BORDERS ON BUTTONS #6: DECORATIVE FINISHES
Fifth in a Series of Articles Concerning Borders on Buttons
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The decorative finishes found on borders include all finishes that have been cataloged on button surfaces.

How many different finishes can you find on your button borders? We certainly surprised ourselves as we began a search through our collections!

Acid etch / Frosted / Matte
Blued
Cold plastic enamel
Crystallized (tin)
Dyed / stained
Enamel
  Encrustations
  Pierries
  Matte
  Transfer / Decal
Gilded / Gilt
Japanned
Lustered (gold, silver, copper, gunmetal, etc.)
Metallic back
Metalized (gold, silver, copper, etc.)
Original Tint / Original Finish
Painted
  Encrusted
  Painted and buffed
  On front / On back
  Acrylic
  Oil
  Lacquer
  Varnish
Pearlized
Stencil
Tinned
Transfer / Decal

Riveted black glass with acid etched (matte) border.

Brass with blued steel border. Large.

Enamel button with beautiful turquoise enamel border.


Pearl set in brass with multicolor enamel border.

Glass set in metal with THREE (circle, quatrefoil & square) enamel borders.

Pearl in a steel cup with alternating blued and plain steel border. Small.

Plique au jour with a blue enamel border.
Buttons with gilt decorative finish in the borders. Clockwise from above:
- PEARL with paste, green glass, and engraved pearl OME. Carved border of alternating bands of pastes and gilt.
- PEARL with gilt-filled village scene. Carved and pierced pearl floral border with cut steel OME. Gilt detail on leaves.
- IVORY with turquoise glass, cut steel, and brass OME. Brass border is gilt.
- SMOKEY PEARL with paste, glass, brass, and cut steel OME. Outer border has gilt detail.

Left: Black glass button Multi-color matte paint on button and border. Silver luster on imitation cut steel border detail.