

# Mary Hickmott Designs



## Yorkshire Buttons

The history of these buttons is unknown, although it has to be assumed that it lies somewhere in Yorkshire. They are easy to make and have many decorative uses, aside from the practical one of fastening clothing. Attach them to hand made cards, use them as purely decoration on a hand knitted item, dot them round a photo frame or use them as buttons to perfectly match an item you have made.

# Mary Hickmott Designs

## You will need...

Your chosen yarn or thread - see note below.  
Fairly thin card - see note below.  
Tapestry needle of a suitable size for your thread.

## Optional items

Kapok or similar for stuffing - tiny amounts.  
Tiddly Winks counters, curtain rings or knitting rings of required size.

## Yarns and threads

These will vary according to the size and finish of the button you wish to make. For tiny ones, a single strand of cotton could be used and at the other end of the scale really thick wool yarns. I suggest you do not start with either of these! For the buttons here I have used Pearl Cottons No 12, No 8, and No 5; Coton a Broder Tkt 16; Caron Impressions; Caron Wildflowers; Soft Embroidery Cotton; Crewel wool and Anchor Tapestry wool. As you can see, a great opportunity arises to employ any number of fancy yarns with wonderful effects and superb touch. Look through your thread collection and keep buttons in mind when out shopping, particularly at a shop or show where there are many fancy yarns and threads.

## Card or alternatives for the templates

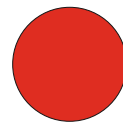
The buttons are formed on a template. The easiest way to transfer the number and shape is to photocopy the size you want and paste it to suitable card. You can then work directly on this. I have used the card that comes around the large bars of chocolate such as the Lindt varieties. This is firm enough (not too bendy) but still flexible. The chocolate is to give power to your needle and to enjoy. Do keep it away from your work! You can use plastic instead, if you can find a suitable one that can be cut and is firm but still flexible. When cutting the card, cut a rough circle around the shape first then cut it more neatly including all the notches. Should you wish, it is possible to use one of the circles given as a template and set it on a pincushion into which you place pins at the positions of the notches. You then work round the pins and remove them when the first stage is complete.

Yorkshire Buttons

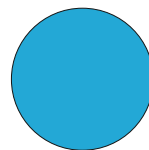
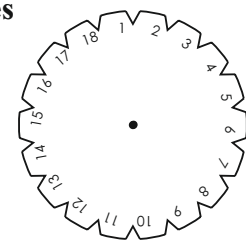
## Choosing the size of button

The finished button will be about half the size of the card template in diameter. The buttons can be stuffed directly without any ring or circle to hold them in shape, so these can be from any template you choose. If you wish to use a Tiddly Wink counter, you will need the template for that size. The finished button will be very slightly larger.

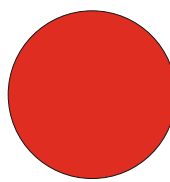
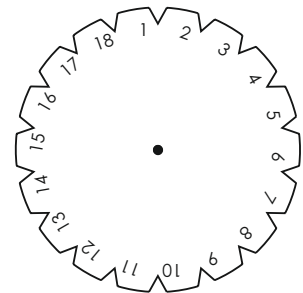
## Tiddly Wink counters and their templates



