



Hello!

Thank you very much for your interest in Didacton's Learn how to sew course and for requesting your free sample lesson. You will find the example lesson after this introduction. We believe you will find it both informative as well as engaging, and that you will want to become part of our impressive group of students learning how to sew. Whether you want to learn to sew as a hobby, for your business, to prepare for school or to modify or create clothes, our comprehensive, innovative training program will enable you to master the correct sewing techniques within a short period of time.

Classes are available online, with options for self-tuition / independent study (a term that means you study on your own, without assistance of a teacher/instructor), or a course of study that includes access to instructor feedback. As a student, you have the freedom to choose the program that best meets your needs and you can study anywhere on your laptop, computer, tablet or mobile phone. You also have the possibility to print the course. Everyone can benefit from our detailed 40-lesson course with step by step guidance and explanations.

After exploring the elements of this sample lesson, we are certain you will want to become part of our widely respected Didacton-educated sewing community. With the knowledge you possess as a Didacton-trained student, you are going to impress your friends and family with your sewing skills!



The Learn how to sew course consists of the following 40 lessons:

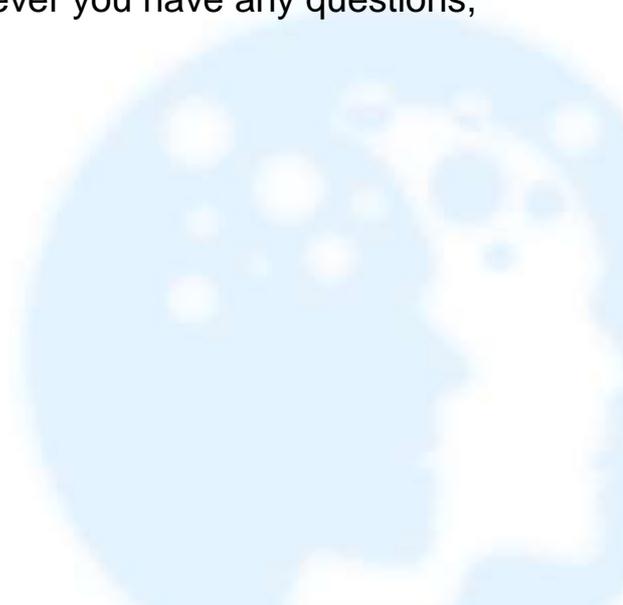
1	Sewing terms glossary	21	Tips for accurate sewing
2	How to choose fabrics and patterns	22	Tote bags
3	Sewing tools	23	Crochet hook knitting
4	Fabric designs	24	Facings
5	Tracing sewing patterns	25	Alterations and fitting techniques
6	Laying out marking & cutting	26	Making a halter top
7	Pinning, pressing & ironing	27	Pleats & plackets
8	Let's sew a seam	28	Pleated skirt
9	Back stitch & satin stitch	29	Restyling older clothes
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11	Slip stitch & running stitch	31	Smocking techniques
12	Pad stitch & chain stitch	32	Smocked baby clothes
13	Attaching buttons and zippers	33	Lace up corset
14	Basic machine stitches I	34	Taking the perfect measurements
15	Cushion covers	35	How to avoid sewing errors
16	Basic machine stitches II	36	Belt loops and hems
17	Let's do some ruffling	37	Darts and gathers
18	How to attach pockets	38	About a sewing machine
19	Applique techniques	39	How to make a dress
20	Quilts	40	Sewing FAQ

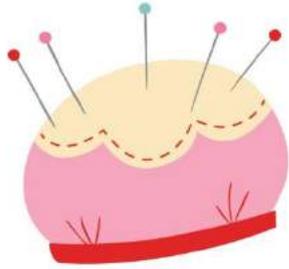
We would like to help you achieve the sewing skills. See the [course page](#) for all the details of the sewing course.

The example lesson is next. Enjoy reading it. Whenever you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

The Didacton Team





Sewing for beginners



13: ATTACHING BUTTONS & ZIPPERS





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13.1 Introduction

We have successfully completed our series of hand embroidery lessons. Hope you had fun lightening up your plain garments with some colorful patterns after completing the questions and assignments.

