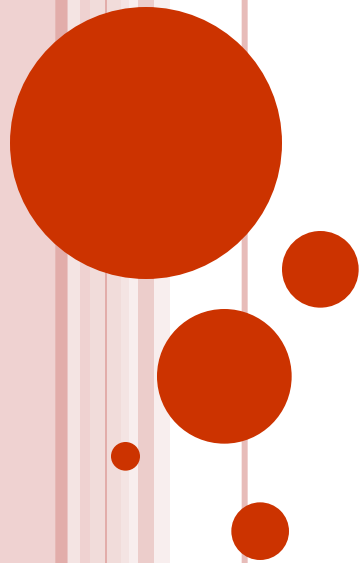


# SEWING BASICS: HOW TO SEW ON A BUTTON



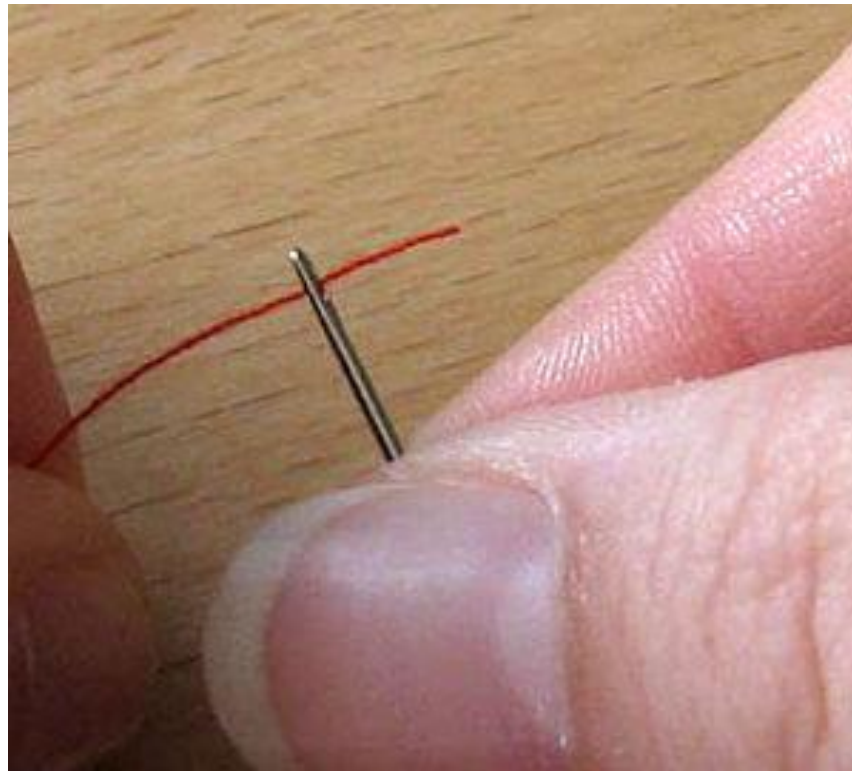
# STEP 1: MATCH BUTTON AND THREAD

- Select a suitable button and thread that matches the button, the garment, and any thread used to sew on other buttons.
  - If you have a button pop off and you can't take care of it immediately, use a safety pin to hold the garment closed and be sure to keep track of the button. It's best to use the original button if you have it.
  - Make a place to keep track of the extra buttons that come in baggies with new garments, if they're not sewn into an inner seam somewhere. Label the buttons if you can.



