



LET'S LEARN

TO SEW ON A BUTTON

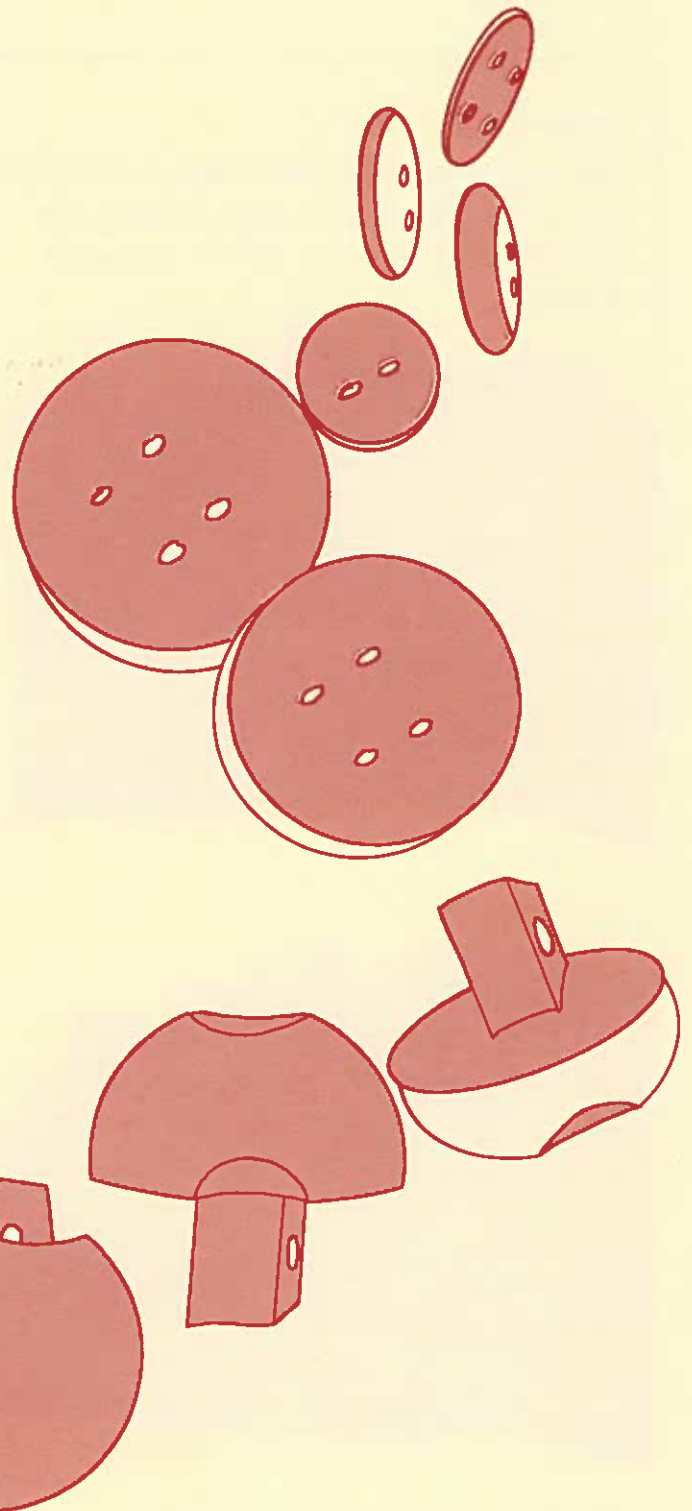
Buttons are attractive and useful. By learning to sew on buttons, you can keep your clothing in good repair and you will be able to sew buttons on a garment you may later make.

Buttons come in two different types:

- 1 The sew-through flat buttons with holes
- 2 The shank buttons with a loop

Choose buttons which go well with the color and type fabric of your garment. You may want them to be the same color or a contrasting color. If your garment is made of a lightweight fabric, you should use lightweight buttons and you should use heavier buttons with heavy fabric.

When you are replacing a button, try to find one that matches those already on the garment.



