

Button & Border Techniques

Based on these beautiful projects from Sew4Home.com

[DIY Wedding Sparkle with Artistic Crystals: Bejeweled Buttons](#) (below)

[DIY Wedding Sparkle with Artistic Crystals: Candle Wraps in Lace & Crystals](#)

[DIY Wedding Sparkle with Artistic Crystals: Napkin Wraps](#)



Beautiful buttons down the back are one of the most popular accents for wedding gowns. After all, it's the back of the dress the audience is looking at throughout the ceremony! By adding crystals to a simple covered button, you create instant dramatic flair. The Artistic system allows you to easily create clusters of crystals or tiny hearts. Sew4Home used these motifs to create crystal 'bling' on a whole

range of accessories, such as beautiful lace and crystal candle wraps, an organdy caplet to cover bare shoulders, and a simple napkin wrap for the reception table.

Software Accessories

Artistic Suite V6

Dongle

External Mouse

Digital Cutter such as Silhouette Cameo Cutter

USB Memory Stick

Additional Supplies

Template Material

Backing Board

Transfer Tape

Crystal AB Rhinestones in assorted sizes

Plastic Tray

Positioning Brush

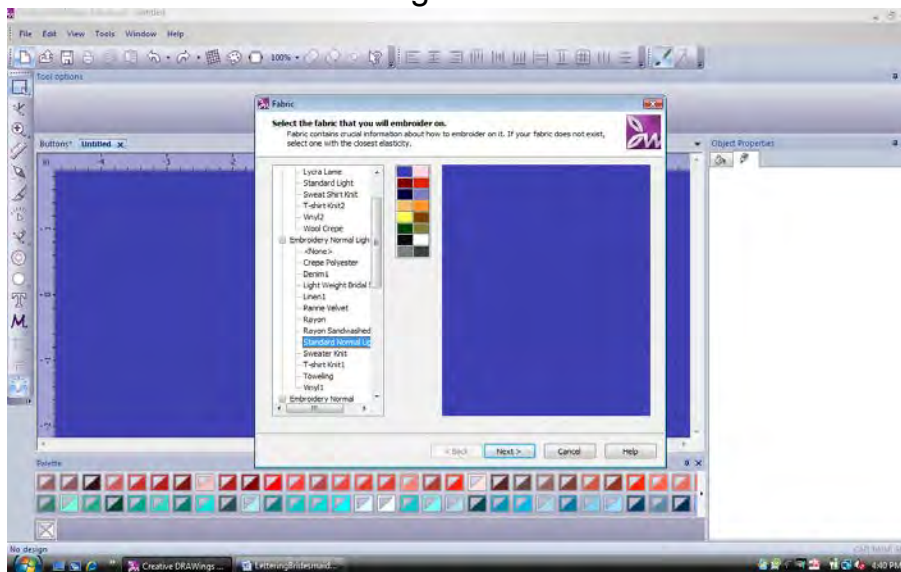
Artistic Press (optional) or Iron and Ironing Board

