



This creative project was shared by the National Button Society.

BUTTONS DEFINE A DENIM DRESS

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- A comfortable denim dress & fabric scraps
- A collection of buttons, beads and trim pieces (for this dress about three cups of medium & small buttons plus beads were used)
- Sewing thread, Needle and Straight pins

BUTTON CONSIDERATIONS

Denim is a favorite choice for button clothing, as it can be dressed up or down. It is also washable, so choose buttons that can be washed without damaging their finish. Since this denim dress is medium weight, it won't support a lot of heavy buttons, so buttons were placed strategically on the dress. The buttons chosen here were plastics for their weight.

If you choose to use glass buttons, a word of caution. They will chip and break easily if subjected to sharp raps on hard surfaces. It is suggested that they not be sewn onto cuffs.

PERSONALIZING YOUR DRESS

You can use a dignified monochromatic combination or bright colors and sizes that create a different feel to your jacket. Bright colors make the dress playful.

Once you've chosen some fabric scraps and coordinating buttons, cut two yoke shapes that are $\frac{1}{2}$ -1" larger all the way around than the dress's yoke. You can make matching yokes or use fabrics that are completely different.

Fold under your edges and pin the fabric onto the yoke. Slip stitch the edges down. This dress yoke is then finished with buttons and an "epaulette" of a contrasting color. If you want to add this strip, cut a 3" wide strip of fabric at least 1" longer than the shoulder seam. Pin the strip down and slip stitch the edges to the dress and yoke.

Do the same for the dress pockets and cuffs.



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Because my sleeves had shrunk and were too short, I added a bit of fabric edging to lengthen the total sleeve.

1. To add points that are three inches long, cut 8" squares. For shorter edging, cut smaller squares.
2. Cut in half diagonally from corner to corner.
3. Fold each point back to the center corner.
4. Fold the small square you created in half on the diagonal. You can attach your points to the cuff like this, or slip stitch the edge.
5. In this example two colors were alternated for the cuff point edging.
6. Pin the points onto the TOP edge of the cuff and tack them into place.
7. Cut a fabric scrape at least 1" bigger than the cuff on each side, fold under the edges 1/2" and pin onto the cuff. Sew the fabric scrap down with a slip stitch, covering the cut side of the pointed edge.



COLLAR AND FRONT PLACKET

Cover the collar and front placket(s). Cut the regular buttons off the dress before doing so. This dress will close in the future with velcro, ironed on the wrong side of the placket.

CARE FOR YOUR CREATION

Turn the dress inside out in the laundry. Wash in cold or cool water with mild soap. Dry on a cool fluff setting or hang the dress to dry.

If you use pearl buttons. Their beauty is protected by their natural oils. Washing removes those oils, so launder your pearl creation sparingly.