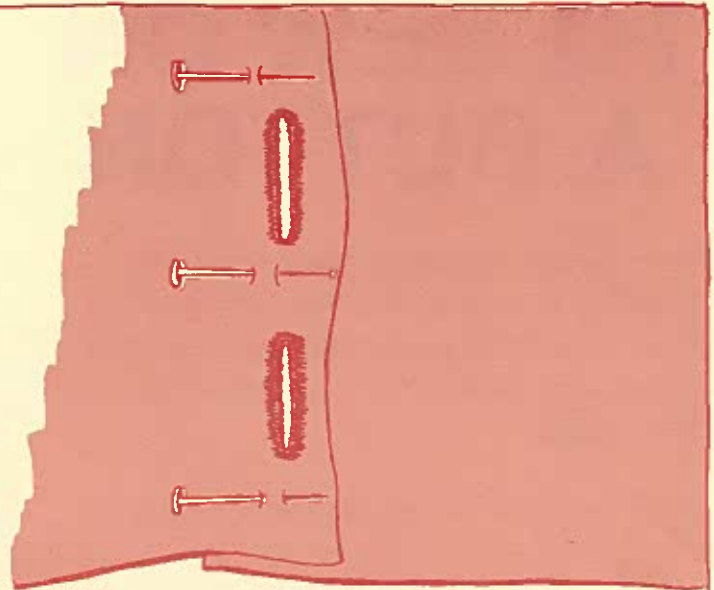
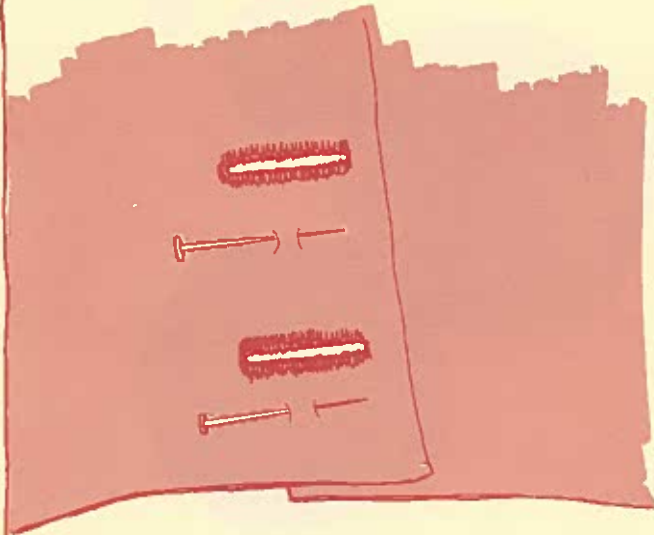
YOU WILL NEED

A garment or sample fabric for practice
A button

Threaded needle (double thread)
Pins

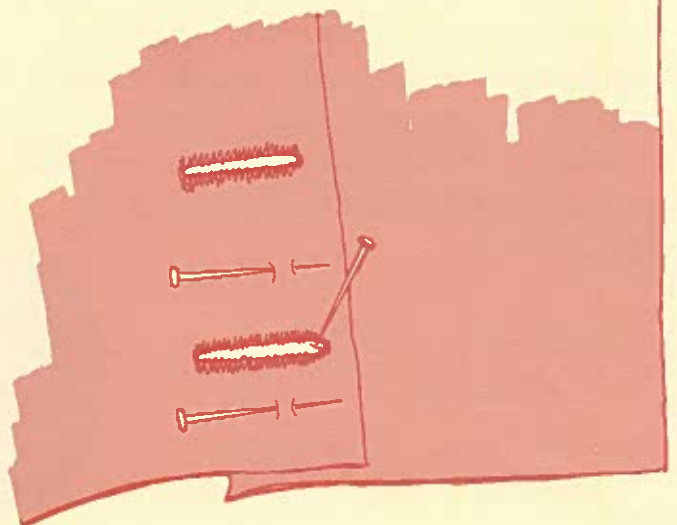
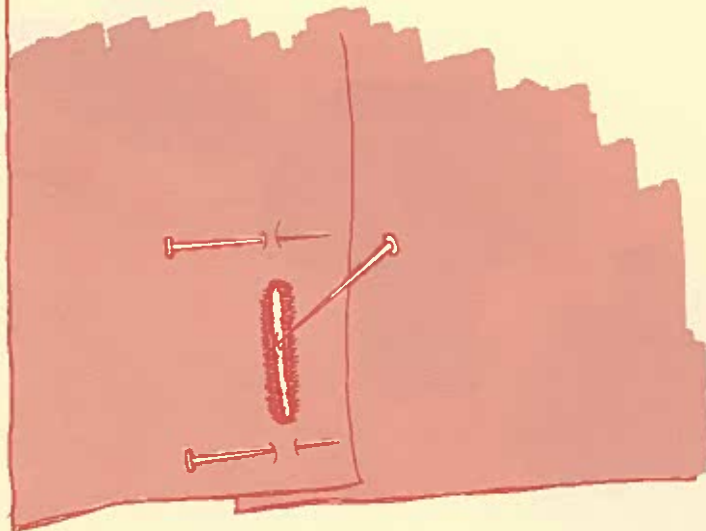
STEP 1

