RIVETED SHANK OVERALL BUTTONS:  
A Common Button with Uncommon Variety  
by Beverly Heebner

Usage, Section 25-7.1.1.  
Overall assorted, back type assorted, riveted shank.

There has been confusion about riveted shank overall button use in competition. Many think that these buttons cannot be used in general competition because of their unique shank. Perhaps this confusion is related to Studs in Section 10, Division IV, Related Specialties. However, the Guidelines for Competition in the NBS Classification, known as the “Blue Book” states, “Any type of button shank is appropriate throughout the competitive classification. Overall buttons with riveted and wobble shanks are included.”

The author has used riveted shank overall buttons in general competition for many years, as well as in their own Usage section.

Riveted shank buttons were made as early as the 1800’s and overlapped usage of the wobble shank buttons, which are older. Now, the riveted shank buttons are the only overall buttons in use. These buttons are two-piece with the shank riveted through the fabric. They are most commonly found on sturdy denim clothing: jeans, bib overalls, work clothing, denim jackets and dresses—hence their common name: Jeans Buttons.

Riveted shank buttons are not sold in stores by the brand, but are found almost exclusively on the clothing itself. An exception is a card of “Bachelor Buttons” sold to replace damaged rivet shank buttons. Bachelor Buttons come in two pieces and must be hammered together through the fabric.

Older riveted shank buttons advertised the clothing manufacturer

Highlighted their sturdiness

And the occupations of the wearer.

Union slogans were common.

Traditionally worn for work and play, current designer fashions have added glitz to the mix with more shapes and decoration.

Most jeans buttons are round and size small, but you can look for different shapes and medium sizes.

The material is almost always metal—yellow, white or copper. The author has found a few plastics and one rubber riveted shank button.

You will find several decorative finishes.
Other material embellishments are worth searching for.

Polymer OME. Paste OME. Celluloid

Construction is of two types—
a solid top and less common,
a recessed cut out
center that shows
part of the riveted
mechanism.

I have found
only one
pierced
button.

The few back
marks are all
found on the
base of the
shank.

Children’s clothes have especially fun pictorials.

The four pictorial sections are well represented, but
verbals are the most common.

Brass and
White Metal.
DF: Cold Enamel.

Animal life

Plant life

Other Pictorials

Objects

Borders and patterns add more variety.

Add some of these humble buttons to your collection.
And, again, use them in general competition AS WELL
AS specifically in Section 25-7.1.1.. Overall assorted,
back type assorted, riveted shank. You can be sure they
have been buttoned and unbuttoned countless times.
These buttons outlive the clothing they were on and can
now bring variety and interest to your collection.