

Hi Everyone! I am Julie visiting from Sew Jewely. I am so excited and honored to be here on Amanda's blog to bring you this tutorial. I hope you enjoy making it as much as I did.

"Hug Me Covered Button Charm Bracelet"

**Tools:**

Two pair of needle nose or small pliers  
Scissors  
Pencil  
Permanent Marker  
Paper  
Straight Pin

**Supplies:**

Scraps of fabric (enough to get 17 motifs out of)  
1- Charm bracelet blank  
17- Jump rings (I recommend 7mm or larger)  
8- "Ice pick" or "pinch" pendant bails at least 10 mm long (optional)  
12- ½ inch (#20) covered button blanks  
5- ¾ inch (#30) covered button blanks  
8- Buttons ranging in size from ½ to ¾ inches (optional)  
1- Heart charm (or other charm of your choosing)

**A word about different types of covered button blanks.**

One type as you see in the picture here has "teeth" that hold the fabric while you press the back on.

The other type, which I will be using for this tutorial, has a smooth back. As seen here:

Here is a picture of the buttons and the setting tools that you will use to cover them.

These tools come with the buttons in a kit. You can find them easily at a craft store or chain fabric store. Either type will work for this project. If you have limited strength in your hands the

type with the teeth might be easier for you to handle.

### **Covering the buttons:**

(If you already know how to cover buttons just skip down to step 13)

1. I like to lay down a light colored towel on my table when I work with small findings. It helps to keep the findings from bouncing off the table and landing on the floor when I accidentally drop them. You can see my towel in the background of most of these pictures.
2. If your button kit did not come with a pattern, use the base of your setting tool as a pattern. Draw about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch around the base for the  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch button, and about  $\frac{1}{8}$  around the base for the  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch button. As you can see from my picture it doesn't have to be perfect.
3. Cut out your circle patterns and fold them into quarters to find the center of the circle.
4. Put your pin through the center point and through the center point of the motif that you want to use for your button, press it down slightly into your towel (another good use for the handy towel). Press the circle down so that it touches the fabric.
5. Use your permanent marker to draw around the pattern. Don't worry this will not show. It will be covered by the button back.
6. Cut out your motif on the line that you drew.
7. Put the fabric circle over the base of your setting tool centering the motif.
8. Place the top of the button on the fabric.

9. Using the presser part of your setting tool push the button down until it is pressed all the way into the base of the setting tool.
10. The fabric will be sticking up around the button. Using your finger press the fabric down so that it is lying as flat as possible inside the top of the button.
11. Put the button back on top of the fabric and use the presser part of the setting tool to press it down. Press until you can see the lip of the top curling around the button back.
12. Use your pliers to grab the button shank and gently pull it from the base of the setting tool. Voila, a gorgeous button.
13. You will make 12 small buttons and 5 large buttons and have a pile that looks something like this.

#### **Assembling the Bracelet:**

14. Find your charm bracelet blank. It will look something like this.
15. Lay out your bracelet straight on the towel and start placing your large buttons. Try to space them evenly along the chain until you get a pleasing arrangement. There is no right or wrong here just do what looks good to you.
16. Count out five jump rings and open them using your two pairs of pliers. When you open a jump ring you want to twist it open rather than pulling it open horizontally. It should look like this picture.
17. Count out how many chain links there are between your buttons, you will put your first button in the second or third link from the left and your last button in the second or third link from the right (this is to allow enough room for the toggle clasp to work), mine were 3 links apart. Take your left most button and slide the shank onto a jump ring.

18. With the buttons still on the jump ring slide the ring through the second or third chain link. Twist the ring closed. Yippee, you have attached your first button.
19. Count over the number of links that you determined in step 17 and add your next button. If you have a large chain, like the one I used, add the second button to the opposite side of the chain. This will allow the bracelet to lie evenly on your wrist. Here is a picture with all of the large buttons attached.
20. Lay your bracelet back down straight and start placing the smaller buttons. Notice how I alternated the pink and blue both down the link and across the bracelet to keep it balanced.
21. Add the smaller buttons the same way you did the large ones in step 18 but this time the small buttons will be attached to the center link between the large buttons. Put one on either side of the link.
22. After I was finished. It looked like this.
23. I decided that too much chain was still showing for my taste so I added one more button between each of the larger buttons. You can just attach those to one of the empty links in the chain.
24. If you love it just like this you could choose to stop here.
25. If you love buttons of all kinds then you can continue along with me. We will do something fun with these Doodlebug buttons from Riley Blake, the colors are "Cupcake" and "Swimming Pool".
26. This is where you will use the pinch bails, more jump rings, a charm, and the 8 buttons. As you can see I already picked some buttons I want to add and laid them out next to the bracelet.
27. You will take your needle nose pliers and squeeze the pinch bail to make it just wide enough to place the button between the ends. Then line up the edges with one of the button's holes and squeeze it so that the bent portion at the ends goes into the hole.

28. Attach the buttons the same way that you did with the covered buttons. Use jump rings to attach them to the other empty links on your bracelet.
29. Last but not least add your heart charm to the second to the last link at the end of the bracelet.

Here it is your sweet bracelet.