

CLOTHING

Replacing torn-off buttons

no. 8.529

by K. Williams¹

Quick Facts...

Mend torn-off buttons or holes under buttons on garments by patching the area and replacing the button.

Replace buttons with holes in them or shank-type buttons by stitching them on by hand.

Do you have any clothes with torn-off buttons? Or maybe a hole under a button? If there is a hole, it can be mended.

Mending a Hole Under a Button

- Cut off any loose threads around the hole.
- Cut a piece of material a little bigger than the hole to use as a patch. Use the same color if you can. (Figure 1A.)
- Put the patch between the facing and the outer material.
- Sew the edge of the hole to the patch. (Figure 1B.)

Sewing on a Button with Holes

- Knot a double thread. Make a small stitch through the material where the button goes. (Figure 1C.)
- Bring the needle up through one hole of the button and down the other. Put a prop, such as a bobby pin, match stick or round toothpick, between the threads and the button. This keeps you from sewing on the button too tight. (Figure 1D.)
- Make six or eight more stitches through the button and material. If the button has four holes, take the same number of stitches through the other two holes. (Figure 1E.)
- Bring the needle up through the material, but not through the button. Take out the prop. (Figure 1F.)
- Wind the thread four or five times around the threads holding the button. Pull it tight. (Figure 2A.)
- Push the needle to the wrong side of the material. Take two or three small stitches under the button. With each stitch pull the needle through the thread loop.
- Pull the thread tight to make a knot with each stitch. (Figure 2B.)
- Cut off the extra thread.

Sewing on a Shank Button

If it is a shank button, there will be a loop under the button instead of holes.

- Knot a double thread, make a small stitch through the material where the button goes. (Figure 2C.)
- Bring the needle through the button shank and down through the material. (Figure 2D.)
- Make six or eight stitches through the button shank and the material. (Figure 2E.)

- Push the needle to the wrong side of the material. Take two or three small stitches under the button. With each stitch pull the needle through the thread loop. Pull the thread tight to make a knot with each stitch. (Figure 2F.)
- Cut off the extra thread.

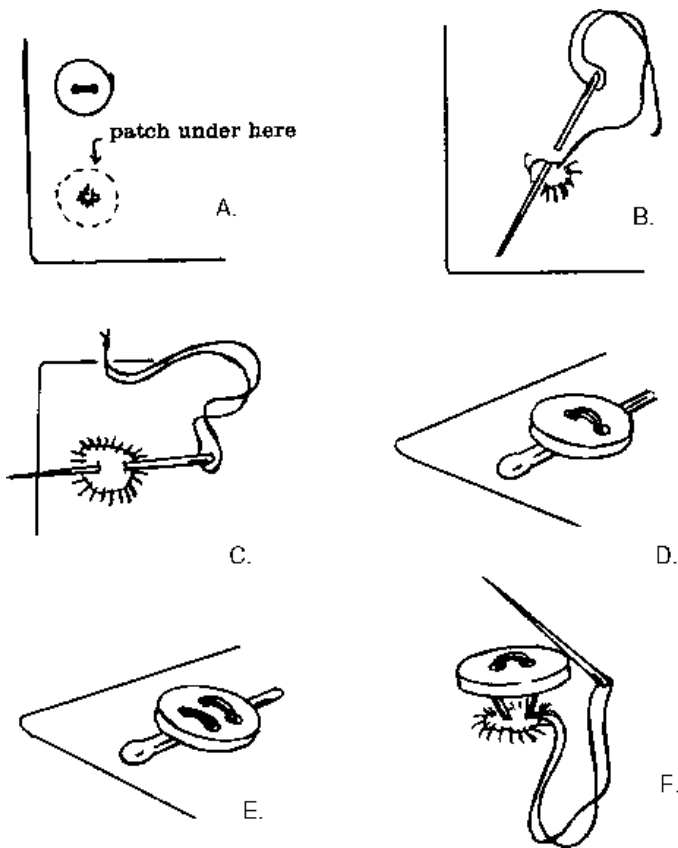


Figure 1:

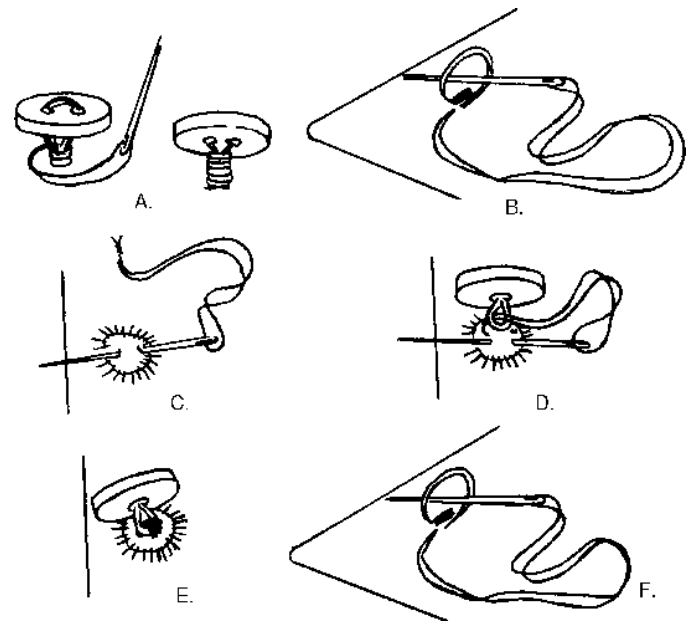


Figure 2:

¹Reviewed by K. Williams, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension apparel and textiles specialist, design merchandising and consumer sciences. Information from University of Minnesota Bulletin HS-53, How to Replace Torn Off Buttons. Adapted with permission.