

How to Apply a Sew-on Snap

There are many types of fasteners. Each has an ideal use. Sew many fasteners – Sew little time! (We couldn't resist...) Here, we explore the sew-on snap.

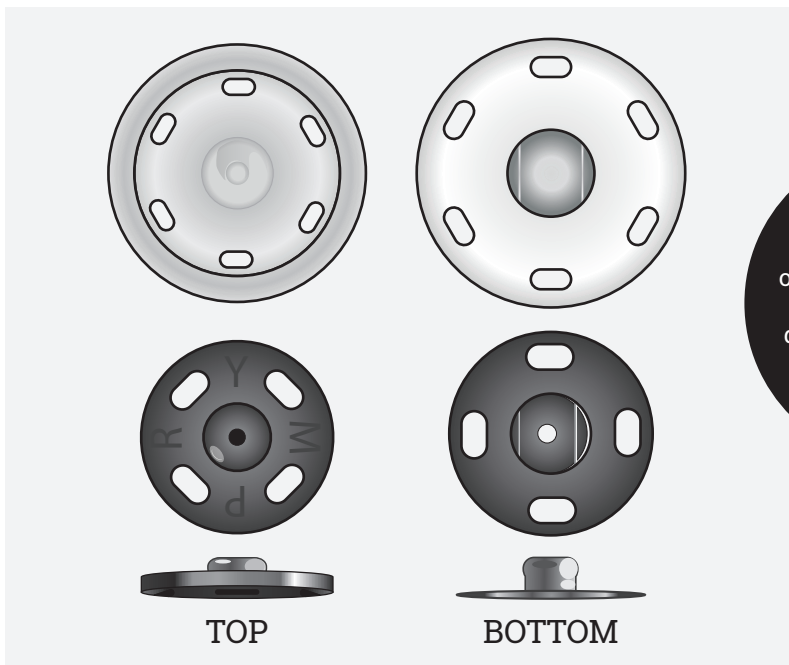
Sew-on snaps are one of the simplest fasteners ever designed. They are two sided with one side attached to each edge of an item requiring fastening. Use them on any overlapping edge—cuffs, tabs and pocket flaps or jacket closures. Snaps are flat and usually meant to be hidden. They can even be fabric-covered for ultimate camouflage. But, it is sometimes fun to let them show—especially the big ones. Using them strictly as decoration is also a great idea!

You will need:

- Your project
- Any size or color of Sew-On Snap
- Hand sewing needle
- Thread to match your project
- Scissors
- Straight pins to mark placement

Optional:

- Tape measure



NOTE: Snaps have different numbers of holes depending on size. We have drawn our steps with only 4 holes for simplicity.

POSITION

Technically either side can be the top or the bottom. They work either way. But, traditionally they are applied as shown above with the thinner side on the bottom.



TECHNIQUE TUTORIAL

Sewing a snap is easy. Just decide how you want it to look. Thread should wrap the outer rim of the snap, not cross the center. The stitches can show on the opposite side of your project, or be hidden within the layers. Your choice!

To align snaps, measure and mark desired position on fabric. Apply one side of snap. Snap on its counterpart. To ensure perfect alignment, insert a straight pin from opposite side through center holes, extending pin through both sides of snap. Separate the snap, keeping the unstitched section hooked onto straight pin. Stitch in place. Perfect alignment.

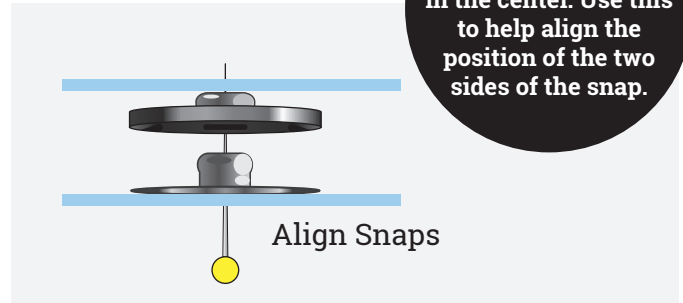
Craft Method:

With this method, stitching shows on both sides of your project. That's okay – it's crafty!

1. Where possible, insert needle straight down through snap and layers of fabric.
2. Then pass needle back up against outside of snap, so thread wraps the edge.

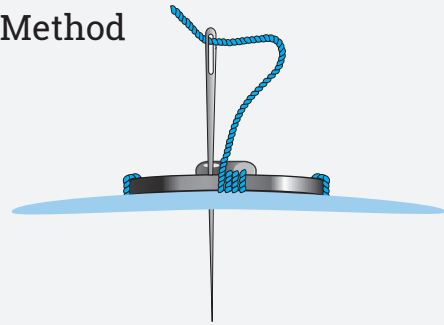
We are showing the stitching with one thread for clarity. But, we advise using a double thread for strength when sewing on snaps.

