

Covetous Covered Buttons Guide by Rachael Howard

You will need:

- 1 x 38mm self cover button (white plastic) plus 38mm template (there is usually a diagram to cut out on the back of the cardboard packaging)
- Small off cut of satin silk or cotton lawn fabric about 4 x 4cm
- 1 x sheet of carbon paper
- 2 x fabric crayons in colours of your choice
- 1 x fabric felt tip in colour of your choice
- Spray adhesive can
- 5 x sheets of A4 paper
- Scissors for cutting fabric and paper
- Pencil
- Needle and thread (your own colour choice of thread)
- Iron

Instructions:

1. Using your cardboard template, cut a circle of fabric, a circle of paper and a circle of carbon paper to the size of the template (8.5 cm wide) = 3 circles.
2. Make a sandwich of the circles - on a table place the fabric right side up, then the carbon paper ink side down and then the paper on top.

3. Using your pencil draw on to the paper making an abstract series of lines in the centre of the paper. Press firmly with the pencil to ensure a bold print. On completion of your drawing remove the top two layers to reveal the carbon print on the fabric layer beneath.
4. Next using the fabric felt tip, make a few drawn lines across the middle of the fabric, either following the carbon print lines or taking the lines in a new direction.
5. Next with a new sheet of paper, fold it in half lengthwise and in the middle cut three small 'V' shapes into the fold of the paper, cut three in a row with a 1mm gap between them. Then remove the offcuts and open the paper out to reveal a row of diamond shaped holes in the paper.
6. Place the paper with the diamond shape holes on to the middle of the fabric, then with your fabric crayon draw across the holes - the cut out shape is a stencil to fill with crayon. Use the crayon intensely so that the strong colour appears. The crayon is similar to an oil pastel and is quite soft. Then remove the paper stencil and reveal the fabric crayon pattern.
7. Your drawings now need to be fixed with the heat of the iron to make them colourfast on the fabric. To do this sandwich the fabric between sheets of paper, then iron on a medium heat for a minute or two. The wax from the crayon will melt into the paper. The dyes are now set.
8. At this stage after ironing you may like to add some simple hand stitching too - just a small amount of running stitch or stab stitch in a contrasting colour adds texture. Use regular cotton thread.
9. Now place the decorated fabric circle face down on a sheet of paper and holding the spray adhesive can about half a metre away evenly spray the fabric circle. Please use the spray adhesive in a well ventilated area and keep the spray within the confines of the sheet of paper that the button sits on.
10. Take the domed part of the self cover button, hold the stalk with thumb and forefinger and direct the button towards the middle of the fabric circle and press it lightly.
11. Pick up the button and the fabric circle will now be stuck to it.

12. Hold the button stalk and with thumb and forefinger in one hand and with the palm of your other hand gradually press and smooth the fabric around the button. Turn it around gradually, take it slowly and carefully. Press and smooth the fabric over and under the edges of the button. Eventually tuck the excess fabric into the middle of the underside of the button. Press into position, the adhesive will keep the fabric in place.
13. Then take the disc part of the self cover button, place the rough side of the disc on to the stalk and push into the button. Click the disc into position pressing firmly with your thumbs.
14. The button is complete.