



From our *hot buttons* feature in the June/July 2011 issue of *Quilter's Home* magazine.

button joy



These easy, exclusive *Quilter's Home* projects give you a great showcase for your button trophies. They're perfect for a weekend crafter and easy enough for kids. Laura West Kong shows you how to use scraps and stitches to create cool custom button hair jewelry. Virginia Robertson shows you how to create one-of-a-kind pins to flaunt your button style and a decorative container that uses scraps and a recycled jar. Sooo eco!



stacked button projects

designed by virginia robertson
www.virginiarobertsondesigns.com



skill level: **easy**

supplies

for both projects:

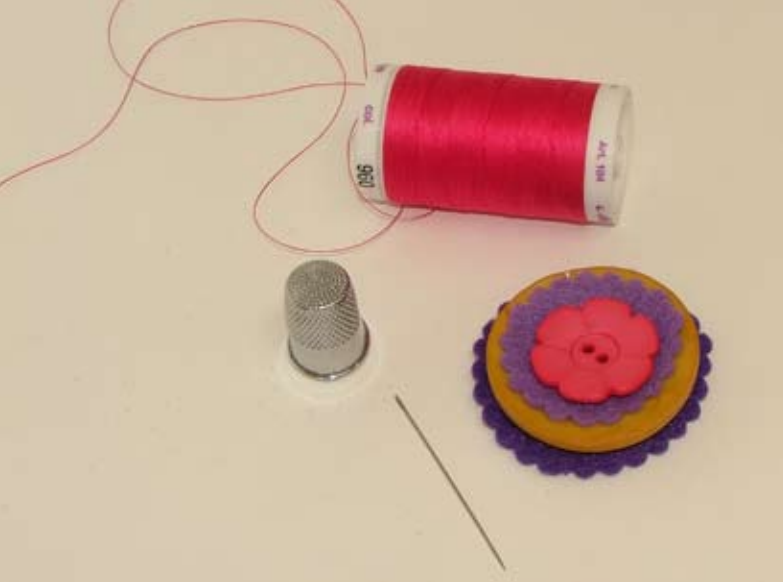
sew-through and shank-style buttons in a variety of sizes and colors
scraps of felt or felted wool
scissors or rotary cutters with decorative scallop, wavy or pinked edges (optional)

for pin:

pin back (shorter than the width of the bottom button on the stack)

for button jar:

glass jar with lid
2 Princess Mirah BatiKit stick-on fabric sheets (available at www.joggles.com)
2 scraps of fabric that coordinate with the BatiKit fabric sheets
batting scrap
fiberfill stuffing
hot glue gun or thick, tacky glue that dries clear



making stacked buttons

1. Select 1 large sew-through button, 1 medium sew-through button, 1 small sew-through or shank-style button and 2 pieces of felt. **2.** Trace the large button on a piece of felt, and cut along the traced line to make a circle (**photo A**).

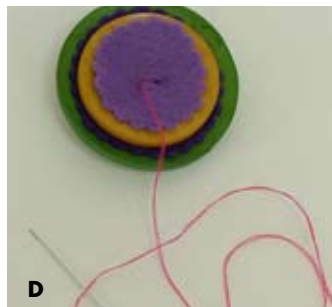


3. Cut a decorative edge close to the cut edge of the circle (optional). Thread a needle with a double strand of heavy-weight thread, and tie the ends together in a knot. Stack the felt on the top of the button, and sew the layers together (**photo B**). Knot the thread and trim the tails.



4. Trace around the medium button on the second piece of felt, and cut along the line. Stack and sew the medium button (**photo C**) and then

the second circle of felt in place (**photo D**). Stack and sew the small button on top of the second circle of felt.



making stacked-button pins

1. Follow the directions above to make a stacked button. **2.** Cut a small piece of felt and sew it in place on the wrong side of the large button on the bottom of the stack. Sew the pin back to the piece of felt (**photo E**).



making button jars

1. Measure the circumference of the lid and add 1/2" to that measurement. Measure the width of the edge of the lid and add 1/2" to that measurement. Cut out a rectangle from 1 of the BatiKit stick-on fabric sheets to those measurements. Remove the paper to expose the adhesive. Matching the bottom edges of the rectangle and lid, adhere the fabric to the edge of the lid, overlapping ends (**photo F**).



2. Clip into the top edge of the BatiKit fabric. Fold over the clipped edges and adhere in place (**photo G**).



3. Trace the lid onto the second sheet of BatiKit. Cut out the circle about 1/8" inside the traced line. Remove the paper from the circle. Center the circle on top of the lid and adhere in place (**photo H**).



4. Trace the top of the lid onto the wrong side of 1 fabric square (**photo I**).



5. Cut out 2 squares of fabric and 2 squares of batting, each about 1" larger than the width of the lid.

6. Layer the 2 batting squares; 1 fabric square right side up; and the other fabric square, with the traced circle, wrong side up (**photo J**).



7. Stitch along the tracing line through all layers (**photo K**).




8. Trim away excess fabric and batting close to the line of stitches. Cut a small "X" in the center of the top layer of fabric (**photo L**).



