

Button Needle Minder

Materials

- Covered button kit w/ tools
- Scrap fabric
- Magnets (rare Earth are bes)
- Super glue (like E6000)
- Scissors
- Hand sewing needle
- Thread
- Pliers
- pencil

Step 1: Prep the Buttons

Using pliers, remove the shanks (loops) from the flat backs of the buttons. This may take a bit of effort, but they'll pop out.

Glue a magnet to the OUTSIDE of the back of the button. NOTE: be sure to check the polarity of the magnet—you want the side that repels other magnets to be the side that is glued down. Set in a well-ventilated area to let the glue cure and off-gas.

Magnet Safety

If you are using rare earth magnets some safety precautions:

- Keep away from electrical medical devices such as a pacemaker, or insulin pump. They can cause the device to malfunction. If you have an electrical medical device, I would recommend using craft magnets instead.
- Keep away from small kiddos and pets. If swallowed, they will attract to each other and pose the risk of internal tissue damage. No one wants that ER bill.
- They are super strong, so be careful not to get your fingers pinched because they will snap together fast!

Step 2: Cut Your Fabric

Cut your fabric! There are a couple of different template techniques you can use to cut the fabric for the top of the button.

If you want a specific part of the fabric's design or pattern to be the center of the button, I recommend using an acrylic template, or a stencil. That way you can see the design and be sure it is centered.

Option 1

The back of the covered button kit most likely will have a half-circle template you can cut out. Place the straight side on the fold of your fabric, trace, and cut.

Option 2

Trace the half-circle template onto a piece of sturdy paper. Flip it over and line up the straight edge with the straight edge of your tracing and trace the other side. You can cut the circle out and have a disc you can trace, OR cut out the inside of the tracing so you have a stencil.

Option 3

Use an acrylic covered button template. Some notions manufacturers used to make them, but they are now harder to find. Etsy is a great resource to find them now.

Button Size

A 7/8" (22mm or 36 Ligne) button is a really good size for this project. You can certainly go larger, but going smaller is not recommended.



TO SEE STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS WITH PHOTOS SCAN HERE:

Step 3: Cover the Buttons

With the needle and thread, knot one end and run a small running stitch around the edge of the fabric circle. Place the rounded top of the button on the fabric circle (wrong side of fabric to the metal), and pull the stitching to gather/close in the fabric around the button top. If you have a design you want centered, now is the time to adjust it so it's spot on. Pull the thread tight so the fabric is snug around the cover. Keeping the gathers taught, knot off the thread.

Step 4: Assemble the Buttons

The button kit should come with two additional tools: a flexible plastic or silicone mold, and a hard plastic pusher (kind of looks like a cap). Push the fabric covered button top into the mold. Run a small line of super glue along the edge of the fabric. This will help keep the fabric from pulling out over time/use. Place the button back into the mold with the magnet facing UP. Place the pusher on the center of the button back. Push down until you hear/feel a pop.

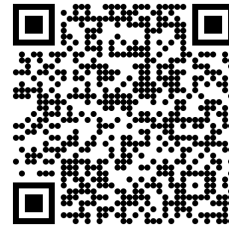
Tip:

To help put even pressure on the pusher, place something sturdy and stiff on top and push down on that. (like a piece of scrap wood, a ceramic plant saucer, etc.) This is also a hand/thumb saver—trying to push it down with just your hands is tough!

Step 5: Let the Glue Set

Let the button sit in a well-ventilated area so the glue can cure and off-gas. Once it's cured it's ready to use! You can use another magnet as-is for the back, or make a hexie needle minder to make a matching back!

Scan here for the tutorial on how to make a hexie needle minder:



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