Silicon Press Sheet

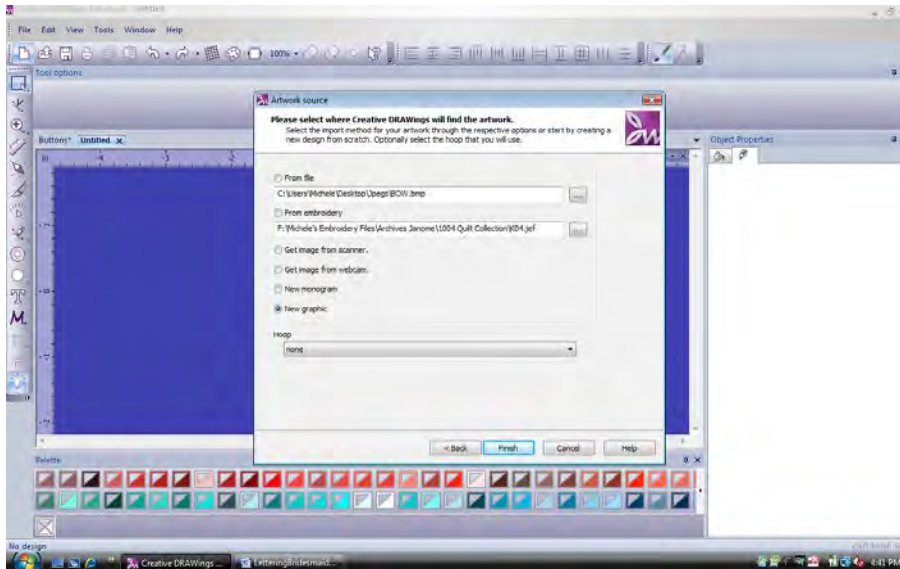
Press Cloth or Handkerchief

See [sew4home](http://sew4home.com) for further information for the individual projects.

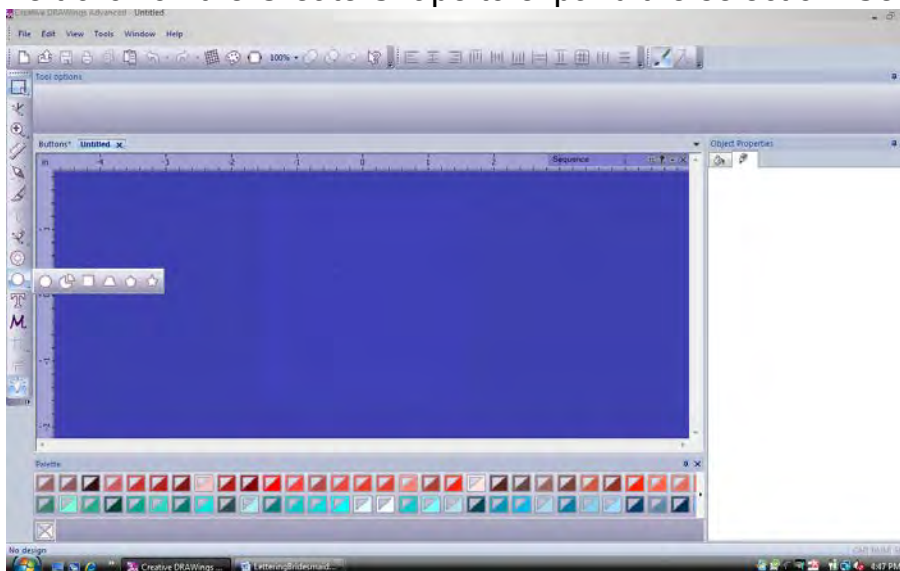
1. Open Creative DRAWings 6 > Create New > Next >
2. Select Standard Normal Light > Next >



