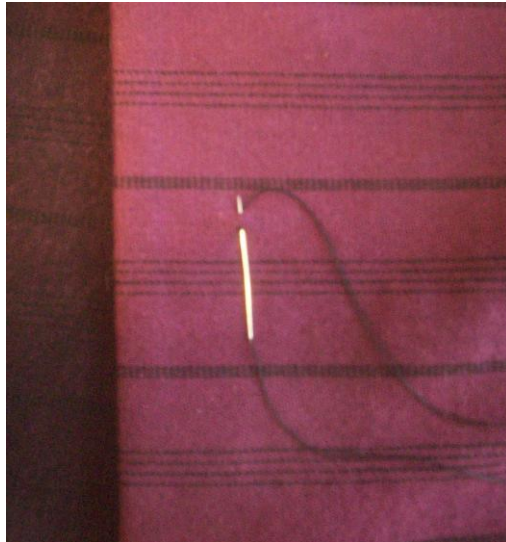


All About Buttons & Buttonholes

How to sew on a shanked button.

For horizontal buttonholes, the first stitch will be made parallel to the edge of the garment. For vertical buttonholes, the first stitch will be made perpendicular to the edge of the garment. This orients the button so that the shank sits properly within the buttonhole.



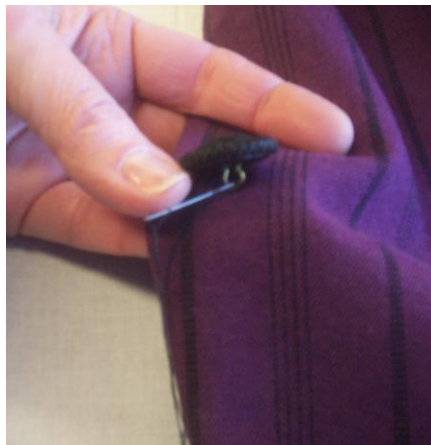
This jacket has horizontal buttonholes, so the first stitch is taken parallel to the garment edge. (Note: the stripes are perpendicular to the garment edge.)

Working from the right side of the garment and with a knotted thread, take a stitch at

All About Buttons & Buttonholes

the buttonhole placement mark, as shown in the photo on this page. The stitch should be just a tiny bit bigger than the width of the shank – so for most shanks, about 1/16" to 1/8".

Pass the needle and thread through the middle (the hole) of the shank, and then put the needle back in the fabric where the first stitch was begun.



Pass the needle through the hole of the shank.

(Note: the orientation of this button on the cloth is a bit different than in the other photos of this particular jacket – but it clearly shows how the needle should be passed through the shank opening.)

Continue stitching in this manner, taking as many stitches as you feel is necessary. For a silk blouse, I usually take three or four

All About Buttons & Buttonholes

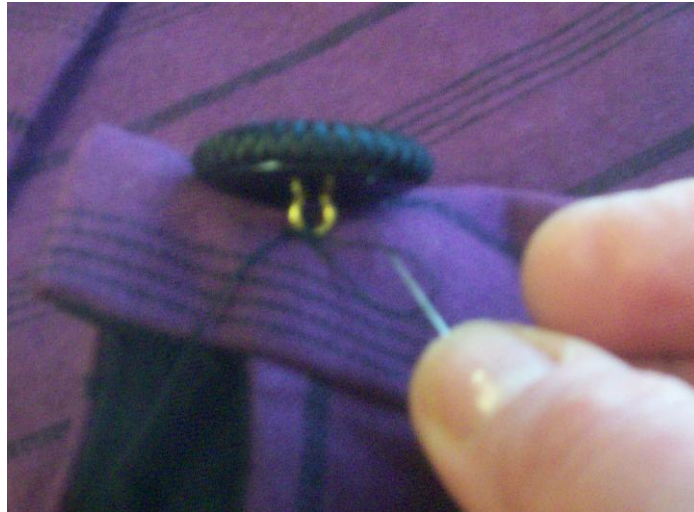
stitches; for an overcoat, I usually take at least eight. How many stitches to take is dependent on several factors: the weight of the fabric, the type of garment, the amount of wear the garment will get, and even how hard you tend to be on your clothes.

To knot the thread, slip the needle between the shank and the bundle of threads, as shown in the following photo:



As you pull the needle out, pass the needle through the circle of thread, as shown in the following photo:

All About Buttons & Buttonholes



Then carefully pull the thread so that the knot just formed sits right up against the shank. Repeat this so you have form at least three knots - more for a garment that will see harder wear.

To finish, I like to bury the thread tail between the outer layer of the garment and the facing layer. To do this, slip the needle into the fabric guiding it in-between the outer layer of the garment and the facing layer of fabric. Bring the needle out about 1" to 2" away from the shank, as shown in the following photo. You can bring it out either onto the right side of the garment or the wrong side of the garment.

All About Buttons & Buttonholes



Clip your thread right against the fabric, as shown in the following photo. Your thread tail is now buried between the layers of the garment.

All About Buttons & Buttonholes



When stitching the button on, you can decide if you want every stitch to go through all the layers of the garment (outer layer + facing layer) and show on the wrong side of the garment.

The more stitches that go through all the layers, the stronger the button will be – but also, more threads will show on the wrong side of the garment. In my experience, not every stitch needs to pass through to the wrong side of the garment – sometimes I slide my needle in-between the garment layer



All About Buttons & Buttonholes

of fabric and the facing layer of fabric. This depends, of course, on the fashion fabric and how much wear and tear the garment will get. For instance, I often only have one stitch pass all the way through on a silk blouse so that the wrong side of the blouse looks extremely neat and clean. But on an overcoat, I would make every stitch pass all the way through. And on a jacket, I'd probably make about three stitches pass all the way through.

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This is an extract from one of the All About Buttons and Buttonholes lessons to give you an idea of what our PDFs look like.

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