MAKE A CLOTH-COVERED BUTTON

by Narcie Alexander

1. It is helpful to use a template to cut fabric. I use clear plastic in various size circles in relation to the form to be covered.
2. Metal forms for covering come in various designs. One form comes with a plastic "button maker" to help.
3. A domed form is also available.
4. If you are covering a button without a "button maker" side, sew running stitches around the outside edge.
5. Next cut a circle of batting the same size as the button back. For best results be sure it does not lap over the edges.
6. Place the batting inside the fabric.
7. Pull thread to gather fabric in the inserted batting.
8. Insert the top form, pull and tie the thread.
9. Place the back form on top and push on until you feel the "snap" that signals a tight closure.
10. Here is the finished button.
11. Gather beads for a border!

BEAD A BUTTON BORDER

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1. Use a #12 or #13 beading needle. I use a short Sharp. I prefer Nymo® nylon thread and beeswax to strengthen and smooth the thread to prevent tangles. You can use Thread Heaven®. Put a small knot in the end of the thread and pull it through the fabric back to hide the knot.
2. To sew a ring of beads around the top edge of the button pick up four beads at a time and then back stitch to the middle of the four beads and sew again through two of the beads, repeating this process around the button.
3. After you sew the single row around the button, sew back through a few starting beads and use the peyote stitch (see below) to cover the button edge. You will probably want to complete three or four bead rows to fully cover the edge.
4. There are 4 rows of bead work here. Because I want to add little flowers on the 4th row, it was increased by putting two beads in one space with two singles between each increase. This starts a foundation for the little flowers around the edge and allows the beadwork to flare and ruffle a bit.
5. Now a lavender or pink bead is sewn into each increase, this leaves two beads together and a green bead is added in each of the other spaces.
6. Here is the finished edge and a close up view.
7. This view of the back shows the gentle ruffling.

PEYOTE STITCH
(For button edges, this stitch is attached, instead of being a separate piece.)
A. Place 2 beads on your thread & pass the needle back through all six.
B. Place a bead between each of the base row beads.
C. Increase bead row: place 2 beads on your needle and pass through the second bead added in the previous row. Repeat for the entire row, adding 2 beads to the row. End your needle through the first bead added for this row.

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