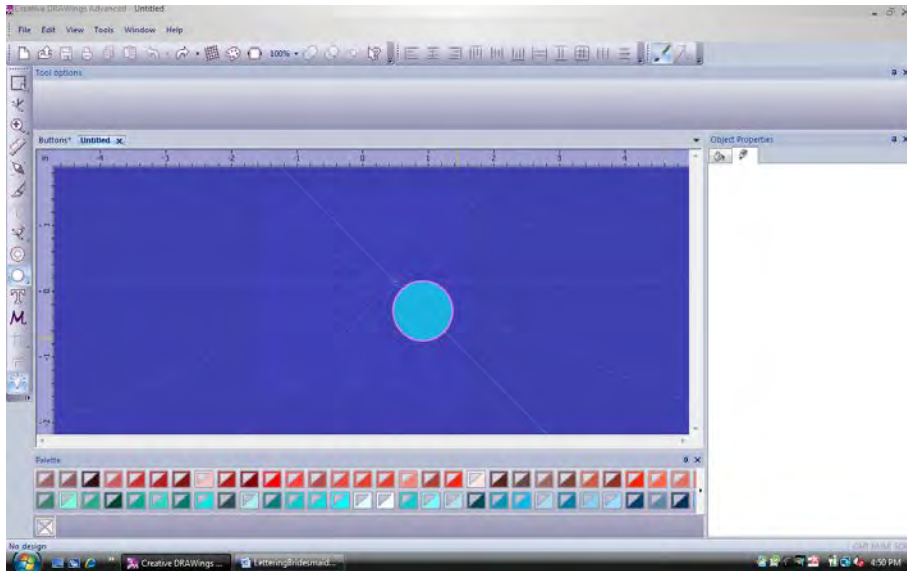
3. New Graphic > Finish



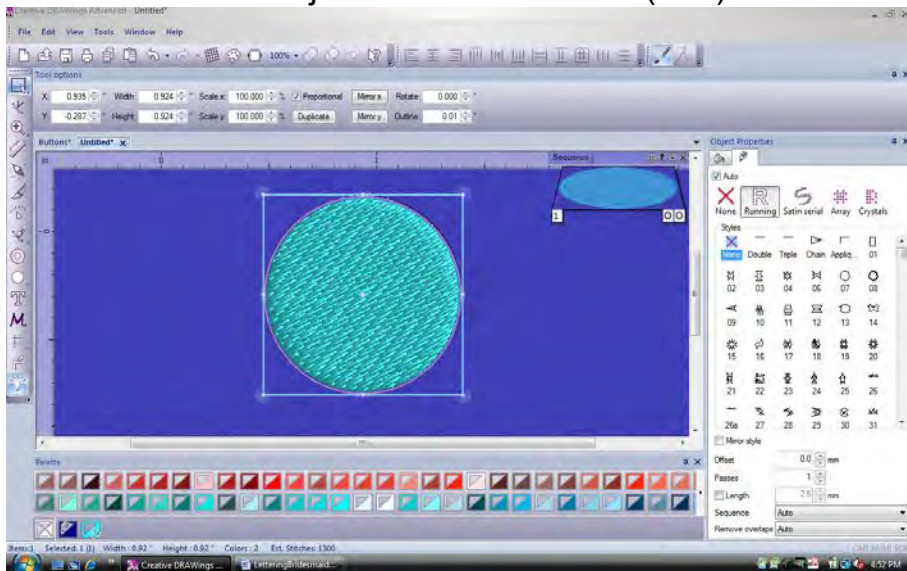
4. Left click on the Create Shape to expand the selection. Select Create Ellipse.