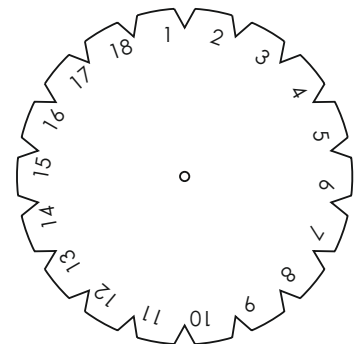
15 mm



18.7 mm

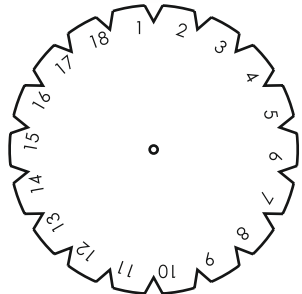
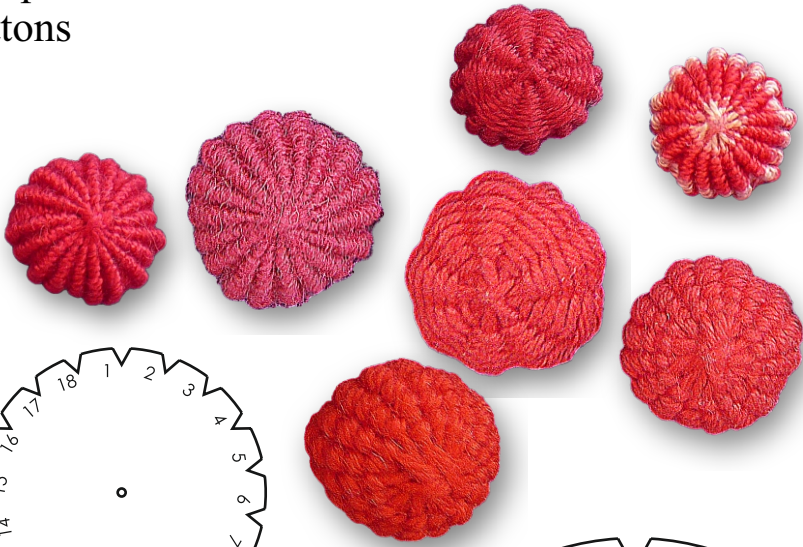


22 mm

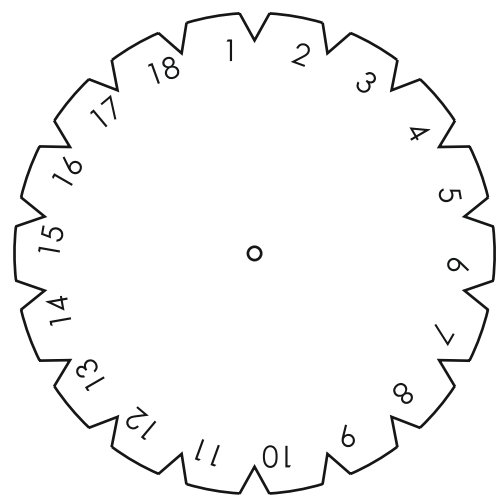


These buttons have counters inside them. They lie flat, do not squash easily and keep their shape well.

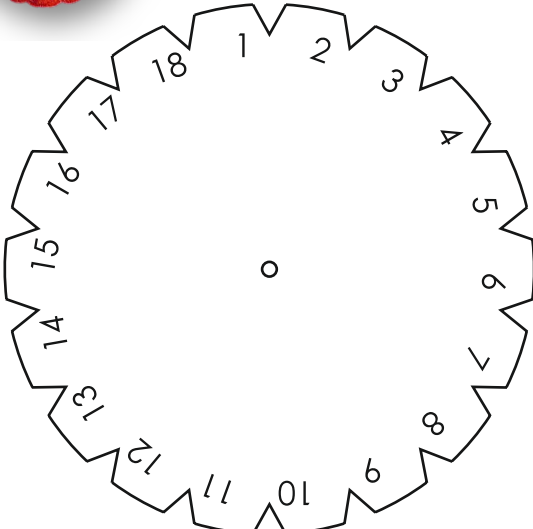
# Templates for various size buttons



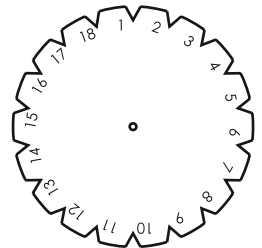
Finished size of button will be approximately 0.75 ins (1.9 cms).



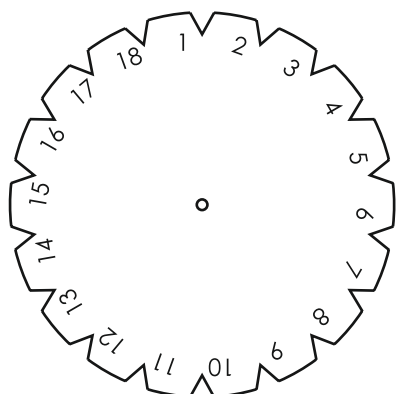
Finished size of button will be approximately 1.25 ins (3.2 cms).



