

## BUTTONS, PRESS BUTTONS AND HOOK & EYE



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DISCLAIMER: Please note this is my very own guideline, there are so many guides and tips, use which one you feel works for you.

Oh my, I do love buttons, I have so many and cannot stop buying them. They have kept me entertained since I was a little girl. You will find them in different sizes, colours, shapes and themes. You can buy buttons in a variety of materials – plastic, fabric, pearl, wood and many more. Buttons can be used for decorative purpose or their intended use.

Snaps/press studs come in various colours and shapes and Hook and eyes also come in different styles with different uses. Snaps and hooks and eyes are made either from metal or plastic.

There are over 30 button types, but in this tutorial, I will only be going through a few of the more commonly used buttons. As I use buttons more for decorative purpose rather than clothing, you will notice that I do not mention all the different types of buttons and uses – buttons for jeans

The 3 main types of buttons I use are 2-hole, 4-hole or with a loop at the back. There 4 main design type – flat, shank, stud and toggle. Buttons are made from a variety of materials – plastic, wood, polyester, mother of pearl, ceramics, horn, metal, and more.

The other alternatives to buttons are snaps/press studs/press buttons, hook-and-eye closures, and eyelets.

For my projects, I use these two types of buttons – 2-hole and 4-hole and shank. There are toggle buttons, stud buttons, antler buttons, knot button, to name a few.

### Flat Buttons – 2-hole and 4-hole



The most common buttons are flat and either have 2 holes or 4 holes. These buttons can be made in any material and can be sewn either by hand or sewing machine. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes – square, round, flower, etc.

You will notice that the 2- and 4-hole buttons are in a straight line – 2 hole and square – 4 hole. The 4-hole button is used when you need to secure your button more onto your project – cushion covers.

### Shank buttons



Shank buttons have either a flat or round top domed buttons with a small loop attached to the back, where you thread your needle through and attach the button to your project or garment. The shank can round, rectangular or the shape of a tunnel. Shank buttons do not have holes on the surface. The top surface can be plain and smooth or have a decorative design on top or have a 3D design.

### Materials used in buttons

Plastic / polyester / resin buttons



A plastic is made from synthetic materials, the most commonly used is polyester, resin and acrylic. They are available in a wide variety of colours, shapes, sizes and designs, they are also the most cost effective. Polyester and resin buttons are durable and long lasting.

### Wooden buttons



Wooden buttons are one of the most durable of all buttons and look fabulous. They are made from different types of wood, such as maple, oak, cherry to name a few. No button will be exactly the same as it will pick the beautiful characteristics of wood with varying shades and markings. You will find wooden buttons in various sizes and shapes. Did you know that you can make your own wooden buttons – there are several online videos to watch and learn from.

### Metal buttons



A variety of metals and metal blends are used to create metal buttons. Some of the metals used are aluminium, brass, copper, iron, stainless steel, and zinc alloy. Being metal, these buttons are extremely strong and perfect for hard wearing projects and clothing. You will find them in various sizes, flat or round and decorative.

### Novelty buttons/Decorative buttons



These are my favorite buttons for crafting and all my DIY projects and clothing. You will find them in various colours, shapes, designs and themes – flowers, animals, transport, sea creatures, insects, the list is never ending.

Novelty buttons can be found in metal, wood, plastics and other materials. They are so versatile and so much fun

### Fabric covered buttons



You will only find fabric covered buttons in the shank type of button and always in the dome shape. They are shank buttons that have been covered in fabric. You can either buy or make your own fabric buttons. The beauty of these buttons is that you can match your cushion/duvet – and other home décor – cover to your buttons, by covering them with the same fabric used to create your cushion/duvet cover. You can find them in a variety of sizes

There are many more types of buttons that have specific uses and are made from various materials - antler, enamel, horn, jeans, knot, lapel, nylon, stud, toggles, rubber, shell, ceramic, leather, mother of pearl and more.

