Sewing on a button

We might mean to do little tasks like replacing buttons but let them slip off our to-do list. This card shows you how to sew on a button securely, so your repair lasts longer.

What you need:

- Thread
- Button
- Tailor's chalk
- Needle
- Spare needle
- Scissors

**Hint:** A handsewn button is far more secure than a machine-sewn one. Some people use clear nail polish as a sealant to stop the thread unravelling.
1. Thread a needle with 60cm of thread, pulling it halfway through so you have equal lengths on both sides of the needle. Tie the loose ends together.

2. Stitch an ‘X’ into the garment where you want the button to go. This needs to align with the buttonhole on the opposite side. To do this, pass the needle and thread through the reverse side of the garment and make an angled stitch on the front. Repeat at an opposite angle to complete the ‘X’.

3. Place the button on top of the ‘X’. Pass the needle from the reverse side of the garment up through one of the button’s holes.

4. To stop the needle being stitched on too tightly, position a spare needle under your first stitch. You are going to stitch over this.

5. Continue sewing through the button’s holes, passing through opposite holes and each time pulling the thread taut, until you have passed through each set of holes three times.

6. Secure the back of the button to the garment by wrapping it with a portion of the remaining thread. Aim for six tight loops.

7. Pass the needle through to the reverse side of the fabric at the base of the button, pulling it taut, then tie it off with a simple knot.