

BUTTONS GALORE

FROM LAZY GIRL DESIGNS AND JHB INTERNATIONAL

LAZY SECRET #2

I often find new and fun buttons that I want to showcase on a bag project. However, I find that I like buttons as decorations rather than as functional closures because functional usually means I have to make a buttonhole.

In this sampler, we are going to explore a few different ways to make buttons part of the design. All of the buttons shown are from JHB International.

First, decide on your project and gather all the buttons you think you might need. Some of us have a button stash to go along with our fabric stash. I know I do. I buy buttons here and there when I see them and put them with my collection waiting to find a home. To select buttons, audition them with your fabric. If you know the finished size of the project area, just fold your fabric to about that size. Add anything else like handles or tassels where they will ultimately go. Then start playing with your buttons. Lay them out across your fabric, step back and see how things look. I take pictures with my digital camera to help me see the finished layout better. Doing so takes my focus away from any one element and makes me see the project as a whole.

FOR USE ON THE CHLOE HANDBAG #120

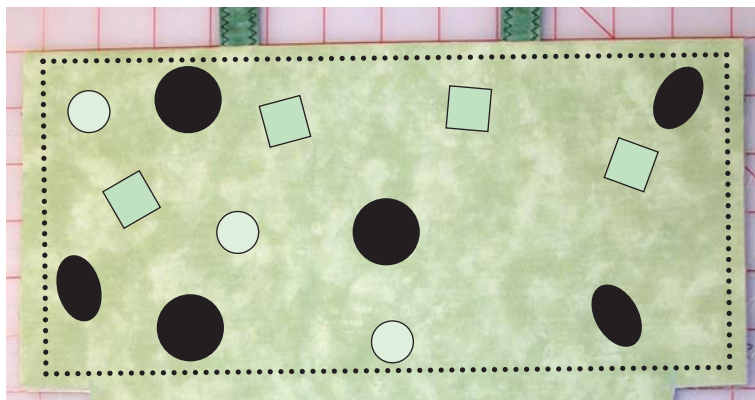
STACKING BUTTONS

Use two sets of buttons that look good stacked on top of each other. Use buttons that are least 1/4" different in size. Make sure their hole placement will work well together too. Sew the large button in place first. Then go back and sew the little button on top. Finish by adding liquid Fray Check or nail polish to the threads to secure.

ALL-OVER BUTTON DESIGN

We've used four different button designs in an all-over pattern for the front of Chloe. Try to create balance and a relationship among the buttons. Each of the different button styles has a geometric pattern. The small green squares create an arc. The large round black buttons create a tight triangle. The oblong black buttons create a big triangle. The small round green buttons create a straight line. I left room for the tassel and designed around it. We used green thread to attach the black buttons and used black thread to attach the green buttons.

You don't have to be as scientific, or mathematic, as we were with your button arrangement. Generally speaking, if it looks good, go with it. You don't have to understand or explain it.



CHLOE HANDBAG #120



STACKING BUTTONS



ALL-OVER BUTTON DESIGN

TIPS

Spray the back of buttons with adhesive spray, such as 505 from JT Trading, to help hold the buttons in place while attaching.

Use ribbon, embroidery floss, or yarn fibers pulled through the holes. Tie fibers around the stitching threads behind the button and let ends hang below buttons.

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LAZY GIRL DESIGNS

WWW.LAZYGIRLDESIGNS.COM

614-794-9939

437 Maplebrooke Drive East
Westerville, OH 43082

JHB INTERNATIONAL, INC.

1955 South Quince Street
Denver, Colorado 80231
phone: 303-751-8100
fax: 303-752-0608
e-mail: sales@buttons.com