



BUTTONS ON A BLACK JACKET

WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR THIS VERSION

Twenty 1" white buttons (large)
Ten 5/8" white buttons (medium)
438 1/2" white buttons (small)
Needle
White thread

JACKET CONSIDERATIONS

The care and weight of the buttons you select will influence the fabric and construction of the jacket. If your buttons are light weight, then medium weight fabric can be used. Heavier weight buttons will need a heavier fabric to hold them firmly without pulling on the jacket construction.

BUTTON CONSIDERATIONS

If the jacket requires dry cleaning, select a button type that can withstand the chemicals used in dry cleaning. If the jacket is washable, then choose buttons that can be washed without damaging their finish. And, as stated in considering the jacket fabric and construction, choose a button weight that the jacket can support.

If you choose to use pearly buttons on a washable jacket, turn the jacket inside out in the laundry. Wash in cold or cool water with very, very mild soap. Dry on a cool fluff setting or hang the jacket to dry. The beauty of pearl buttons requires their natural oils. Laundering removes those oils, so launder your pearl creation sparingly.

If you choose to use any glass buttons, a word of caution. Glass buttons chip and break easily if subjected to sharp raps on hard surfaces. It is suggested that they not be sewn onto cuffs.

THIS JACKET

This jacket is obviously inspired by the beautiful pearly clothing of the 19th century. This jacket is a medium weight, washable rayon. The buttons used for ornament are washable polyester.

SEWING THE BUTTONS ONTO THE JACKET

For the best finish, you will want to sew onto the jacket surface without catching the jacket lining. Start each thread from the jacket front, under where you will sew on a button. Use your needle to catch a small bit of fabric and bring the needle back out on top of the fabric. Repeat 2-3 times in the same place to attach your thread firmly as you start.

As you sew a button on, hold the lining away from the jacket front. To help me with this, I put a pillow on my lap and pin the lining to the pillow. This creates an air space between the jacket front and lining, allowing me to sew much faster.

As you come to the end of a thread, tie down the end by grabbing a bit of fabric with your needle, under the top of the last button you are sewing on. Pull the thread snug and repeat this again 3-4 times in the same spot under the button, so that your knot is hidden. Snip off your thread, rethread your needle, and begin your next sequence with the same process to start your next thread.





1. THE POCKETS – One large button and 47 small buttons

Skip this step if your jacket doesn't have pockets or you don't want to embellish them. Sew a large button in the center of the pocket and surround it with nine small buttons. Frame the pocket with the remaining 38 buttons.



2. FRONT CLOSURE – 5 large, 5 medium & 22 small buttons

Replace the jacket front buttons with large white buttons. On the button-hole side, sew a medium size button between each buttonhole, with two small buttons on each side, for a total of five buttons between the holes. At the bottom, add two small buttons so that



3. CUFF—One large button and 38 small buttons

Sew small buttons around the cuff edge and continuing with four up the flap of the cuff. Sew one large button far enough away from the flap and edge buttons to allow for a row of nine small buttons around the large button.

4. SHOULDER – 38 small buttons

Measure three inches towards the front from the underarm side seam. Starting at this point, sew a row of buttons around the sleeve/shoulder seam, stopping three inches in the back from the underarm side seam. This will leave six inches with no buttons under your arm.

5. HEM – 92 small buttons

Sew a row of buttons around the jacket just above the hem line.

6. NECK – 42 small buttons

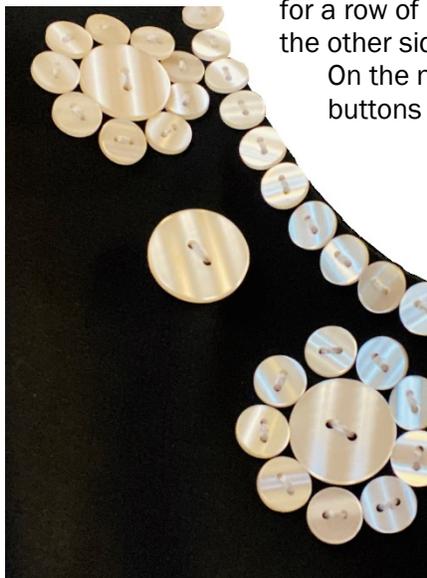
Starting an inch and a half from the front edge, sew a row of small buttons along the edge of the neckline, stopping an inch and a half from the opposite front edge.



7. NECK DECORATION – 10 large, 5 medium and 36 small buttons

Space three large buttons on each side of the neck, away from the neck edge buttons to allow for a row of nine small buttons around the first and third button. Repeat on the other side.

On the neck back edge space five medium buttons and four large buttons with about a half inch of space between the button edges.





This creative project was shared by the National Button Society.

Here is an inspirational button jacket with tails and a top hat. Our thanks to Janelle Giles of California for sharing this fantastic image!



© NBS 2020 Creative C-003
Author: Joy Journeyay
Revised: November 4, 2020