

dorset buttons



Cartwheel Design

Instructions
by
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The most popular Dorset Button made today is called the Dorset 'Cartwheel' Button

All other designs of Dorset Thread Buttons using a ring and thread are based on this technique.

There are four stages to making a Dorset 'Cartwheel' Button

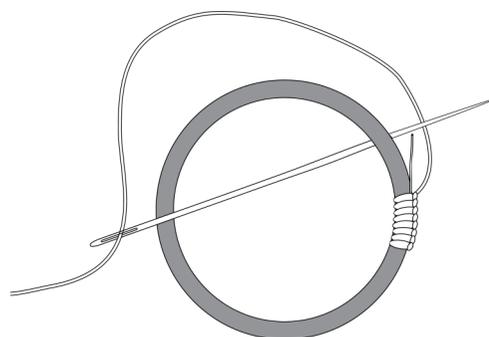
1. Casting
2. Slicking
3. Laying
4. Rounding

The length of the thread will depend on the thickness and the size of the ring, which you will be able to judge with practice. If you do not have enough thread, join after the casting stage. I tend to work with a thread long enough to complete the slicking and laying stages as you can join threads with a reef knot and work neatly into the button at the rounding stage.

Happy button making

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Casting - Stage 1



This stage covers the outside of the ring and is worked using a blanket stitch.

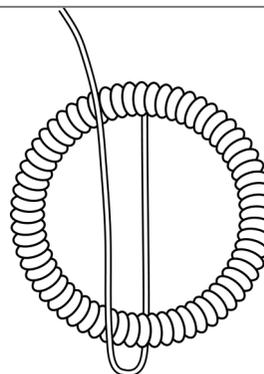
Start with a 19mm ring and around 3 metres of thread and blunt needle. Secure the thread around the ring with a single knot. Hold the short end securely and work a blanket stitch over it. Continue with the blanket stitch until the ring is covered completely. Make certain the stitches are kept very closely together. Finish by pulling the thread through the first stitch if you can but do not force it.

Slicking - Stage 2

This stage is when you create neat a ridge on the outside and inside of the button.

This ridge has to be worked to the middle of the back of the ring forming a nice neat finish and it cannot be seen from the front.

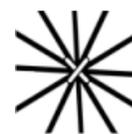
Laying - Stage 3



It is at this stage that the spokes are made.

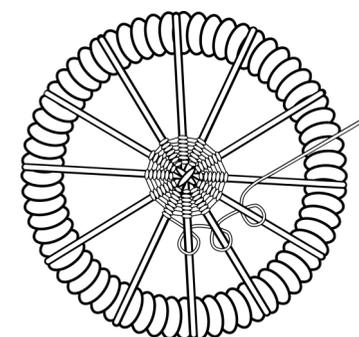
Hold the ring with the front of the button facing you and the thread at the top. Wind the thread down the back of the button and up round the front so the thread divides the ring in half. By turning the ring slightly, wind the thread around the button, making certain it crosses the first thread at the centre point of the front of ring. Continue to do this about five to six times until you have made between ten to twelve spokes. Once you have gained experience more spokes can be added.

How to secure the spokes:



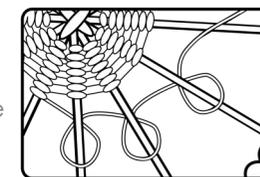
With the thread at the back of the ring, bring it forward so it catches the last rounded spoke and hence secures it in place. Make a cross-stitch so all the spokes are held securely in the centre of the button. Do not worry if this is not exact as the first round of rounding will help to centre it.

Rounding - Stage 4



This is as it sounds, as the thread is wound around each spoke using a back stitch.

With the thread at the back of the ring, bring it forward between two of the spokes. Take the thread to the back of the ring around the first spoke and bring it up between the next two spokes. Make certain that the thread is kept on the outside towards the ring. Do this over each spoke until the ring is filled.



Casting off

After completing the rounding stage cast off by running the thread to the centre of the back of the button so it does not show in the front. Cast-off with a couple of over stitches and cut thread.

Alternatively, leave enough thread to sew on at a later stage or to make a shank. I tend not to use shanks.