FIMS Graduate Library

Button Making Guide
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Button Making Steps

1. Find or create a design and print it off. You can use this [handy template](#) to design your own buttons. For the FIMS Graduate Library button maker:
   a. The size of the artwork needs to be 1 ¼th of an inch
   b. The size of the outside cutting line should be 1 5/8th inch circles

2. Tape your designs to a cutting mat and use the circle-cutting tool. When cutting out the design, it helps to cut just a bit smaller than 1 5/8th of an inch so that it fits in the button making machine- Cutting 1 9/16th inch circles works perfectly. You can also cut the designs out by hand with scissors, but this will be much more time consuming than using a circle-cutting tool.
   a. When using the circle-cutting tool you do not need to press hard to cut through the paper.

3. Place the button maker in front of you, with the red handle the furthest from you and the base plate with screw hole towards you. Swivel the die table so that the dies are on either side of the handle. The orientation of the button's graphics and pin when finished will match as it appears in this position.

4. Put the elements of your button in the machine:
   a. Place one shell on the pickup die (left hand side of die table), on top of that add the circle graphic, and then the plastic cover. These are the top elements of your button and need to go be placed in this order.
      i. Avoid adding doubles of these elements into the machine.
   b. Place one button back into the crimp die (right hand side of the die table). Put the zigzag side facing upwards and the straight pin side downwards.

5. Make your button:
   a. First, swivel the die table so that the pickup die (the side with the graphic) is under the upper die then pull the lever. The upper die will pick up the top part of the button.
   b. Next, turn the die table all the way to the other side so that the crimp die (right side of the die plate) is now underneath the upper die, and pull the lever again.

6. Wear your button!
Caution

- Do not place your fingers near the bottom of the die plate when you are pulling the lever
- Grease is used under the die plate to help it swivel. Be careful not to get yourself or the button supplies dirty

Button Options

You can buy many different types of backs for 1 ¼ Buttons:

- Magnet backs (unpinned backs with magnets that you stick on after making button)
- Flat backs (for game pieces and crafting)
- Centre hole backs (for rosette making and crafting)
- Versa backs (for zipper pulls, pendants, key chains, earring and crafts
- Spring pin backs
- Welded up eyes (to add a hook or loop to any button)
- Bulldog clip (peel and stick to back of finished button)