Most button types can be found in various sizes and colours – it is a wonderful notion to have in your sewing box or in my case a large plastic container.

**Press Buttons, Snaps, Poppers, Rivets & Hook & Eye – depending on the country you live they may be name differently.**

Fasteners come in two parts or four parts. The two part has a top and bottom or side to side. The four part has top and bottom and 2 washers. You can also buy magnetic fasteners and snap tapes. They can be hand stitched, machine stitched or pressed on with a hand tool, depending on which fastener you use. They are commonly made from metal but can also be found in plastic. If you are using metal fasteners, check that they are made with stainless steel or zinc alloy as these do not rust. There are plastic fasteners available but are not as durable as the metal ones. Years ago, you could find them in black or silver, now you can find them in a range of wonderful colours. There are fasteners for specific materials/fabrics, so when purchasing be sure to check that you are purchasing the correct one. You get fasteners for light/medium weight fabrics – cotton, heavy weight – denim and for leather.



#### Rivets



#### Snaps

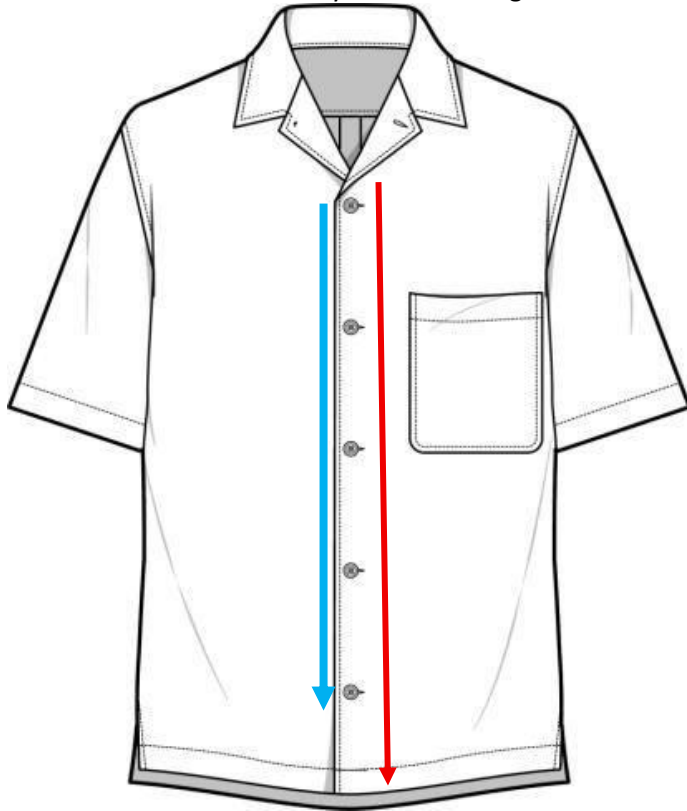


#### Hook and Eye



Hook and eyes come in two parts, known as the hook and eye... They are made from metal – stainless steel, copper or fabric. The metal hook and eyes are strong, durable not prone to rusting and last a long time. I find the fabric ones the glue tends to wear. Hook and Eye are mainly used to join 2 edges together, therefore it is very popular for the fashionista as it wonderful for clothes and fashion accessories.

## How to Sew a Buttonhole by Hand – basic guide



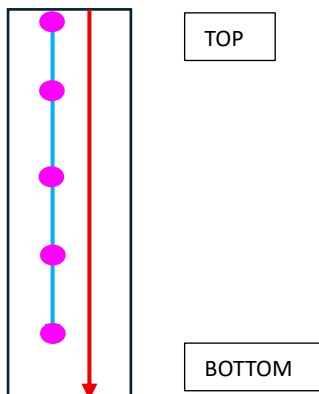
Measurements and information to collect to create a button placement template:

Shirt

1. Where would you like your buttons to start and to the base of your shirt. **Red arrow.**
2. From first button to last button. **Blue arrow.**
3. Size of buttons – often found on packaging or in the description if purchasing online.
4. How many buttons - the smaller the buttons the more you need. Remember you want your cushion covers/clothing to fit and lay flat against the 2 fabrics pieces – right and left side of your shirt.

