



Brought to you by Joanne Banko

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Tip sheet for Creating Covered Buttons for a Custom Touch

When it comes to sewing, it's the little details that make the difference. Small touches such as color matched fabric covered buttons can coordinate with your embroidery and make for an outstanding and original garment design. Dritz® has an informative Free PDF tutorial for using their brand of covered button kits. [CLICK HERE](#) to download a copy.

Take a look at the buttons on the Western Jacket featured on [Episode 1008](#) of It's Sew Easy TV. I simply sewed a combination of straight and decorative stitches in the center of my button cover circle. I used the same candlewicking style stitch as the one used for topstitching on the jacket collar and cuffs. Instructions for creating this stitch with the Brother My Custom Stitch feature can be found on the Brother website in the [Free Designs for My Custom Stitch](#) tab.

You can re-create this idea by tracing the cutting outline from your button kit onto fabric and stitching within the drawn circle. Additional tips for quality custom cover buttons include the following:

- Apply a layer of lightweight interfacing to the wrong side of the fabric for each covered button circle.
- Dampen the entire circle prior to inserting into button cover mold. This helps to mold the fabric around the button as it dries.
- Reserve one extra kit and cover for a test. Sometimes lightweight fabrics need to be cut a little larger and thicker fabrics need to be cut a little smaller.
- If your fabric is slippery or difficult to handle, apply some liquid (washout) fabric glue to the button cover and let dry before inserting into button mold. Note: In this case you will need to forgo dampening the circle.



Buttoned Suede Shawl



The Buttoned Suede Shawl from my book titled *Wrapped in Embroidery* also features custom covered buttons.

In fact, the multi format embroidery design collection includes the entire stitch file for the 1½-inch covered buttons. If you have embroidery capability with a larger hoop it's smart to stitch several in one hooping. When finished you can cut out the circles just beyond the stitching line and finish by covering the buttons. See the steps for covering the buttons below:

Apply interfacing and stabilizer as necessary and embroider button designs.



When finished, remove excess stabilizer and cut out button cover just outside the circular stitching line. Lightly press each piece.



Cover each button following the instructions in the button kit. Use a washable glue stick to help temporarily keep the fabric circle in place. Working from the wrong side, place a dab of glue in the center of the embroidered circle before placing it on the cover. Reposition if necessary before snapping the back in place. The entire button can be washed if any glue residue shows through.