You will need to locate where the button should go. Do this by first pinning the garment so it looks as if it is buttoned closed.



STEP 2

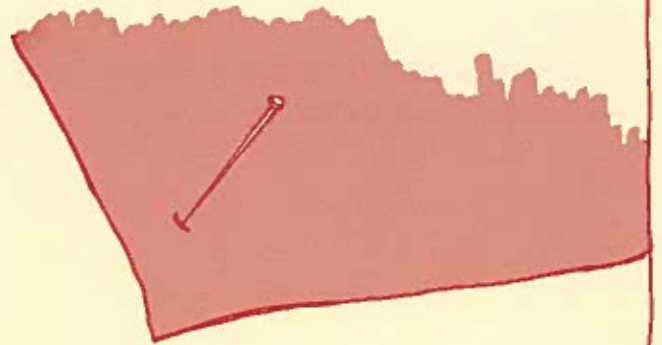
Place a straight pin through the outer edge of a horizontal buttonhole or through the center of a vertical buttonhole.



STEP 3

Unpin the closure of the garment but leave the standing pin in the fabric underneath.

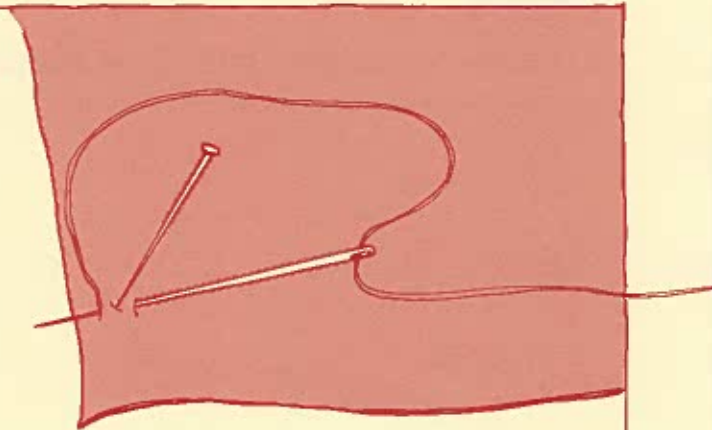
The center of the button is placed at the point marked by the pin.



SEW THROUGH BUTTONS

STEP 1

Take several small stitches on the right side of the garment at the point of the standing pin.



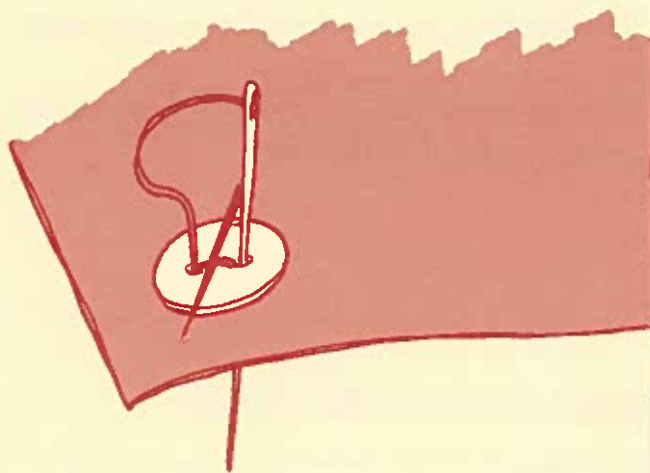
STEP 2

Bring the needle through the button and back into the fabric, inserting a heavy pin, toothpick, or matchstick over the button under the first stitch to allow for a thread shank.



