

## Mother of this invention was a Prague pickpocket

At last, one of the most fiendish fitness problems is solved. Zip It Ankle Sox have one zipper pocket per pair where you can stash a key, an ID and a little cab money in case you, ahem, over-exert yourself on that run.

Why didn't someone think of this sooner?

Maybe because no one fell upon quite the misfortune that Evan Papel did before founding Zip It in June 2002.

"I was in Prague and got pick-pocketed," Papel said, "and then I decided to put my money in my shoe, and it fell out. It was a brutal experience, but it led to this."

"This," so far, has been a San Diego business based on zipper-pocket socks of mostly cotton, especially popular among travelers.

But the Zip It lineup can wear the badge of "new and improved" come April.

That's when Papel will introduce Sport Sox, made with Com-Fortrel XP, the sort of moisture-wicking polyester-based performance fiber used by performance-wear manufacturer Under Armour.

In two weights, regular and Ultra Lite, the socks' fabric is made to be blister-fighting and quick-drying.

Also in April, frequent-flier types can roam the world in Travel Sox, with a pocket big enough to hold a passport but discreet enough to go undetected by prowlers and predators. (The zipper teeth are reversed so they don't show.) And the



Zip It socks feature a hidden zipper pocket for essentials.

socks dry quickly for wash-and-rewearability.

For the kids, there are Secure Sox—"What child hasn't lost their lunch money or house key?" Papel asks. The three-pack is for three age ranges: 5 to 7 years, 7 to 9 years and 10 to 12 years.

The crew and ankle socks that are available now are about \$16 at [www.zipitgear.com](http://www.zipitgear.com) and about \$14.95 at Kaehler TravelWorks stores, at Water Tower Place, 835 N. Michigan Ave., 6th floor (312-951-7989), and at 2070 N. Clybourn Ave. (773-296-9908).

Prices for the new products will be announced in April.

Now, about those other excuses for armchair athleticism. ...

—Wendy Navratil