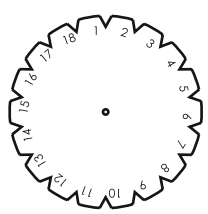
Finished size of button will be approximately 1.375 ins (3.5 cms).



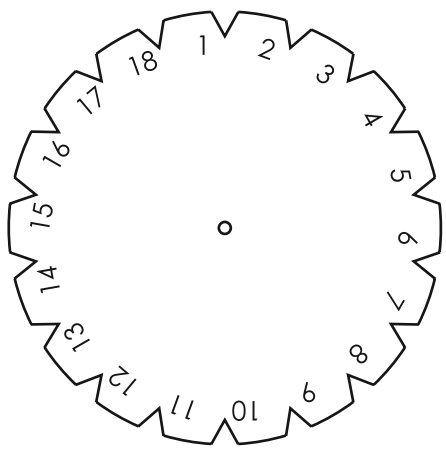
Finished size of button will be approximately 0.625 ins (1.6 cms).



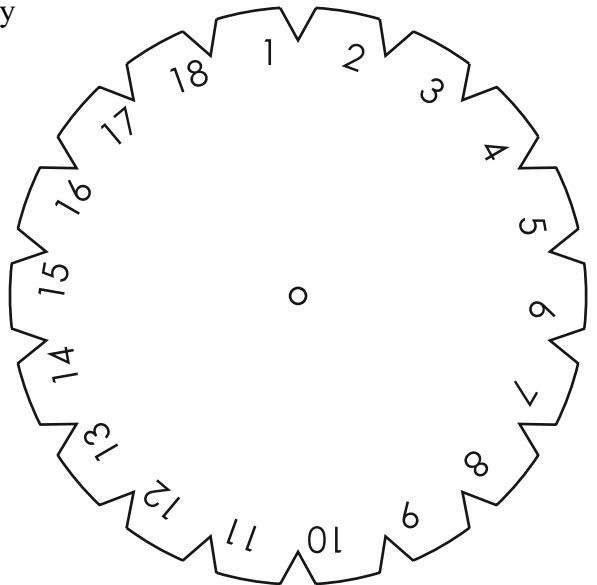
Finished size of button will be approximately 1 ins (2.54 cms).



Finished size of button will be approximately 0.5 ins (1.27 cms).



Finished size of button will be approximately 1.125 ins (2.8 cms).



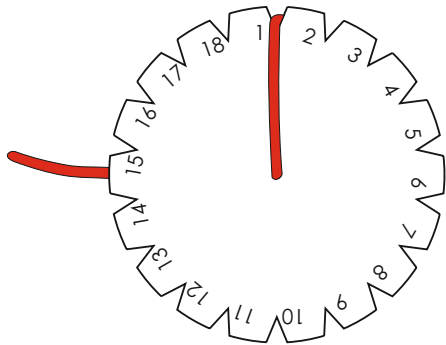
Finished size of button will be approximately 1.5 ins (3.8 cms).

## To make the buttons

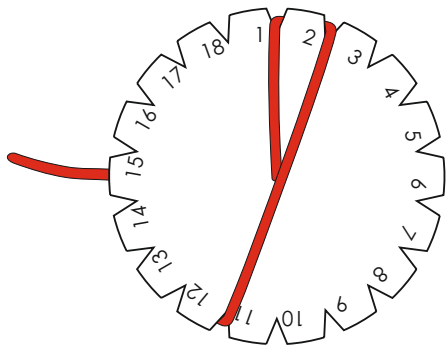
The buttons are made on a web of threads. Over this work Back Stitch is worked or, as a variation, the spokes are woven. Some of the buttons use a combination of the two methods simply by changing from one to the other part way through.

Take a long length of yarn, about 6 ft (200 cms) for the smallest button shown here and 20ft (610 cms) for the largest and thread it into a suitable size of tapestry needle.

