

Attaching Buttons

12.105

Page 1

Buttons are generally sewn on by hand, though they can also be zigzagged in place on the machine as well (consult your machine manual for specific instructions).

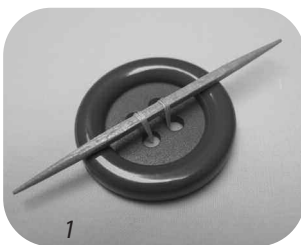
For general information about button types and selecting buttons, see Guideline 6.105.

Buttons are traditionally placed on the garment left front for women's garments and on the garment right front for men's garments. Be sure to read your pattern to determine correct placement of buttons and buttonholes.

Sew-Through Buttons

To attach a sew-through button, use a double strand of thread and knot the ends together. Bring the needle through from the fabric wrong side and up through one button hole. Center the button over the placement mark. Insert the needle back into another button hole, and pull it through the fabric, being sure the doubled threads are pulled evenly tight.

To make a shank on a flat button, place a toothpick or a large needle between the button holes, and stitch over the toothpick as you attach the button (1). Stitch through each hole pair at least twice—more if rugged wear is expected. End with the needle on the wrong side, and remove the toothpick spacer. Next bring the needle back to the front of the fabric, but not through the button's holes. Instead bring the needle and thread between the fabric and button, and wind the thread around the button several times. Knot the thread. This protects the threads from abrasion, and prevents the button from falling off easily.



Shank Buttons

To sew on a shank button, bring the needle from the fabric wrong side to the fabric right side, then through the shank and back into the fabric. Repeat several times, and knot the thread on the garment wrong side.

Novelty Applications

Stack varying sizes of buttons together for more interest—just align the holes and stitch through both buttons as if they were one. Buttons can be the same color family or a total contrast, depending on your preference.

Use novelty threads to attach a button. Pearl cotton, topstitching thread and embroidery floss in contrasting colors can add interest to an ordinary button.

Also consider tying the button on instead of sewing it traditionally. Use a novelty thread, and insert the needle through the button hole from the right side, leaving a fairly long thread tail. Anchor the button several times with stitching. End on the garment right side, and double-tie the thread ends together. Clip the thread tails 1/4" from the button (2).



SEW-lutions Guidelines

Your Guide
to
Successful
Sewing

© 2008 Sewing & Craft Alliance
Permission is granted to
educators and retailers to
reproduce these publications
as-is as a handout for
educational purposes only.
They may not be altered,
changed or added to in any
manner. No commercial or other
use, distribution, or
reproduction is permitted.

Get free projects and
more SEW-lutions
Guidelines at
www.sewing.org