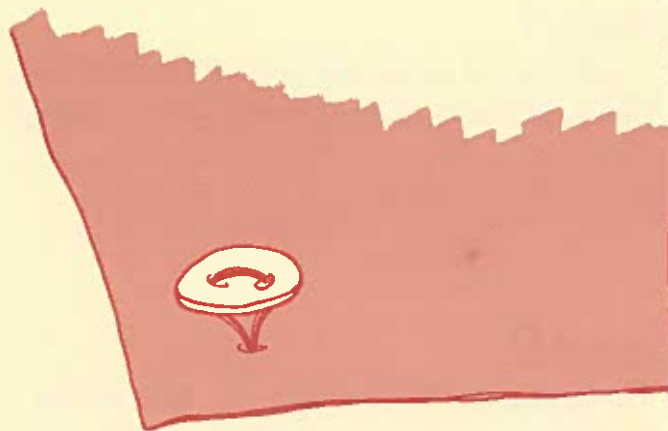
STEP 3

Continue sewing through the fabric and button until the button is secure.



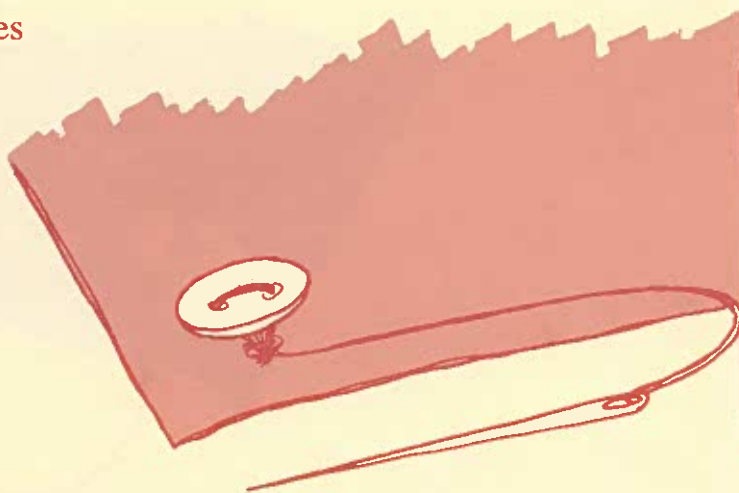
STEP 4

Remove the pin, toothpick or matchstick and pull button to top of threads evenly.



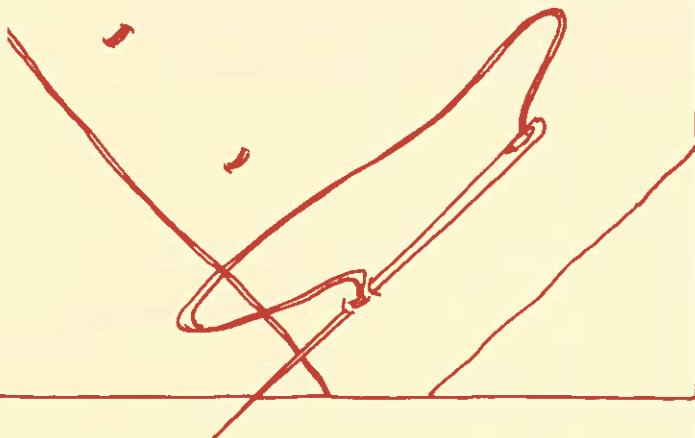
STEP 5

Bring thread to right side of fabric and wind tightly around the threads four or five times under the button to form a shank.



STEP 6

Bring needle to the wrong side of the fabric and fasten with several stitches.

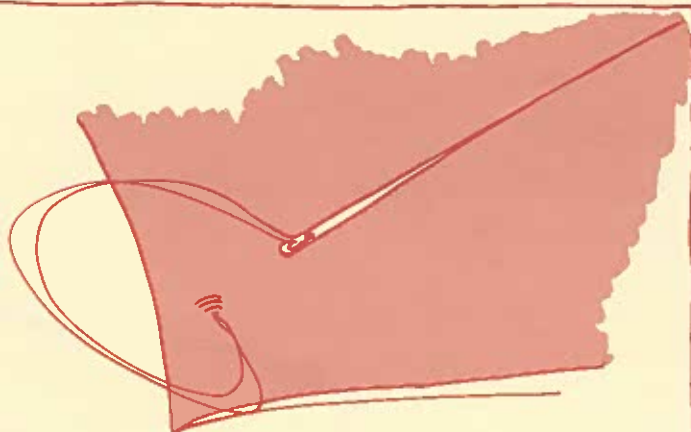


SHANK BUTTONS

Buttons with a self shank need to be sewn on with an additional thread shank.

