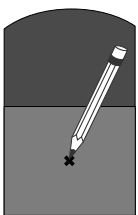

Technique: Button Holes by Hand

Hand sewn button holes have a charm that is missing from machine sewn button holes, and whilst the stitches should be even all the way around, I think the odd uneven stitch adds to this charm. There are plenty of online tutorials for sewing your own button holes, and many different techniques. This technique works for us and don't worry, we've kept it as simple as possible.

Notes:

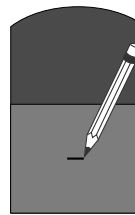
This technique is similar to Blanket Stitch but features a small knot on the top edge which makes the stitch stronger and helps prevent it from unraveling should the threads break. It is always a good idea to practice your button hole using scrap material. This will also allow you to check that your hole fits the button you've chosen.

1



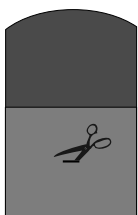
Mark the place you wish to make your button hole. This is known as the 'centre point'.

2



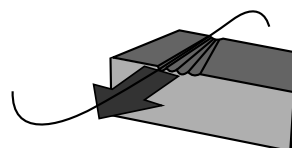
Draw a line long enough for your button to fit through (usually, the width of a button plus 3-4 mm - increase this slightly for chunky buttons).

3



Check that the line you have drawn is both straight and central. Cut along this line using a pair of small scissors.

4



Cut a length of thread and run it over a section of beeswax, or an old candle, to coat it in wax.

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Technique: Button Holes by Hand

5



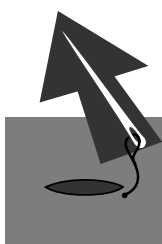
Using a hot dry iron, quickly press the thread to ensure that the thread is thoroughly coated.

6



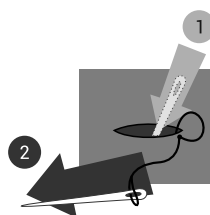
Thread your needle and tie the two ends of the thread together. This is called 'Double Threading' and further strengthens the stitch. Move your needle into the middle.

7



Push your needle through the back of your fabric and out of the front, at the edge of your button hole.

8



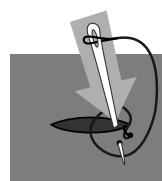
Create a loop in your thread by feeding your needle back through the button hole itself and then pushing back up through the fabric in the same place as in step 7.

9



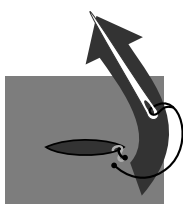
Feed your needle through the loop you just created, then pull the thread to close the loop and secure the top edge of the button hole.

10



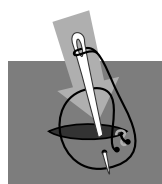
Create a loop with your thread on the top of the fabric and then feed your needle down through the button hole and back up through the next stitch.

11



Pull the thread through the new hole and create the loop you need for the next hole.

12



Again, ensuring the needle is above the loop you just create push through the edge of the button hole to create the next stitch.

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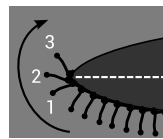
Technique: Button Holes by Hand

13



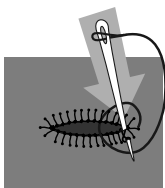
Repeat steps 10-12 all the way around your button hole. Keep your stitches close together and of an even length. The knots should all be on the top edge of the hole.

14



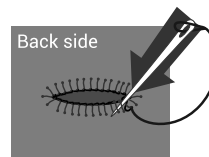
When you get to the end of the the button hole, use three stitches to turn the corner. The middle stitch should be in line with the button hole.

15



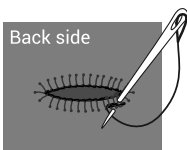
When you get back to your start point, thread your needle through the top of the first stitch to join your button hole.

16



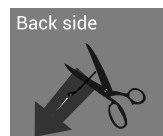
On the back of the piece, thread your needle through two of the button down threads. Do this twice to secure your thread.

17



Carefully, push your needle between the two layers of fabric and then back out the same side.

18



Pull your needle to make the thread taught and cut the thread close to where it emerges from the fabric. Pull the fabric taught to pull the thread back between the layers.