

Covered Buttons

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Page 1



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Finding the right button can be tricky sometimes, so a great solution is to cover your own and have exactly what you want!

Form Fitting

Most fabric stores and online sewing resources carry button forms in several sizes up to 2 1/2" diameter. Some are metal, others nylon, depending on the brand and all come with complete directions for creating your own works of art. The two-part forms (1) snap together to keep the covering fabric in place and many metal forms offer gripping teeth to help in that process.



1

The back of the button form snaps in place to reveal either a metal loop or molded nylon shank for attaching the button to the project.

Some button forms are flat, others are domed (2); some are square, others round; and some brands



2

also include snap-on trim rings in several colorways. Depending on the button form kit, a flexible mold may also be included to help hold the covering fabric in place during the snap-together process.

Fabric Fantasies

Almost any type of light- to medium-weight fabric can be used to cover buttons. It's best not to try to use heavy fabrics, or those with pile as they prevent the pieces from snapping together. If you have your heart set on these, trim the pile from the fabric area that tucks into the form so it's flatter.

Sheer fabrics need a lining or interfacing under them to prevent metal forms from glimmering through the fabric and distorting the color. Fuse interfacing to loosely woven or fragile fabrics to prevent fiber wear and breakage.

Covering Cues

It's easy to keep the covering fabric centered over the button by spraying the form with temporary spray adhesive.

Use the provided template to cut the fabric covering the proper size for the button. Lay the fabric wrong side up on a flat surface and top with the button form face down.

Pull the fabric tightly over the button form and push it onto the underside teeth if you have that kind of form; if not, use the mold and set the fabric and button into it following the manufacturer's instructions (3).



3

On knits and other fragile fabrics, be careful not to stretch or distort the fabric as you pull it over the cover.

For feisty fabrics with a mind of their own, try a few dabs of fabric glue to hold the underside in place until you can snap on the backing.

Position the back section of the covered button front and push into place. If you need help, use a wooden thread spool and a hammer to join the pieces, but avoid denting the button front.

Once the button is covered, attach it as you would any other button.

Beyond the Basics

Because you are the artist in the button-making process, the sky's the limit in terms of creativity.

- Use hand or machine embroidery to embellish the covering fabric.
- Add beads to the button surface, or around the edges.
- Play with the fabric to add unique characteristics—paint, it, print it, stamp it, felt it, pleat it, etc.
- Center a fabric motif on the button shape.
- Remember that not all buttons on single project have to be the same—go artsy with coordinates.
- Cut off the shank and glue on a pin back for a lovely brooch, or hang buttons with ribbon loops as ornaments (4). 🖱



4

"A Bit of Stitch" embroidery design