

Fasteners

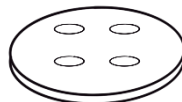
In general, most fasteners are sewn on by hand. This is because many fasteners cannot be put through a sewing machine at all or require a special foot. For ease, speed, and strength fasteners should be sewn on with a double thread. All fasteners need to be marked correctly for proper fit so be sure to check twice before sewing!

Types of Fasteners

Buttons



2-hole



4-hole



Shank

There are three main kinds of buttons: two-hole, four-hole, and shank. Button placement should be marked *after* the buttonhole is made. Overlap the placket to the correct position and mark the location of the button at the end of the buttonhole where the button will sit when there is tension between the two layers (see fig. 1).

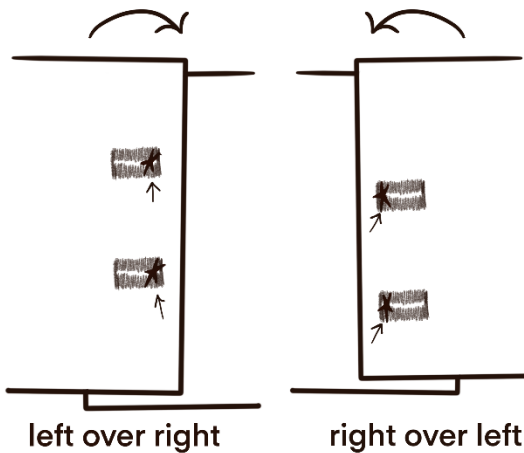


Figure 1



Figure 2

If fabric is sheer, weak, damaged, or if the button will have extra stress you should reinforce the back with interfacing, a patch of cloth, or another smaller button (fig. 2)

2-hole button

How to: Insert needle from the back of the cloth where the button should be secured. Take one or two stitches in place to anchor the thread. Insert the needle up through one of the holes then back down through the other and take your stitch down into the cloth. Bring your needle up through one hole and back down through the other. Sew over the button like this for at least 3-4 stitches. Secure with a knot (or other tie off of your choice) on the back side of the cloth.

4-hole button

How to: Exactly the same as the 2-hole button but you have more options for decorative stitching. An X shape is the most common form of stitch.

Shank-Technique

How to: For thicker plackets, such as a coat use this technique. Place a pin, awl, or similar object through the first stitch in the button (fig. 3) and continue your stitches over the spacer object. Before tying off, go down through a hole but not through the fabric, wrap your thread around the stitches underneath the button to create a thread shank. Insert needle through the back of the garment and tie off.

Shank button

How to: Start your button stitches the same way as the 2 or 4-hole buttons. Instead of coming up through the shank hole, you may need to come up through the fabric, then through the hole, and then back down into the garment. Sew over the shank hole 3-4 times and tie off like any other button.

Attach sample here

Include shanking technique on one of your holed buttons.

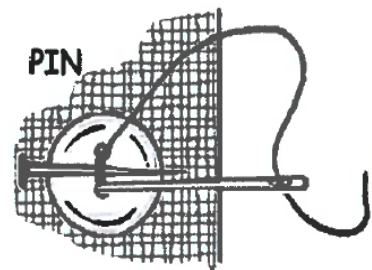
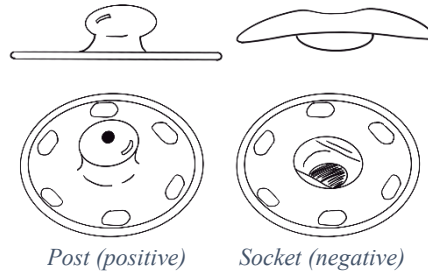


Figure 3



Snaps

Snaps are useful for closures that won't have a lot of stress placed on them or need to be rigged for quick changes. Snaps come in a wide variety of sizes but only a few colors. Each snap closure requires a "pair" that fit into each other – a post (or positive half) and a socket (or negative half).