Now we come to another part of sewing that is essential for a whole other reason. Not having your garments securely fastened might be your worst nightmare and we are here to ensure that never happens. Even if you are not making a garment yourself, you might have to reattach a loose button or zipper sometimes and that is when the following becomes your lifesaver.

But, zippers and buttons are no longer just essentials to hold your clothes together. They can be used in a range of ways to elevate your garments and add a touch of individuality to your plain pieces. Obviously this requires a lot of imagination on your part but we shall expose you to a few ideas that would help as a stepping stone to build your own creations.

The lesson begins with attaching buttons and will move on to attaching zippers, followed by the creative section on accessorizing with notions. Then, as usual, we shall continue on the reading review questions, reflective questions, a few exercises and finally, end with the assignments.

13.2 Attaching buttons



This is a lesson that is not too difficult to fathom. Buttons come in a variety of colors, sizes and materials. As you may notice in the picture above, some buttons are made





of plastic while some are made of wood. Likewise, some have four holes and some have two.

There are three types of buttons.

1. Buttons with holes are called “**Sew-through buttons**”.
2. Some buttons instead have a hoop at the bottom for attachment. These are called “**Shank buttons**”, deriving the name from the hoop for attachment that is in fact called a “shank”. They vary in diameter and sometimes have multiple circles and sometimes, they are not circles at all.
3. Lastly, there are **Stud buttons**. These are also called **Pressure studs**, tightly fastened with a metal rivet. These cannot be removed easily or easily fastened at home.



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So that is a short warm-up into understanding buttons, their make and models. Given their differences, sometimes, the methods of attaching them differ. Now we shall proceed to break down methods of attachment, case-by-case.

Case #1



Firstly, let's discuss the attachment of the two-hole sew-through button. This is fairly standard and straight-forward.

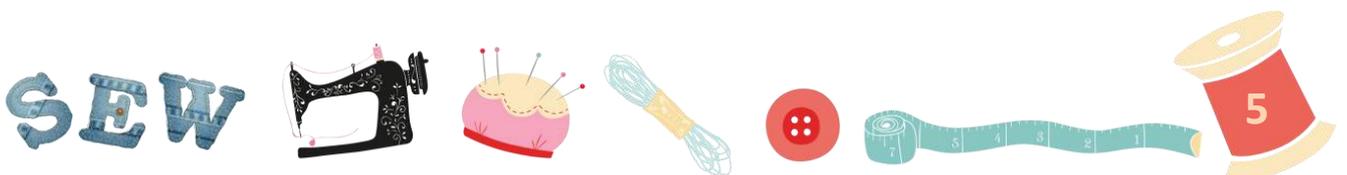
- Pull the needle up from under the fabric and up through one hole.
- Pin the needle back through the other hole to reach under the fabric.
- Pull the needle back up from the hole you pulled it through the first time.
- Repeat this circular motion around 15 times for a securely sewed two-hole button.

Case #2

Case #2 is attaching a four-hole button. This can be done in two main ways.

1. The Normal Sewing

Nothing fancy happens here. You take the needle and follow the instructions as in case #1, two-holes at a time. The end product would appear as follows.





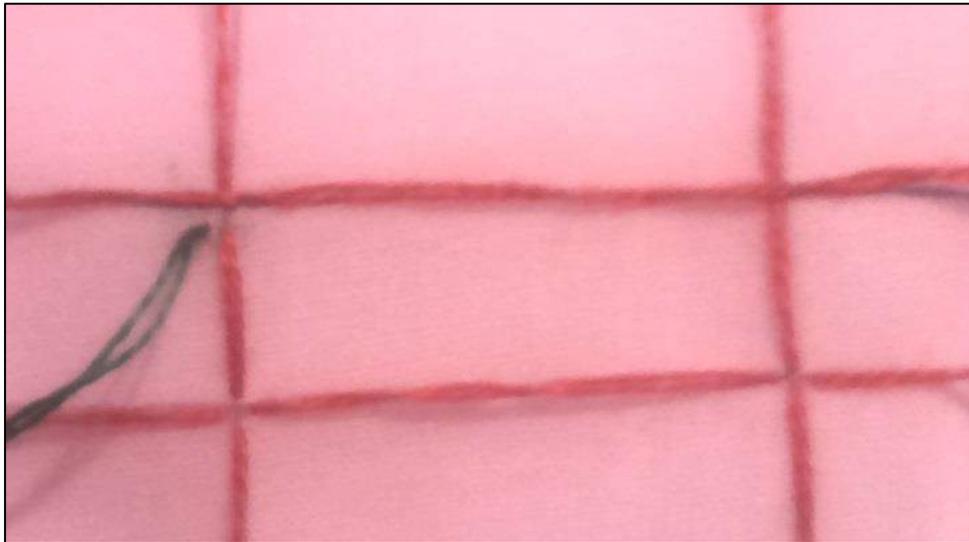
This is a very formal appearance and has a very neat and tidy finish.

