

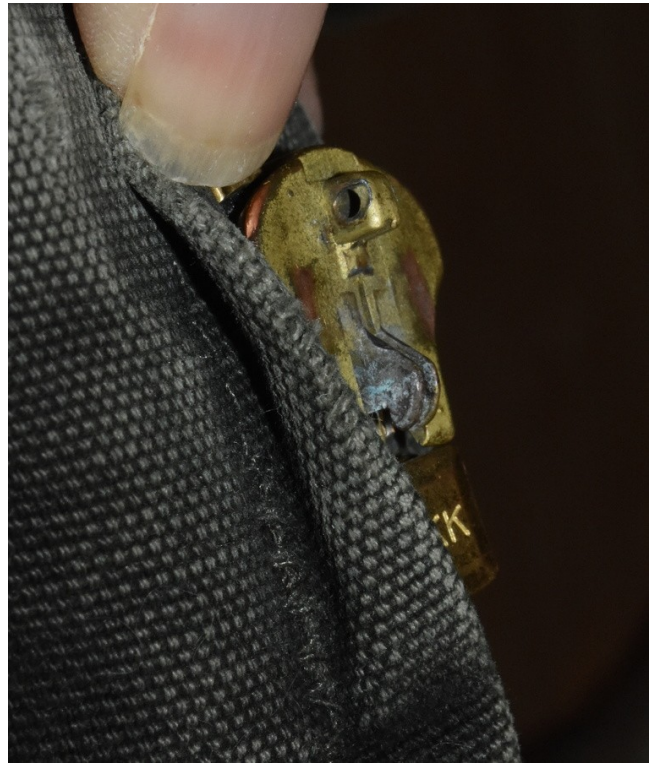
Jacket Zipper Repair

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DH's favourite winter jacket is starting to show its age. He has another, but this is the one he likes best, so I'm happy to repair it if I can.

This time it's the zipper: the slider snapped right where the zipper pull is held on, and the pull is lost. Although the zipper still technically functions, it's nearly impossible to move the slider up and down.



Normally when a zipper slider breaks like this, I would replace it with a new one, or install a new zipper. But in this case, I think it can be repaired.

I don't have the original pull, so my first step will be to fabricate a new one. I can do this simply with a large paper clip, which I'll wrap with heat-shrink tubing.

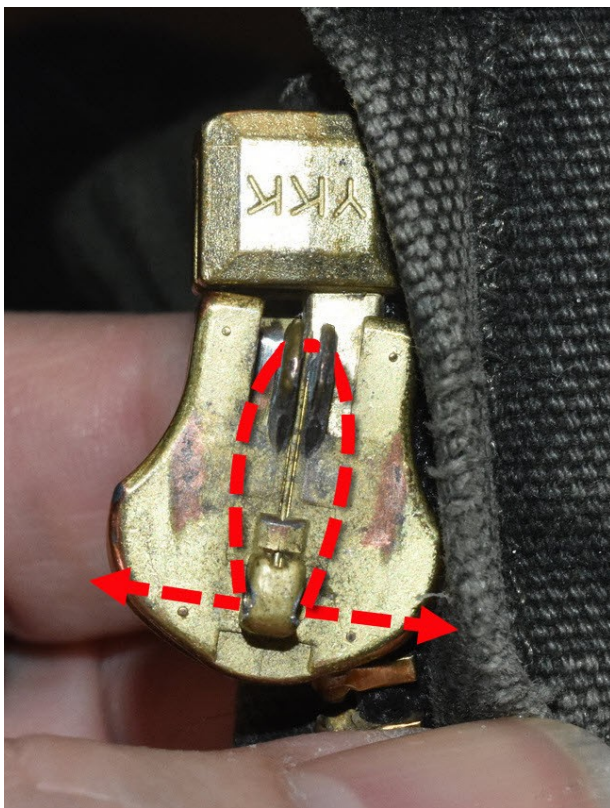
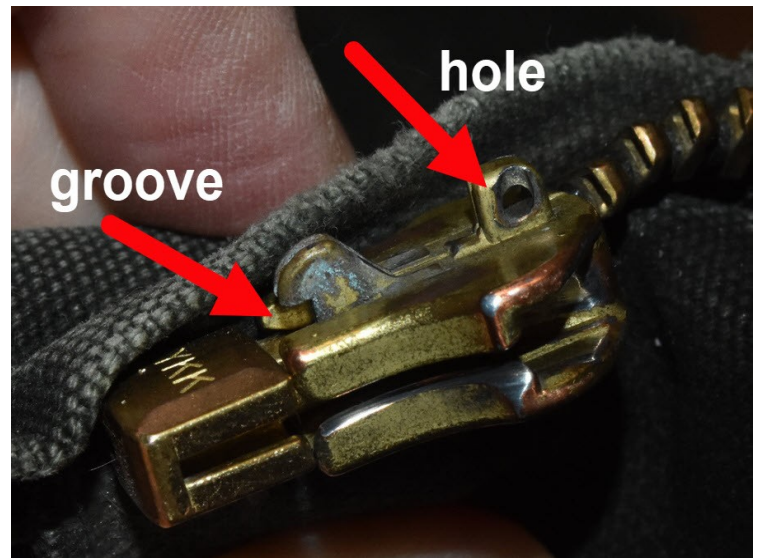


With a short blast from the heat gun, the tubing shrinks to a snug fit around the paper clip. The tubing isn't strictly necessary, but it looks better than the clip by itself.

Now all I have to do is attach the new pull to the slider, and hubby's zipper will be functional again.

Normally these sliders aren't fixable, since they break completely and there's no way to re-attach the pull. But in this case, the slider has anchor points that will make it possible to repair it.

It has two small knobs, one with a hole through it, and one with a groove beneath. I can make use of these features to attach a wire that will hold the paper clip zipper pull in place.



To attach my piece of 22-gauge wire, I'll catch the middle of the piece under the groove, then pass each of the ends through the paperclip, and thence through the hole. That done, I'll pull the wire ends as tight as I can, and bend them to keep the wire secure. (The red dashed line shows how I'll position the wire).

Finally, I'll use my pliers to slightly pinch the middle of the wire.

At right, you can see the wire caught in the groove of the slider.

The wire is pretty secure, but I plan to add a drop of solder to the groove to help ensure the wire doesn't slip out of position during use.



Up close, my repair might look a little crude, but when the jacket's being worn, the makeshift zipper pull isn't even noticeable.



Although my jacket repair is a bit of a hack, it's fully functional, and it saved me the expense of buying a new zipper and the bother of installing it (a separating zip for a jacket like this would cost \$15-\$20, and it would take a couple of hours to install).

This is an older jacket and kind of on its last legs, so it might not have been worth the trouble and cost.

On the other hand, my makeshift repair cost only a few cents, and used materials I already had on hand. As an added bonus, it was also kind of a fun challenge.

For me, the best part is that DH will be able to wear his favourite jacket for the rest of this winter, and maybe even into next winter as well. That will give me lots of time to find him another one that he'll like just as well.