Turn the circle right side out through the “X.” Smooth the inside sewn edges. Fill the circle with fiberfill, stuffing the edges first. (Virginia uses a hemostat to turn and stuff the circle and the rounded edge of a collar point turner to smooth the edges.) Work the pincushion between your palms to flatten the fiberfill into a shape that you like. Hand stitch the “X” closed.

9. Glue the stuffed circle to the top of the lid.

10. Embellish the top of the stuffed circle. Options include stacked buttons as described on page 3, felt flowers and leaves and buttons, and stacked buttons with felt cut into noncircular shapes (photo M). 





sashiko button hair jewelry

designed by [laura west kong](http://www.laurawestkong.com)
www.laurawestkong.com

skill level: **easy**

supplies

- 1 (2¼") square of loosely woven fabric
- 1 (2½" × 2½") rectangle lightweight fusible woven interfacing
- 1 (2") square of lightweight cardboard
- 1 (7/8") cover button with pusher tool
- basting thread
- sashiko thread and sashiko needle or size 5 perle cotton and crewel or embroidery needle
- double-stick tape
- small pliers
- 1 (3"-long) piece of 22- or 24-gauge wire
- 1 hair elastic

stitching the sashiko design

1. Make a copy of the pattern for the covered button, and cut along both the inner and outer circles, creating a "donut." To make a template, trace both circles and transfer the "spokes" and the letters A–H onto the 2" square of lightweight cardboard.

2. With right sides facing up, layer the (2½") square of fabric and the cardboard template. Baste the layers together by hand (**basting diagram**). Cut the fabric

into a circle even with the outer edge of the template.

3. Thread a needle with 12" of sashiko thread or perle cotton, and knot 1 end. From the wrong side to the right side of the fabric, bring the needle up to the right side 1–2 threads away from the inner circle at the A spoke. Sew 8–12 evenly spaced running stitches around the circle, with the gaps between stitches equal to or slightly shorter than the stitches showing on the front (**embroidered circle diagram**). End the last stitch on the wrong side of the fabric.

4. Bring the needle up to the right side next to the A spoke, about a half-stitch length inside the embroidered circle. Sew 2 stitches in a straight line from A to B, ending about a half-stitch length from the stitched circle with the needle on the wrong side. Continue in to this manner to sew 2 stitches from C to D, E to F and G to H (**embroidered spoke diagram**). Knot the thread on the wrong side, and trim excess thread.

5. Remove the basting stitches and the template.

covering the button

1. Trace the outer circle of the template onto the paper side of the fusible interfacing. Cut along the line. Following the manufacturer's directions, fuse

the interfacing to the wrong side of the embroidered fabric.

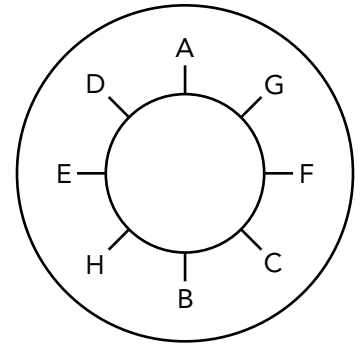
2. To keep the embroidery design centered when the back is snapped on the button cover, place double-stick tape on the top of the cover button. Center the wrong side of the embroidered circle on the button cover and press in place. Fold under excess fabric, and adjust as needed to center the design.

3. Place the cover button, with the fabric stuck on it, into the plastic tool. Tuck in excess fabric, and set aside.

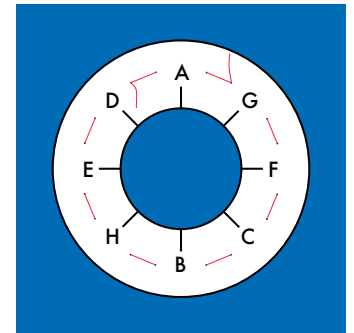
finishing

1. Use pliers to squeeze and pull the wire shank away from the button back-plate. Cut the wire in half to make 2 pieces each 1½" long. Bend 1 of the 1½"-long pieces in half. On the side where the button shank had been, place the hair elastic between the holes in the back-plate. Insert a wire end into each hole on the back-plate. To hold the elastic in place, pull the wire ends through on the wrong side of the back-plate. Twist the ends of the wire, and bend the twisted ends snugly against the back-plate.

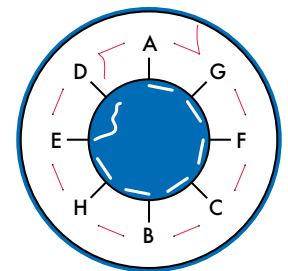
2. Snap the back-plate onto the cover button using the pusher tool. For thin hair elastic, bunch it up inside the pusher tool. For thick hair elastic, press in sections, moving the elastic out of the way of the pusher tool.



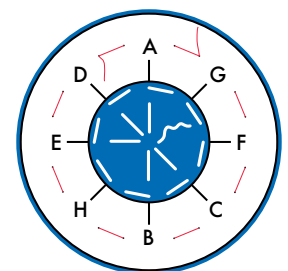
7/8" sashiko donut template



batting diagram



embroidered circle diagram



embroidered spoke diagram