once you've selected your tape color, you have to think about what type of light you approved the color under. Was it fluorescent, white light or were you outside using sunlight? If you were outside, was it noon day sun or afternoon sun?

When you approve your tape colors, be consistent with the light source being used while reviewing and approving colors. Here at the UCAN Zippers USA, we most often use white light in a controlled environment, unless otherwise specified by our clients.



# ZIPPER QUANTITY

When purchasing wholesale zippers, you're going to run into minimums. Our minimums are in line with the smallest amount we can produce. Some wholesale zipper companies will impose a quantity minimum, while others may impose a yardage minimum.

Our production minimums are as follows:

## G2 | G2 Alpha

Production:  
\$300 invoice total  
- 50 yards of chain OR  
- 100 pcs minimum order

Each tape color, per size, requires a minimum of 25 yards per color per size.

## Classic Metal

#4 - 200 yards  
#5 - 150 yards  
#8 - 150 yards

## Nylon Coil

#3 - 200 yards  
#7 - 100 yards  
#8 - 100 yards  
#10 - 100 yards

## Plated Nylon Coil

#3 – 200 yards  
#7 – 100 yards

## Plastic Molded

#3 - 200 yards  
#5 - 200 yards  
#10 - 100 yards

## Invisible

#2 – 200 yards  
#4 – 200 yards  
#5 – 100 yards  
INVISIBLE MESH  
#2 - 200 yards

## Invisible Identical Zippers (IIZ)

#3 – 200 yards  
#7 – 100 yards  
#8 – 100 yards

## Water Resistant

#3 - 200 yards  
#7 - 200 yards

If you need less than the production minimum, please contact us [here](#) so we can help. You will need to know that a “sample” charge will be assessed. Click [here](#) if you're not sure how many zippers you can get for a yardage minimum, we've made a handy calculator to help you with that here.

# READY TO ORDER?



With all of this information, there's one more piece that you'll need to make a final decision.

## **THE PRICE.**

Contact us with your specs here to get your prices to order the zippers you need today.

If you have any questions about zippers that we may not have answered for your next production either domestic or overseas, please don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to helping.

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