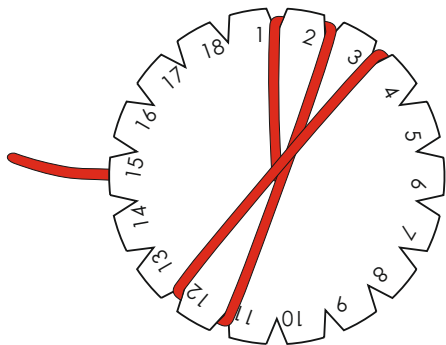
1. Bring the needle up through the central hole and go down at 1.



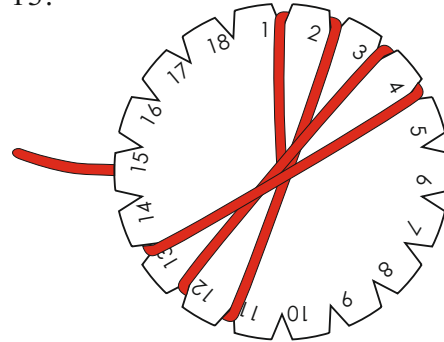
2. Pass round behind to come up at notch 2 and then pass straight across to notch 11. Notice that this and all passes will go straight across the centre.



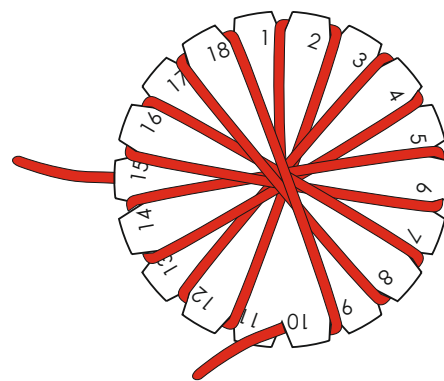
3. Pass round behind to come up at 12 and then go across the centre again to 3.



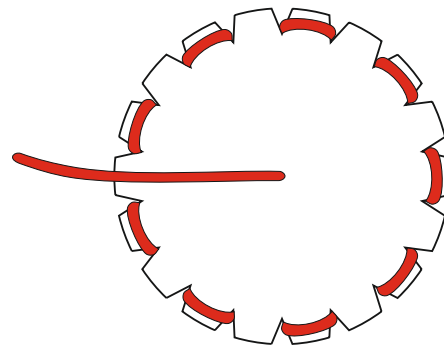
4. Pass round to 4 and across to 13.



5. Continue round by going behind from 13 to 14 then over to 5; behind from 5 to 6 then over to 15; behind from 15 to 16 then over to 7; behind from 7 to 8 then over to 17; behind from 17 to 18 then over to 9. From 9 pass behind round to 10.

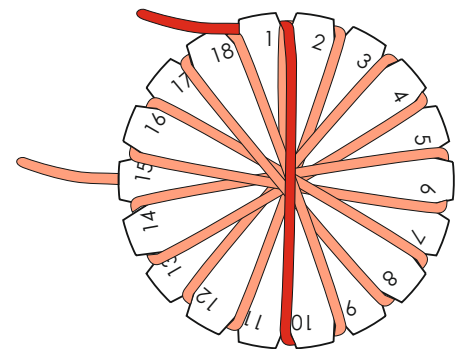


6. The back will look like this.

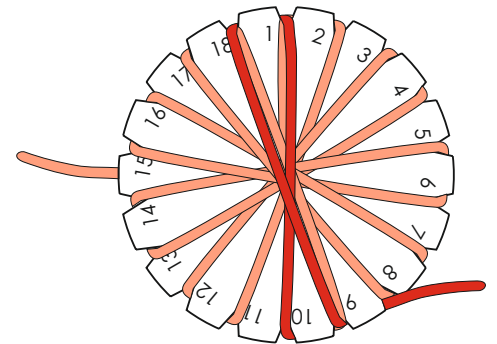


7. So far you have been working clockwise around the circle; now you are going to go back anti-clockwise, doubling up on the surface threads and filling the gaps at the back. The threads of the first stage are shown in a paler shade.

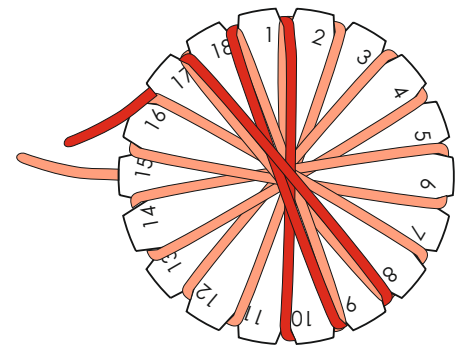
From 10 pass across the centre to 1 and come behind to 18.