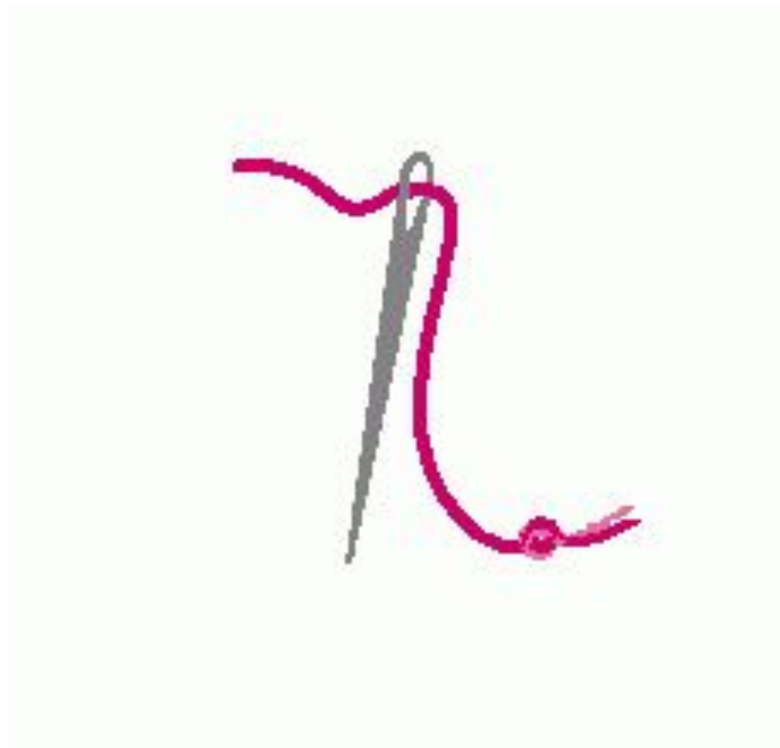
## STEP 2: THREAD THE NEEDLE

- If you like, you can double the thread to make this job quicker. Simply pull it through the needle so that there is an equal length of thread extending from both sides.



## STEP 3: TIE A KNOT

- Tie a knot at the end of the thread. Leave a long tail of thread, whether you are doubling the thread or using a single thread that way you can sew the button.



## STEP 4: POSITION

- Position the button on the fabric. Line the button up with the other buttons on the garment.
  - Check the buttonhole. Close the opposite flap or panel where you want it and make sure that the button lines up with the buttonhole.
  - If the button was on correctly before, you can often go by the little holes in the fabric where the button used to be. You can see the pinholes alongside the button in the photo.



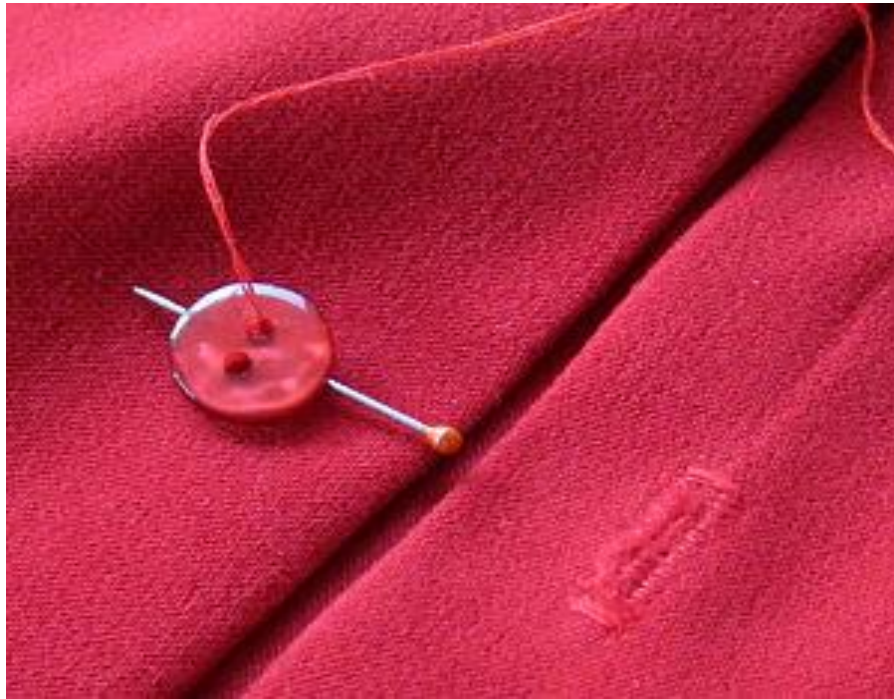
## STEP 5: PUSH AND PULL

- Push the threaded needle up through the fabric and through one hole in the button. Pull the thread all the way through on each stitch.



## STEP 6: CREATE SOME SLACK

- Place a pin or toothpick across the center of the button and hold it there until the next stitch helps keep it in place. When the pin is withdrawn later, it will allow the slack necessary to create a "shank" so that there will be space between behind the button for the material that will need to go there when the garment is buttoned.



## STEP 7: FIRST STITCH

- Push the needle down through the next hole and through the fabric. Still holding the pin in place, pull the thread all the way through. Once that is done, the pin will be kept in place by the thread. In this photo, the button was lifted up to show what's going where, but it's best to hold the button in place so it does not move.





# MORE BUTTON EXAMPLES

- On a 4-hole button choose the one diagonal to the first hole if you want the threads to cross in an "X" formation.