2. The Cross-Stitch sewing

Look again at lesson 12, section 4.4, prior to reading this so you can revise your learning of the cross-stitch. This is slightly more fun and preferably used on informal clothing.

Following is an excerpt to assist you.

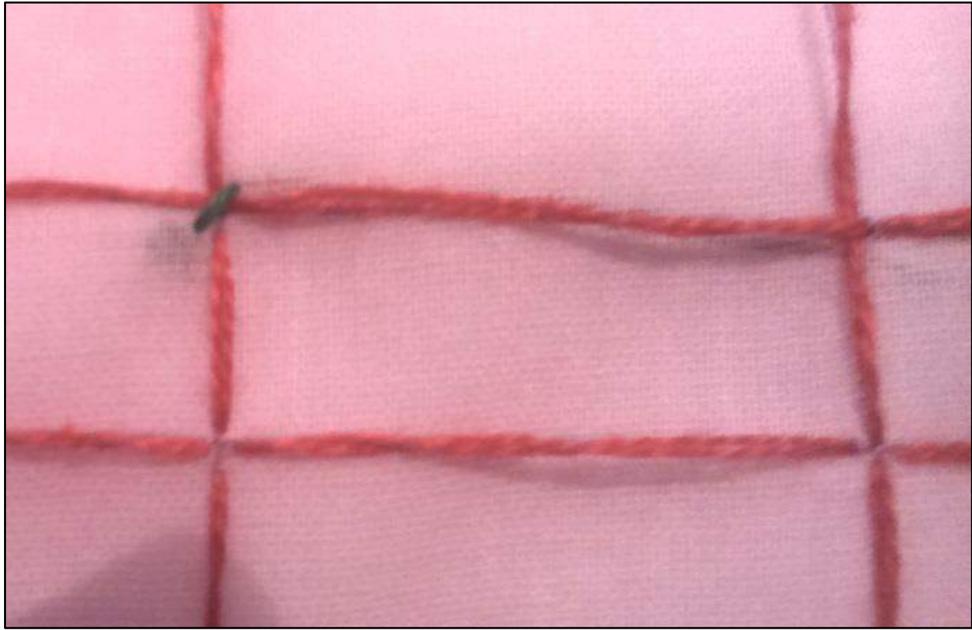
- a) Pull the thread out from the bottom left.



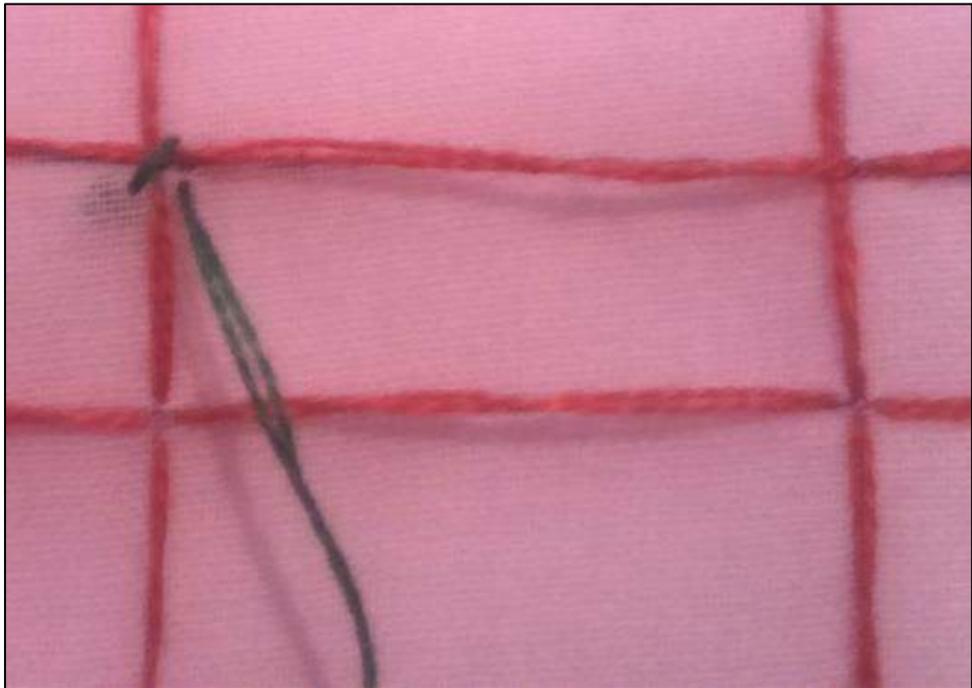
- b) Pin and pull the thread diagonally, down the top right side.