8. From 18 go over to 9 then pass round to come up at 8.



9. From 8 pass over to 17 then behind to 16



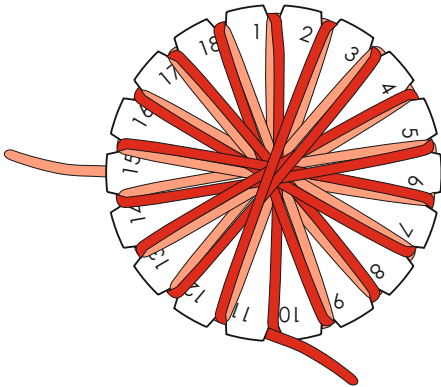
9. Continue round (anticlockwise) until there are double spokes for each pass across and all the gaps at the back are filled. the sequence to achieve this is:-

From 17 pass to 16 then across to 7:

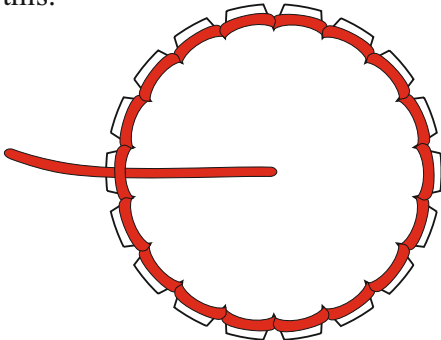
from 7 pass to 6 and across to 15: from 15 pass to 14 then across to 5:

from 5 pass to 4 then across to 13: from 13 pass to 12 then across to 3:

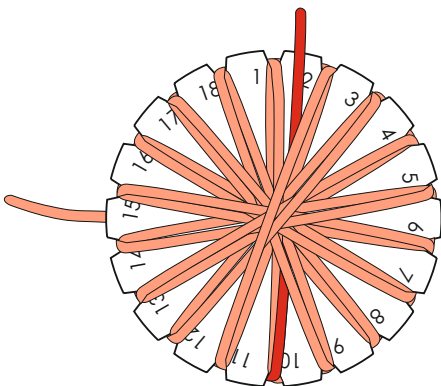
from 3 pass to 2 then across to 11: from 11 pass to 10 and the spokes are complete.



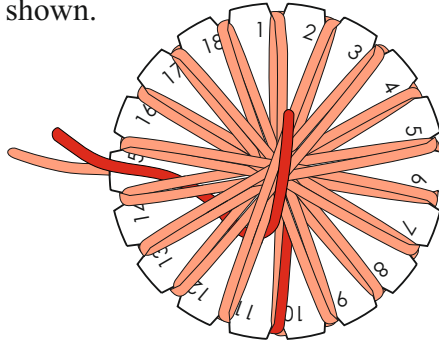
10. The back will now look like this.



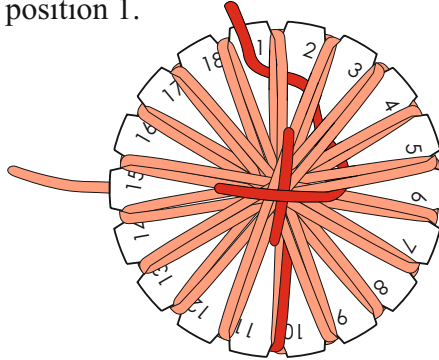
11. Use the needle to pass under the spokes to the position shown.



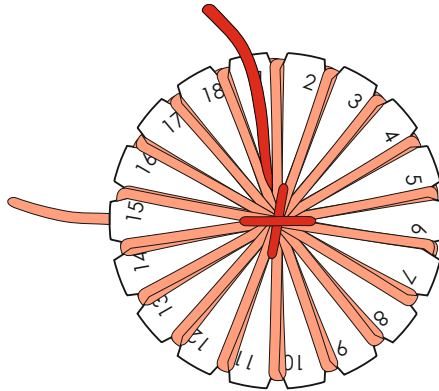
12. Come back over the centre and under the spokes to the left as shown.