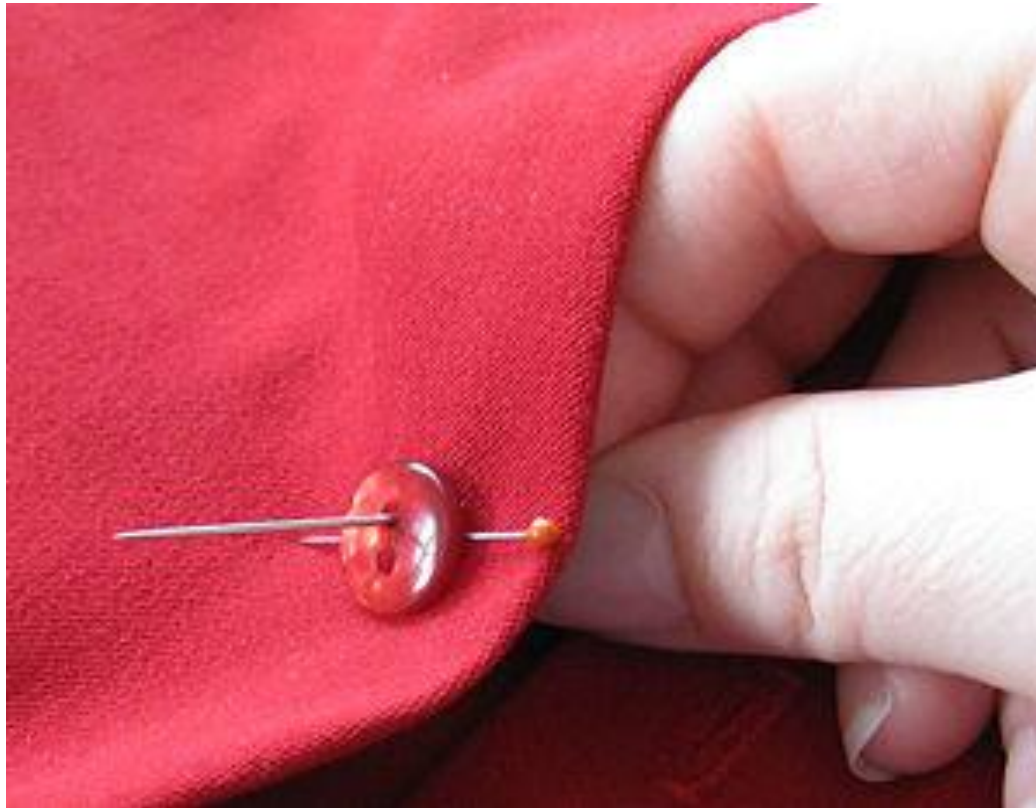


- If you want two parallel lines of thread showing, choose the next hole that is opposite the first.



## STEP 8: GOING UP

- Bring the needle up through the first hole (for a 2-hole button) or a new hole (for a 4-hole button) and pull the thread all the way through the fabric.