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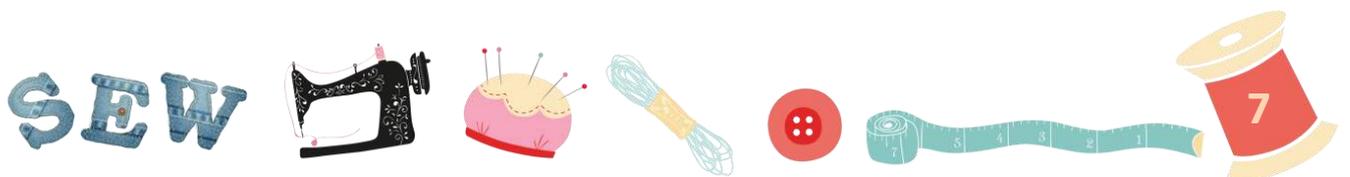


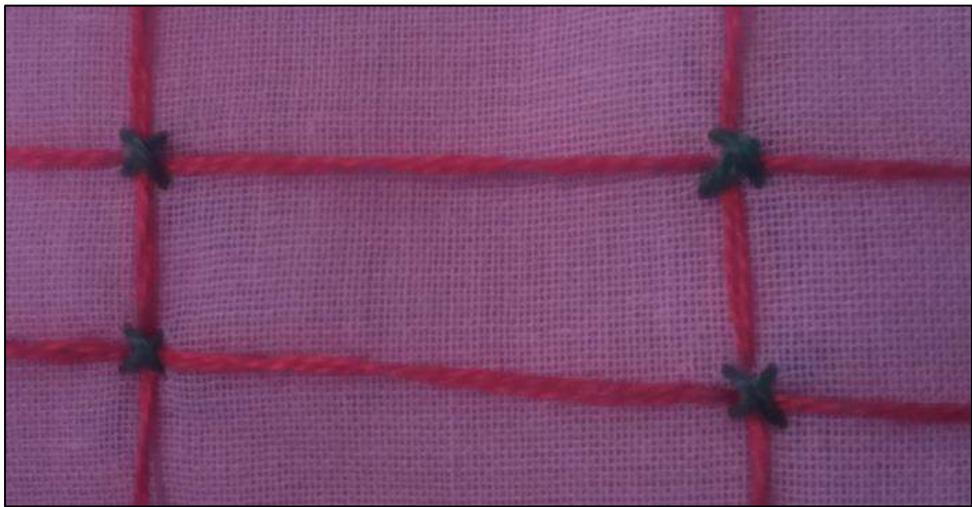
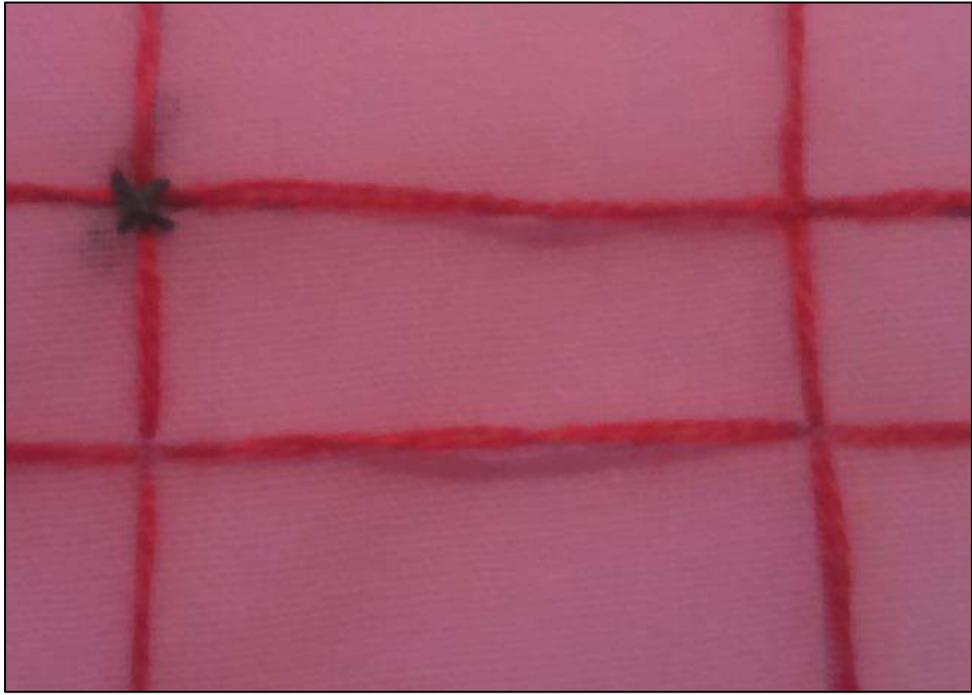


