

RIVETED SHANK OVERALL BUTTONS: A Common Button with Uncommon Variety

by Beverly Heebner

Usage, Section 25-7.1.1.

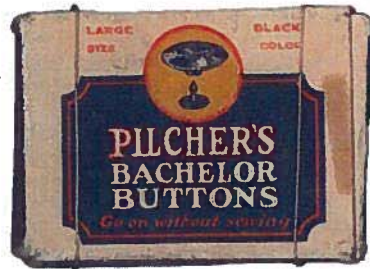
Overall assorted, back type assorted, riveted shank.

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 card, 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.



Medium (below).
Extra small (left).

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



White metal. Yellow metal. Polymer. Design under glass.



Paint. Lacquered. 14 carat dipped. Matte.

(Right) Copper. Rubber.

You will find several decorative finishes.

Other material embellishments are worth searching for.



Polymer OME.

Paste OME.

Celluloid

Two metals:
copper inset in

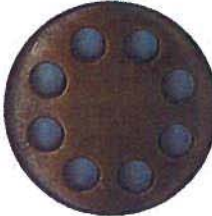
Construction is of two types—a solid top



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.

