

FIMS-GRC Button Making Guide

(Questions? Call 519-661-2111x88488 | email: fimsgrc@uwo.ca)

Button Making takes 5 easy steps:

1. Create a design and print it off. You can use this [handy template](#) or design it yourself. The size of the GRC's buttons are as follows:
 - The size of the artwork needs to be 1 ¼th of an inch
 - The size of the outside cutting line should be 1 5/8th inch circles.



Photo from [How to Make a Button](#)

2. Tape your designs to a cutting matt 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.

Tip: You don't need to press too hard to cut through the paper.

3. Place the button making machine 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:

- Place one shell on the pickup die (left hand side of die table), then on top of it add the circle graphic, and on top of that the plastic cover. These are the top elements of your button and need to go down in this order. Try to avoid adding doubles of these elements into the machine. Sometimes they stick to each other, which makes it difficult to tell whether you have only 1.



- Place one button back into the crimp die (right hand side of the die table). Make sure you put the *zig zag side* facing upwards and the *straight pin side* downwards.



5. Pull the levers:

- 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.
- 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.

Your button is now done!



Be Careful:

- 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.

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)