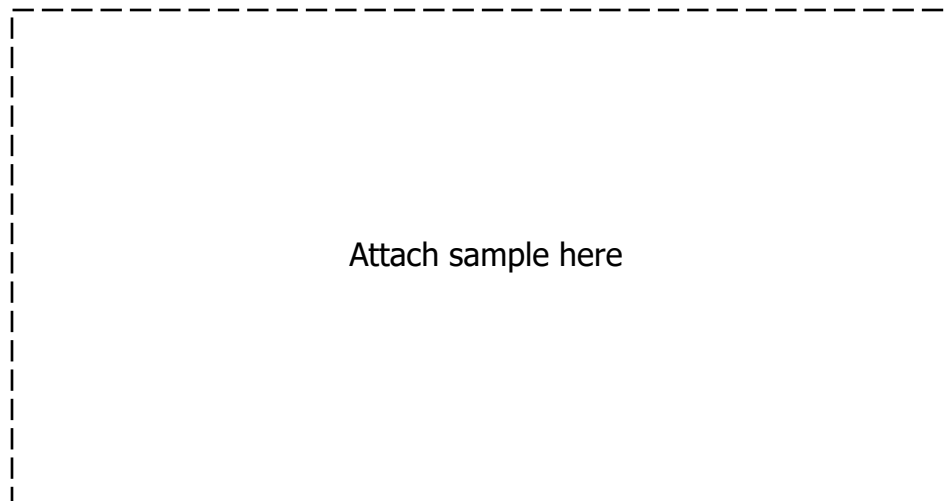
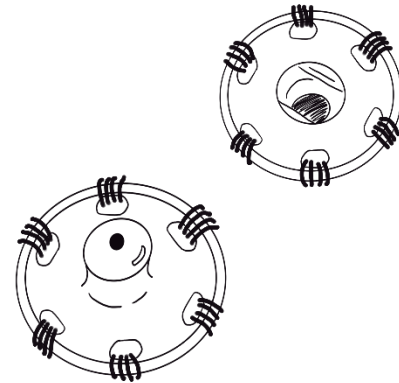
Note: In the past the terms "male" and "female" were used for post and socket and you may still hear this term used in different shops.

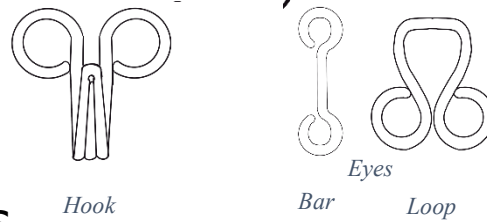
Tip 1: Because the post is flatter it is usually placed on the side of the placket that sits on top of the other.

Tip 2: Pay careful attention to which direction you are attaching the socket snap because it is easy to flip upside down.

How to for Post: Attach the post side with a doubled threaded whip stitch, taking at least 3 stitches in each hole of the snap.

How to for Socket: to mark for this half, rub the tip of the post side with chalk or pencil lead. Close the placket and press down on the post to transfer the chalk. Attach the socket snap over the center of the mark with a whip stitch, taking at least 3 stitches in each hole of the snap.

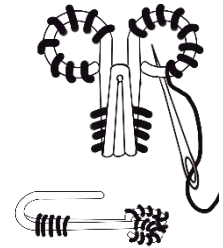




Hooks and Eyes

Hooks and eyes should be sewn with a double thread in a “crown” shape. Hooks and eyes that will have significant stress on them should be sewn with a heavy-duty thread.

How to Hooks: Hooks should be attached to the side of the placket that overlaps (or is on top of) the other. The hook should *not* show from the right side of the garment. Using a whip stitch sew around the two loops of the hook. To prevent the head of the hook from flipping the wrong way, secure only the underside of the head with a whip stitch. Stitches for the hook should be small or nearly invisible on the right side of the garment.



How to Bar-Style Eye: Use this style for plackets that overlap. Close the placket and mark the where the edge overlaps with a pin or pencil mark. Attach the bar at that mark using a whip stitch on each loop. *TIP:* When going from one loop to the other side be sure your stitch doesn't leave thread that can be caught by the hook.



How to Loop-Style Eye: Use this style for plackets that “kiss” or “butt up” next to each other. Position the loop on the opposite side of the placket. It should extend out past the edge of the fabric just enough that when it is hooked the two sides aren't overlapping. Use a whip stitch around the attaching loops to secure into place.