c) Now, pull up the thread, from the lower right.

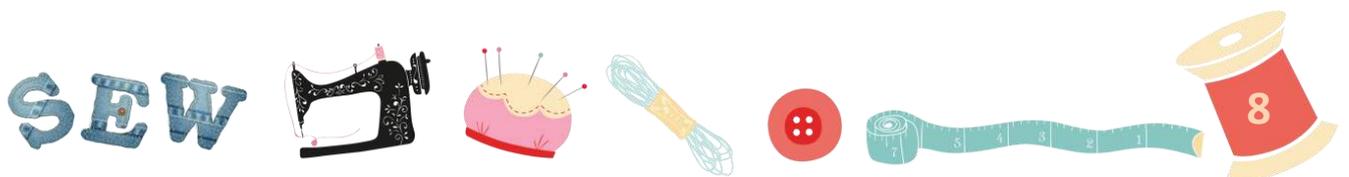


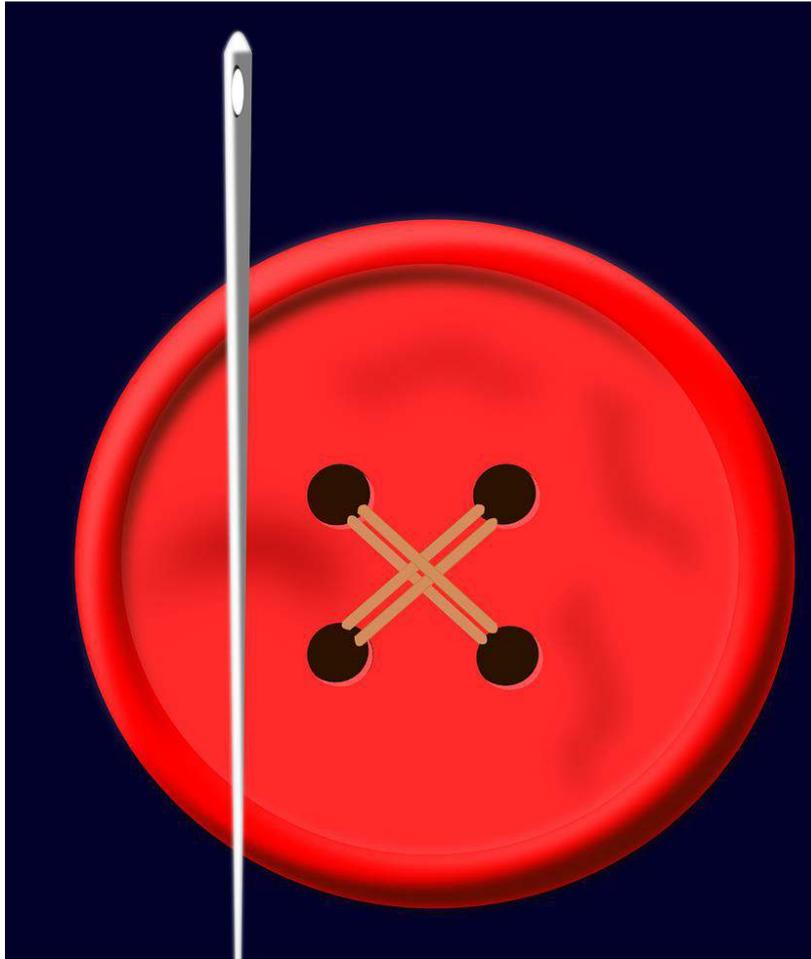
d) Finally, go diagonally to complete the cross.