ALIGNMENT:
Most Sew-On Snaps have a small hole in the center. Use this to help align the position of the two sides of the snap.

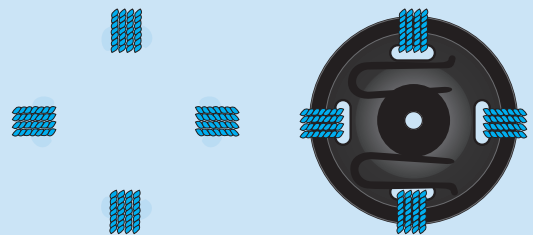
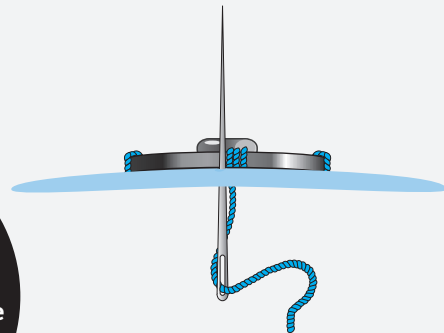


Craft Method

1.



2.



Visible stitching on outside of finished snap

Stitching on snap side (inside) of finished snap



TECHNIQUE TUTORIAL

Couture Method:

Use this when the snap needs to stay hidden. Stitching doesn't show on outside of garment.

Manipulate fabric so needle can pass through only the layer closest to snap – not the layers underneath. Thread should not show on opposite side of project. Finished snap is the same on the inside, but on the outside, nothing is visible. It's a secret snap!

Covered Snaps:

A covered snap can be attached with either the craft or couture method. Any size snap can be covered, however the tiniest snaps can be a bit slippery to handle.

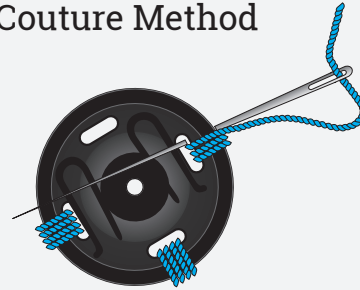
1. Cut a circle of fabric about 1/2" larger than snap. Fabric should be silky lining weight or other very thin fabric.

2. Using a needle threaded with single thread, take a running stitch around circle of fabric about 1/8" from edge; leave needle threaded.

3. Place snap in the center, right side down. Pull thread until fabric encases edge of snap. Take an extra stitch to hold.

4. Flip fabric-covered snap right side up. Carefully separate fabric weave or snip a very tiny cut in the fabric, so center bump of snap protrudes through fabric. Take another few stitches as needed to tighten fabric around snap and knot the thread. Sew snap to fabric; raw edges should be tucked under snap.

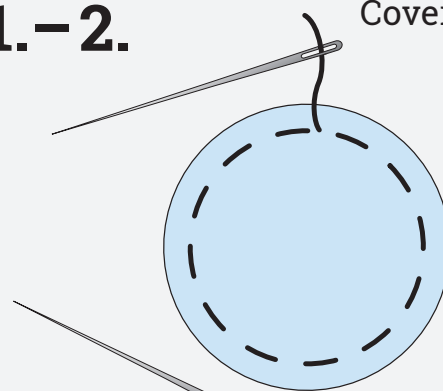
Couture Method



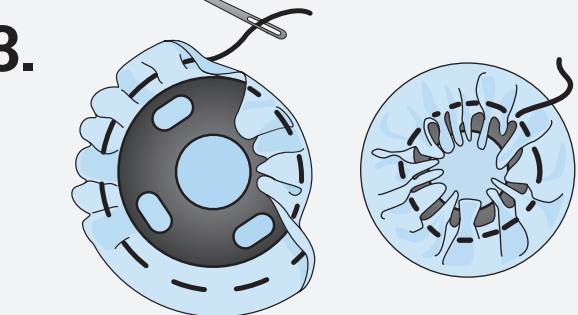
It is easiest to pass needle down on outer edge of snap and up through hole. Repeat several times per hole. Then pass needle through layers the next hole. Repeat.

1.-2.

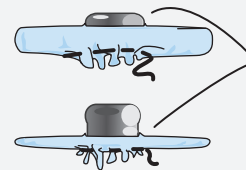
Covered Snaps



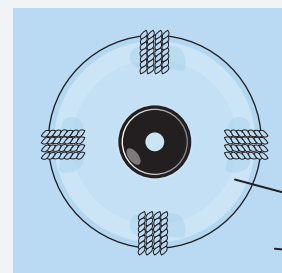
3.



4.



Snip fabric at center of snap so metal bump can protrude. Tighten fabric gathers under snap.



Finished Covered Snap

Snap now matches the fabric. Only the center metal section of the snap is visible.

Snap

Fabric