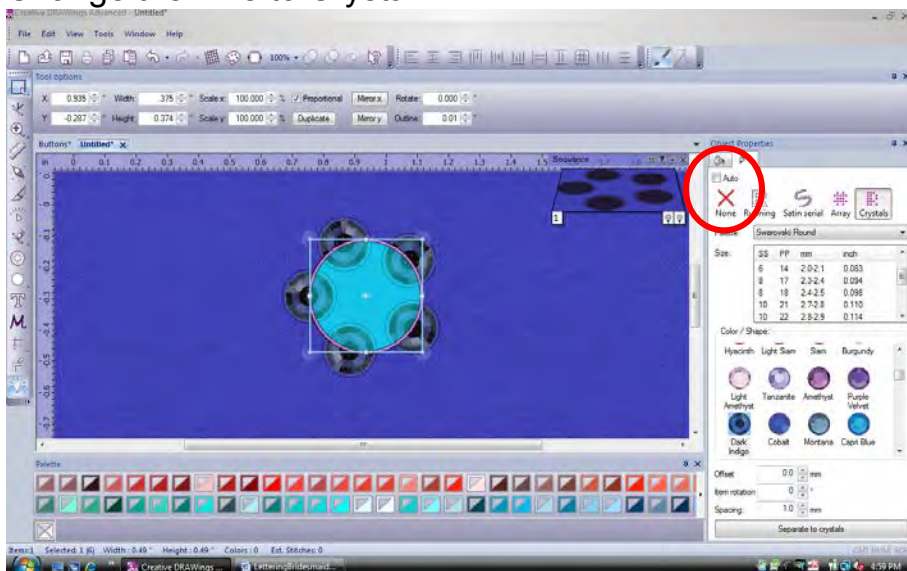
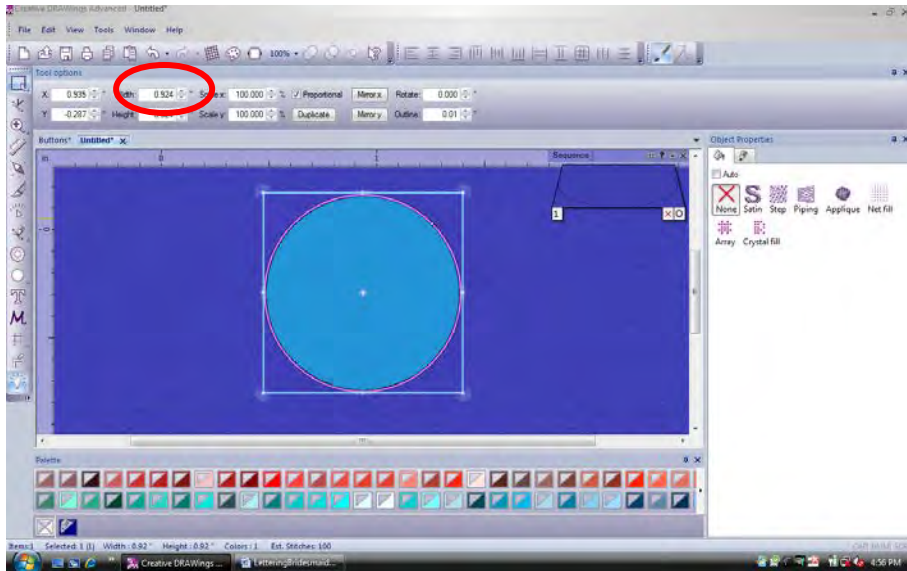
5. Hold down the Control key at the same time you left click and pull a circle on the screen. This will create a perfect circle.