STEP 1

Take several small stitches on the right side of the garment at the point where the button is to be placed.



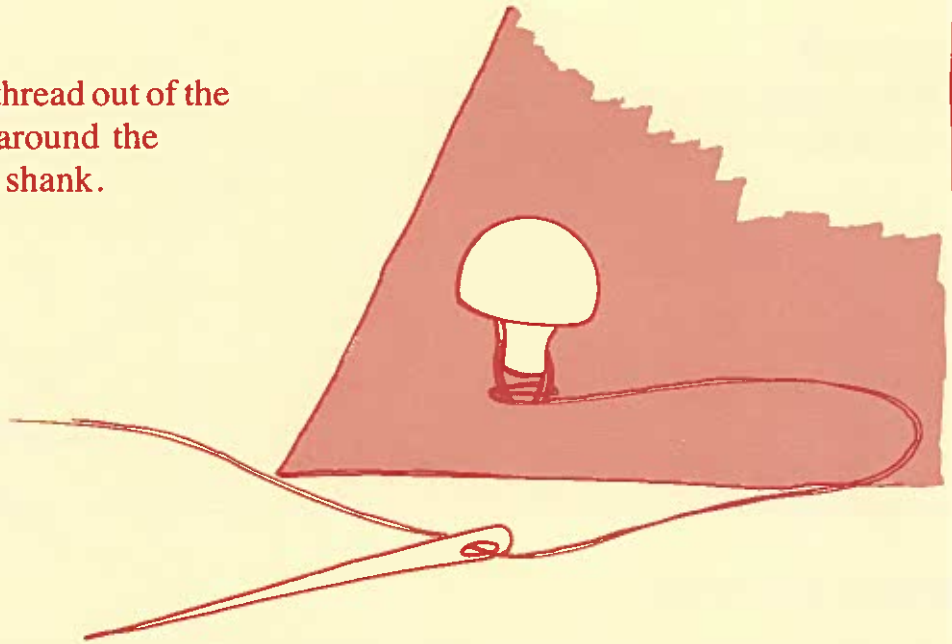
STEP 2

Holding your forefinger between the button and the garment, bring the thread through the shank and back into the fabric. Your forefinger holds the button away from the fabric as you continue sewing through fabric and shank until the button is secure.



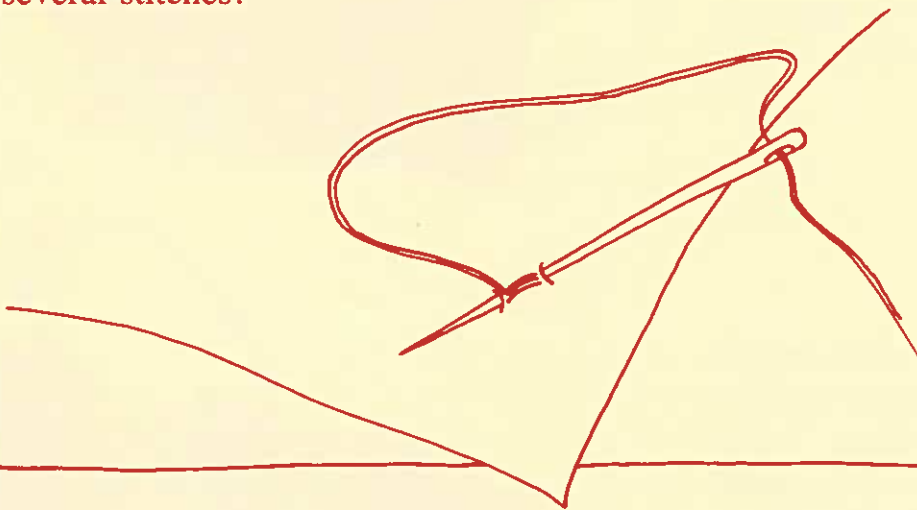
STEP 3

On the last stitch, bring the thread out of the button and wind it tightly around the stitches to form the thread shank.



STEP 4

Fasten thread securely on underside with several stitches.



Prepared by Tena St. Pierre, Program Assistant in Clothing Extension, in consultation with Patricia A. Kelley, Associate 4-H Division Leader, and Ruth Ann Wilson, Extension Clothing Specialist.