

# APPAREL AND TEXTILES

## Clothing Care & Repair

### PROPERLY FASTENED: Sewing on a Button

Sewing on a button is a simple and useful skill! Here's a step-by-step guide:

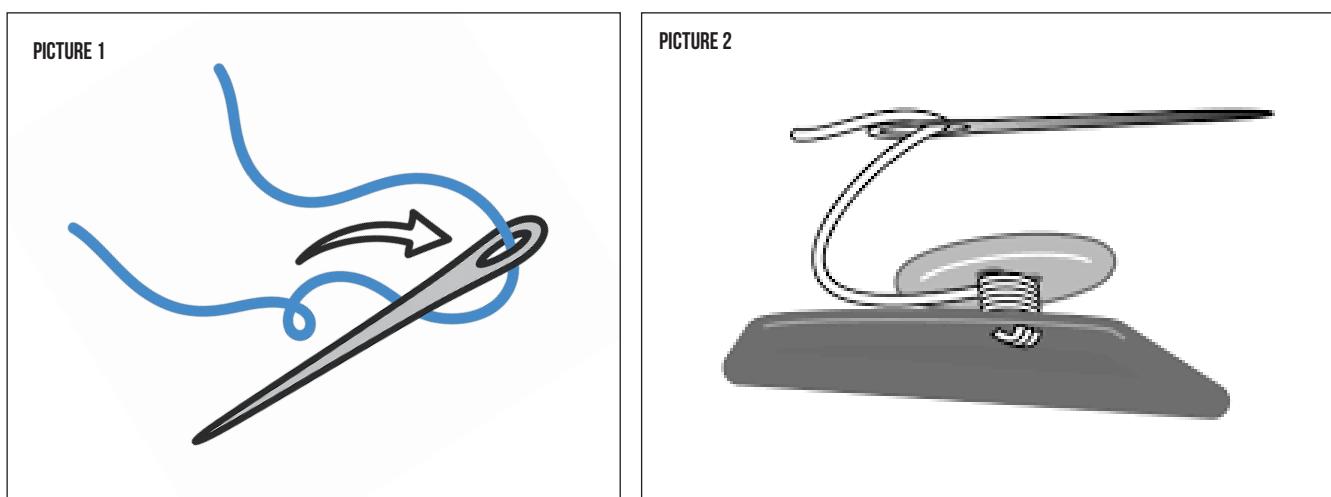
#### YOU WILL NEED:

- Needle & matching thread
- Scissors
- Button
- Straight pins for spacing (optional)
- Thimble (optional)

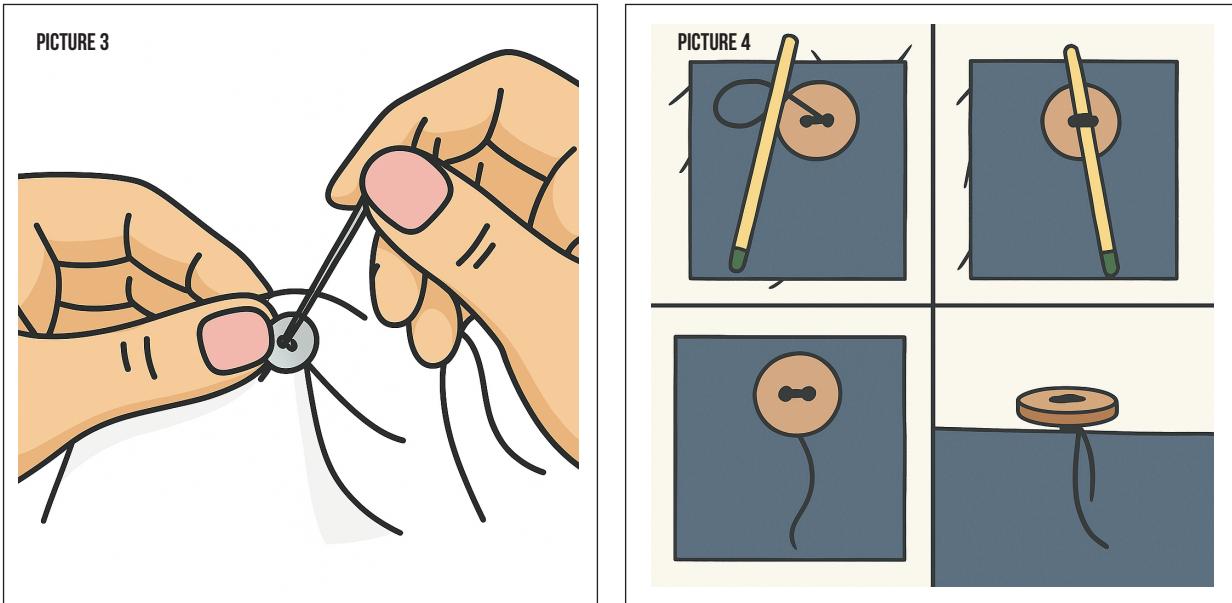


#### STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Thread the Needle:** Cut 18-24 inches of thread. Thread the needle and tie the knot at the end of the thread (picture 1).
2. **Align the Fabric:** Place the button where you want it on the fabric. If it's a shirt or jacket, line it up with the corresponding buttonhole. Use a pin over the button (between the holes) to create space if it's a thick fabric or needs a "shank." (picture 2).



3. **Start Sewing:** Go down through the opposite hole (for a 2-hole button) or criss-cross for a 4-hole button. Repeat 3–4 times for each hole pairing to secure it. (picture 3).



4. **Create a Shank:** If using a spacer (pin), remove it. Bring the needle up through the fabric, butnot through the button. Wrap the thread around the stitches under the button 3–5 times tocreate a “shank” (a bit of slack so the button is easier to fasten). Push the needle through to theback.(picture 4).

5. **Tie Off:** Make a small knot on the back side of the fabric. Stitch through the fabric once moreand loop the thread to tie a second knot. Snip off the extra thread.

#### EXTRA TIP:

- Use strong thread to keep the button secure.
- Use a fabric pencil to mark exactly where the button should sit.

## KNOWING HOW TO SEW ON A BUTTON WILL KEEP YOUR WARDROBE LOOKING SHARP!

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**References:** Bowers, S. & Bowers, D. (2021). Home Ec for Everyone: Practical Life Skills in 118 Projects. Workman Publishing Co., Inc. Bowers, S. & Bowers, D. (2016). The Useful Book: 201 Life Skills They Used to Teach in Home Ec and Shop. Workman Publishing Co., Inc. York, D. (Ed.). (2002). New Complete Guide to Sewing: Step-by-Step Techniques for making Clothes and Home Accessories. Reader's Digest.

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