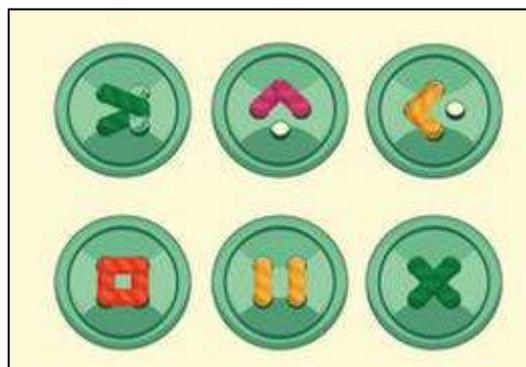
Similarly, instead of the four corners of the cross, now you have four holes on the button. The end product would appear something like this.





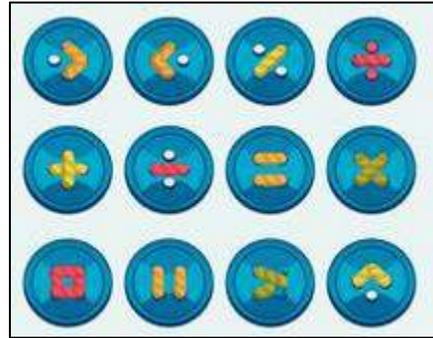
If cross-stitch is not your friend and you still want this, follow the instructions on case #1. But, the trick is to connect holes that are diagonal to each other. Once you complete stitching two of the holes together, start over to connect the other two diagonal to each other.

That would be the generally accepted ways to fasten four-hole buttons. But, if you are using buttons for more than fastening your garments, there are always creative ways to add color and add a fun element. Following are a couple of pictures with a few ideas to help you out.



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Use colored threads to create different patterns on the buttons itself. It would be a perfect addition to some of your boring and plain clothes. Follow through till the end for a few more ideas to use buttons in more creative ways.

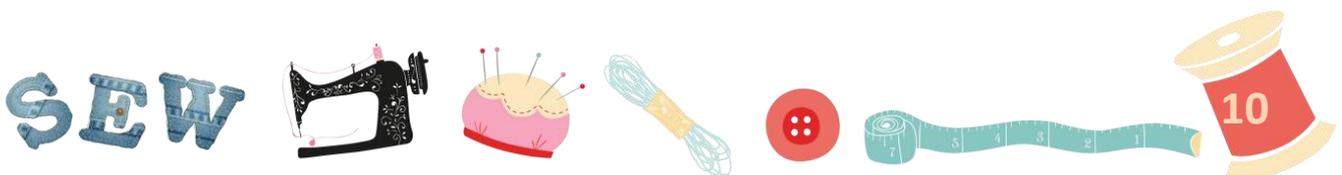
Case #3

Attaching Shank buttons is also pretty straightforward. Use a thread color that blends with the fabric so the threads are not obvious or clashing. These are mostly used on formal wear and generally present singularly.

- Pull the thread from under the fabric and put the needle through the hoop on the button and pin back through the fabric.
- Repeat the process around 15 times to securely fasten the button.



That concludes the attachment of the three types of buttons. Depending on your preference and the type of clothing, you can choose the type of button and how to attach it.