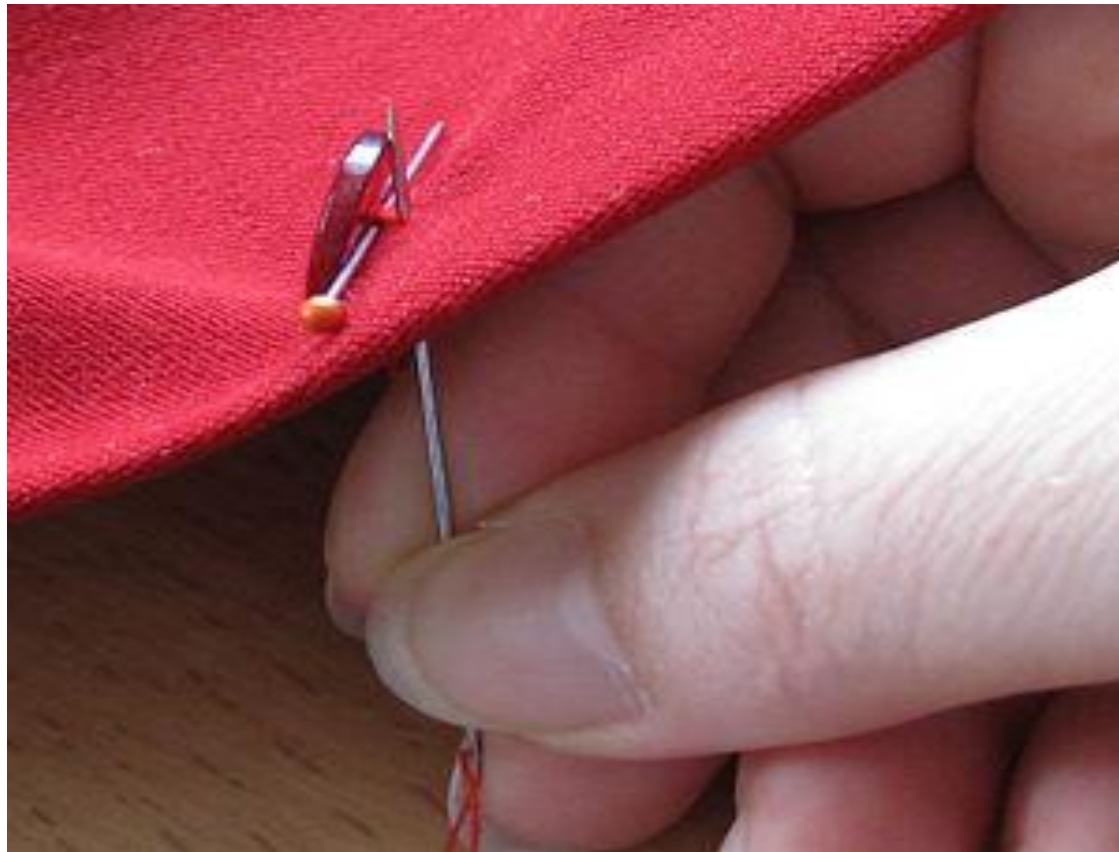
## STEP 9: REPEAT

- Repeat the sewing process enough times to make sure the button is securely in place. On 4-hole buttons, make sure that the stitches have been made evenly, so that all four holes are equally used.



## STEP 10: LAST STITCH

- On the last stitch, push the needle through the material, but not through a hole in the button.



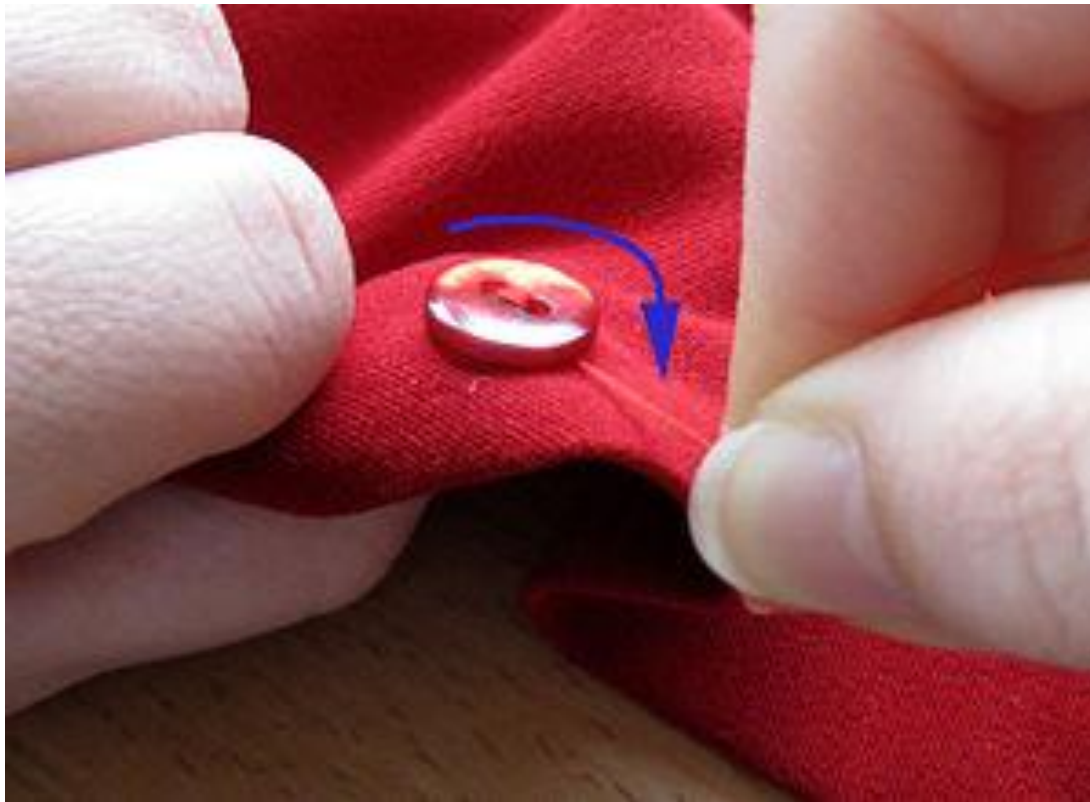
## STEP 11: REMOVE THE PIN

- Pull the thread out into the area between button and material, remove the pin and pull up the button a little.



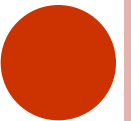
## STEP 12: WRAPPING IT UP

- Wrap the thread six times around the thread between the button and the material to reinforce the shank you have created.



## STEP 13: PUSH

- Push the needle back down through the material.



## STEP 14: SECURE IT

- Make three or four stay stitches to secure the thread.





## STEP 15: CUT IT OFF

- Cut off the excess thread.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