The measurements we will use for this tutorial is **50cm – red arrow** and **40 cm – blue arrow**. We will be using 5 buttons and 15 mm in width.

5. You will need 60 cm x 15 cm piece of tracing/greaseproof paper. On your paper, draw a straight line – 50cm in length. From the top, measure and mark out 10 cm with a dot - you will need to repeat this 5 times- **pink dots**. We are creating a button placement template.

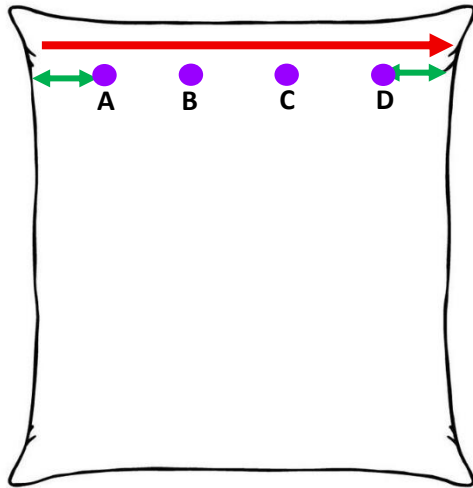




6. Measure 50cm from top to bottom – right side - (tutorial purposes only), where you would the buttons to go and mark with pins or marking pen. Pin your template on to your garment, with the first dot being the point where you would like your first button and with your marking pen, poke a hole in the dots and mark your fabric (shirt, top, etc) below. Remove the template and stitch your perfectly spaced buttons on. Mark the left side using your template for the buttonholes. If you feel confident then mark your buttons placements directly onto your project without using the template.

#### Cushion Cover

For this tutorial we have decided to use 5 x 10mm buttons on my 40cm x 40 cm cushion cover flap.



The steps for cushion covers and other DIY project are very similar for adding buttons as the shirt/clothing tutorial.

1. Measure from side to side – where you are wanting to add the buttons. **Red arrow.**
2. Size of buttons – often found on packaging or in the description if purchasing online. When making cushion covers and other DIY projects, I feel it is better to use 15 mm upwards button size.
3. How many buttons. Remember you want your cushion covers to fit and lay flat against the 2 fabrics pieces – front and back of your cushion cover.

The measurements we will use for this tutorial is **40cm – red arrow.** We will be using 4 buttons and 20 mm in width.

4a. You will need 40 cm x 15 cm piece of tracing/greaseproof paper. On your paper, draw a straight line – 50cm in length.

4b. Measure 2 cm on either side of your 40 cm line. **Green arrows.** Measurement between the two green arrows is 36 cm.

5. At point 'A', mark your first dot for your first button, from there measure 9cm – point 'B' and mark your next dot. Measure another 9cm to give you dot 'C' and one final 9 cm measurement to give dot 'D'.

6. Pin your template on to your cushion cover, with your marking pen, poke a hole in the dots and mark your cushion cover below. Remove the template and stitch your perfectly spaced buttons on. If you feel confident then mark your buttons placements directly onto your project without using the template.

**Please note that there are other ways of marking the placement of buttons.**

### **Sew a button by hand or sewing machine**

Personally, I prefer by hand as the button stays on longer, whereas one sewn by machine, you pull a thread and it all comes undone.

You can only sew 2 or 4 hole buttons and you will need a button presser foot. You can use a sewing machine to stitch shank buttons, studs, rivets and other types of fasteners.



Please note these are basic tips to look out for, there is more in-depth information that can be found. Visit - <https://rosamaycrafts.com/category/sewing-tutorials/> for more fabulous guides to download.



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