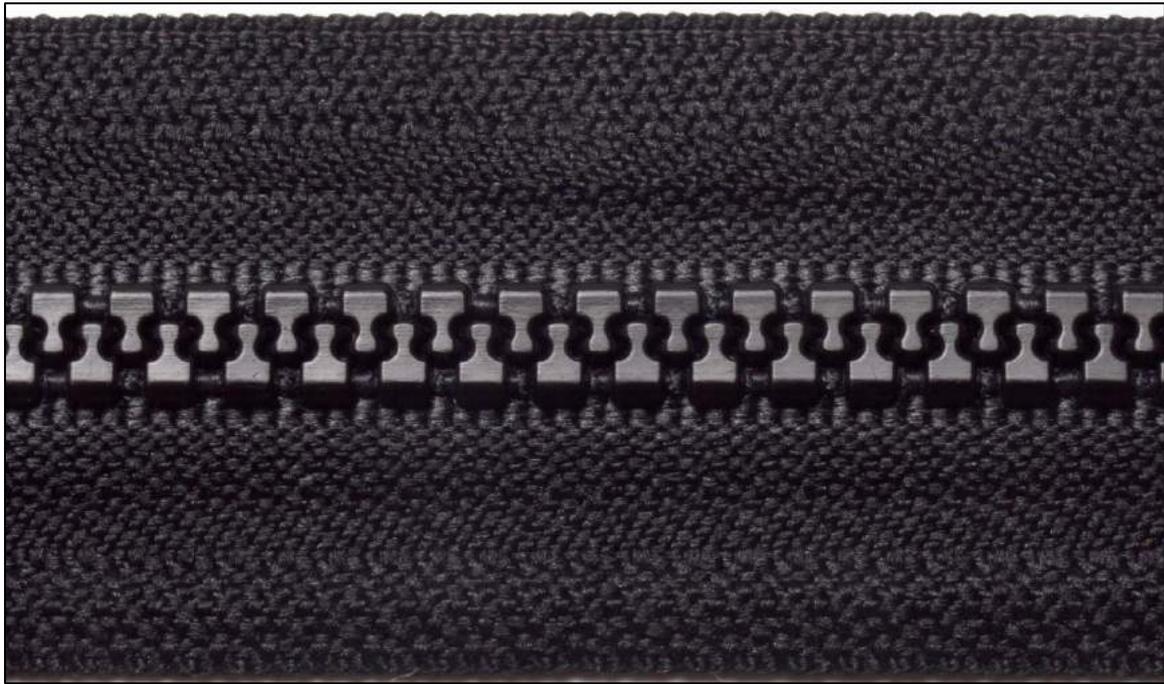




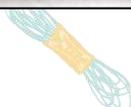
13.3 Attaching zippers

A zipper is a device that attaches two edges of an opening. It allows the garment or object to be loosened or opened as and when required. For example, handbags and haversacks tend to have zippers to fasten the openings.

Zippers, like buttons, come in a variety of colors and widths. The other variation they have includes the teeth formation. The interlocking parts of the zipper are referred to as the teeth of the zippers. They come in varying sizes and makes. You find, metal teeth, plastic teeth as well as coil teeth. Following are a couple of different zippers with two different make of teeth.



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Zippers come with fabric on either side of the teeth. These are sewn in with the fabric of your project (be it a bag, or garment). Following are the steps to follow.

- Prior to attachment, ensure your zipper is closed to begin with, throughout the length. It is difficult to handle the zipper while sewing if it is not closed.
- Place the zipper on one edge of the project, and clip it to the fabric with pins or paper clips.

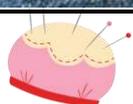


- Mark on either side of the zipper, how close to the teeth you want to sew it. Use a color that contrasts with the zipper fabric so you do not get confused. Ensure you mark the lines equally distant from the teeth. You do not want one edge of the zipper being shown more than the other edge.
- You can use the running stitch to attach one edge first and once that is complete, attach the other edge.
- If you are sewing a purse or bag, make sure you do not sew the complete product before sewing the zipper because sewing the second edge of the zipper properly would be a difficult task.