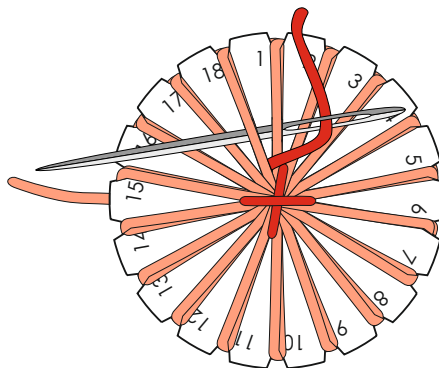
13. Come back over the centre and under the spokes to the position 1.



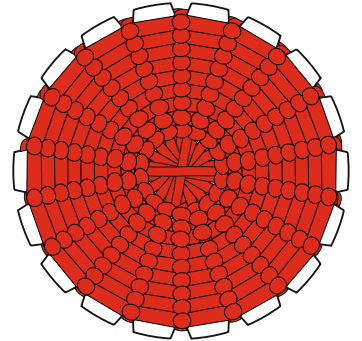
14. Neaten the central cross stitch and draw in the spokes gently.



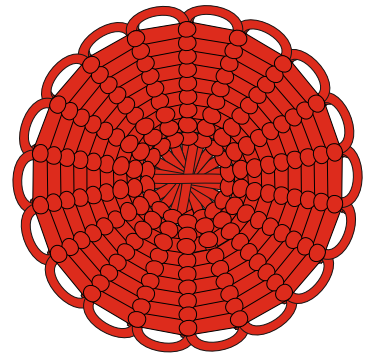
15. The next stage is to work Back stitch round the spokes anti-clockwise. Take a stitch back over one spoke and forward under two.



16. Continue working this sequence round the spokes until the whole area is well filled. You will know each time you have completed a round as you will be back to number 1.

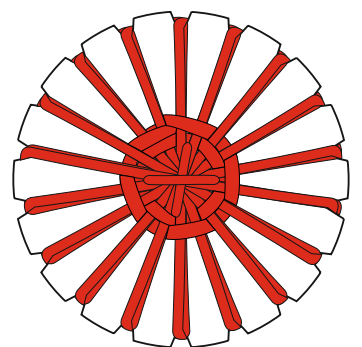


17. Take the work off the card carefully and you will have a pretty piece with loops at the edge. To complete the button, run the remaining thread in and out of the loops at the edges as a gathering thread. Place a small ball of kapok, for a spherical version, or a little kapok and a ring or tiddly-winks counter for a flatter version.



### Variation...

As there are 18 spokes, it is possible to weave over two and under two all round instead of working back stitch.



## Yorkshire Button Gallery

### Traditional Method buttons

To make a button useable, create a shank on the back by working three or four loops of thread and then working Buttonhole Stitch over them.

From the basic templates you can use a photocopier to produce copies at whatever size you need. Remember that the finished button will be about half the template diameter, but generally a little more because of the thread thickness. It is possible to do large buttons using fine thread but virtually impossible to do small buttons using thick thread. A trial run is a good idea!



Pearl Cotton No 12



Crewel wool



Anchor Tapestry Wool



Caron Impressions



Soft Embroidery Cotton



Caron Wildflowers



Pearl Cotton No 8 in ombre red



Pearl Cotton No 8

### Woven Method buttons

The faces of these two buttons use the woven method of working the spokes. The parts that will become backs are then worked in the traditional (Back Stitch) method.



Caron Wildflowers



Soft Embroidery Cotton

### Mixed Method button

Starting with a couple of rounds of the traditional method of working, about five rounds are then worked by the weaving method. Returning to the traditional method for three or four rounds, the face of the button is then completed using the woven method again. The part that becomes the back is completed in the traditional way.



Caron Impressions

### Tip

The best time to fasten on a new thread if you think you are not going to have enough is after the spoke winding has been done. Slip the old thread to the side and bring in the new one to work the Back Stitch or weaving over the spokes. When you later take the threads off the template you will be able to fasten the old and new threads off invisibly.