As a personal preference, I do not recommend sewing zippers onto denims or other garments by hand. Zippers on thick fabrics and tight garments need to be thoroughly secured if you want to avoid any possible mishaps. Best is to allow a sewing machine to do its task so you can wear your garment without fear.



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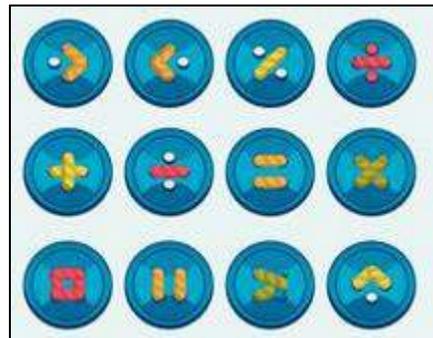




As you may notice, even zippers are being used to add color and accessorize garments. The jeans in the above picture use a zipper that has a contrasting color to the denim material as does a color-block that enhances the look of the final product. The next sub-section describes a few more such instances where you could use notions to accessorize your garments.

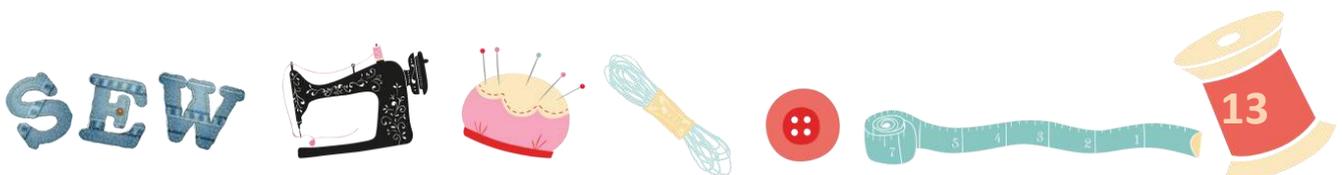
13.4 Let's accessorize with notions

We have successfully completed how you could attach buttons and zippers to fasten your clothes. People have gotten more creative since and have begun using buttons and zippers to do more than that. You may have noticed some and have a few pieces yourself. This section discusses a few such instances as an aid to let your creativity flow. So let's put on our thinking caps and see what we got.



This picture is taken from 13.3 attaching buttons section. It highlights a few ways you can attach a button with less formality, thus, adding more color and fun to your clothing.

Similarly, here are other examples of how you could use different buttons to create a unique and colorful pattern onto your clothing.





For zippers, there is less room to accessorize but, if you put enough creativity into it, you could produce a few designs yourself.

13.5 Summary

That was a detailed version on how to attach and accessorize with buttons and zippers. Hopefully you learnt something additional to what you may have already known. While some parts such as sewing a sew-through button may seem trivial, this lesson was designed to help you gain a little extra knowledge so you can fasten it more securely or even differently next time to add a bit more fun.

13.6 Reading review questions

13.6.1. What are the three main types of buttons?

13.6.2. Name three ways that zippers could vary from each other.

13.6.3. Which of the following is not considered a notion?

- a) Buttons
- b) Fabric
- c) Zipper
- d) Pins

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13.6.4. Buttons vary in many ways from each other. Name three differences they could have.

Answers:

13.6.1. Sew-through buttons, Shank buttons and Stud buttons

13.6.2. The color of the zipper fabric, the make of the teeth (plastic, metal or coil), the width of the teeth.

13.6.3. B

13.6.4. Color of the buttons, Size of the buttons, Type of button (Shank, Sew-through or Stud), Number of sew-through holes

13.7 Reflective questions

13.7.1. If you were to sew a formal shirt, would you choose zippers or buttons to fasten the garment?

What would be the qualities you would consider and why?

13.7.2. What other products besides purses could you hand sew a zipper onto? (As I said, the hand sewn stitches can be compromised and therefore consider other products that would be subjected to less stress).

13.8 Assignment

Now that you have some mental preparation on fastening buttons and zippers as well as how to use them to increase the aesthetic value of your products, let us use this knowledge in practice.

Sew a home-made purse. Step-by-step, give a complete working on how you would sew a purse at home. Include the steps from the beginning, as far as purchasing and washing the fabric. Additionally, write tips and notes on the mistakes you made and how you rectified them