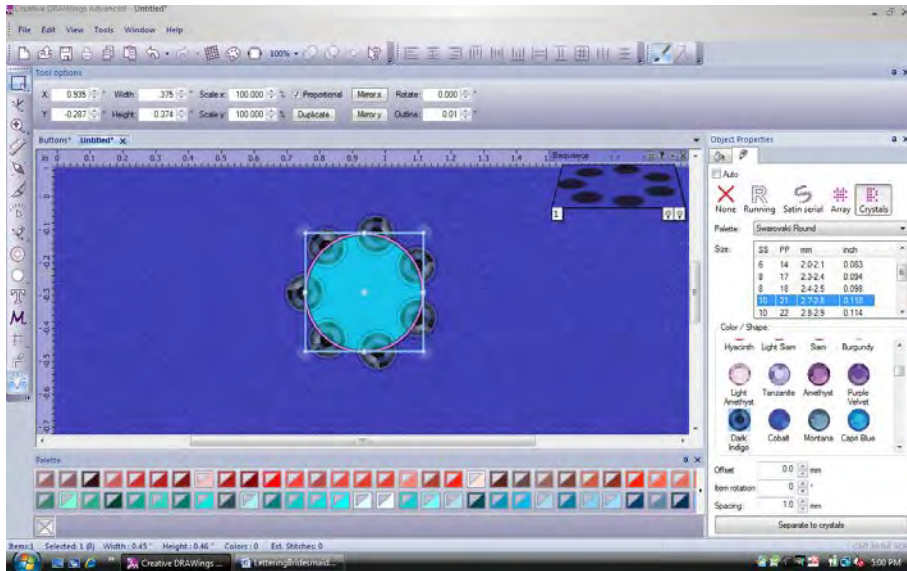


6. Select the circle. Adjust the Width to .375 (3/8")

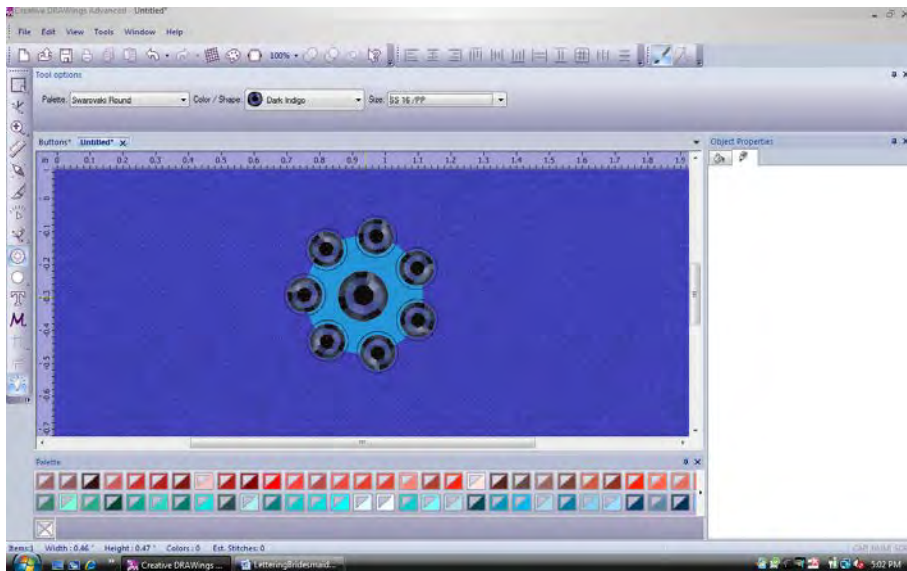


7. Change the Fill to None.

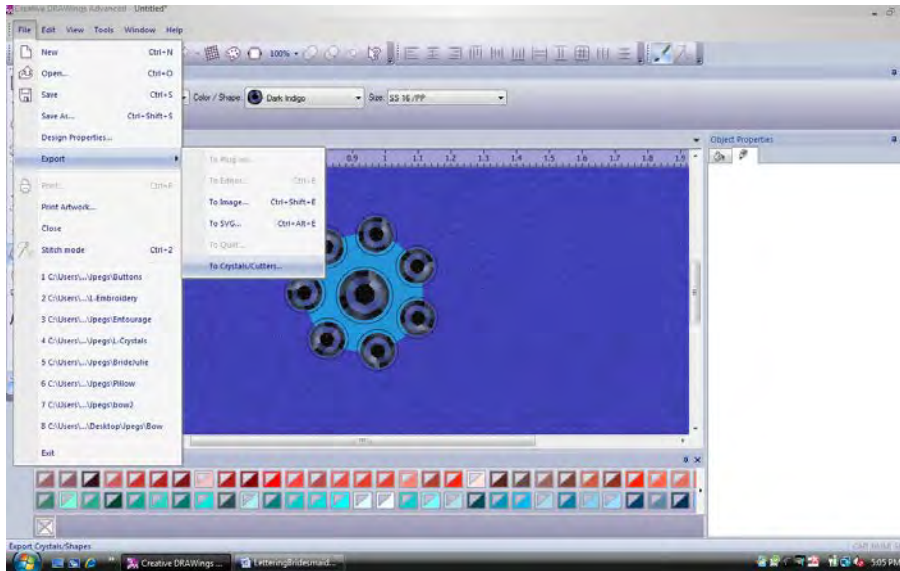




10. Select the Crystal tool. Adjust the size to 16. Place a crystal in the center of the circle to create a cluster.



11. File > Export > Crystals/Cutter

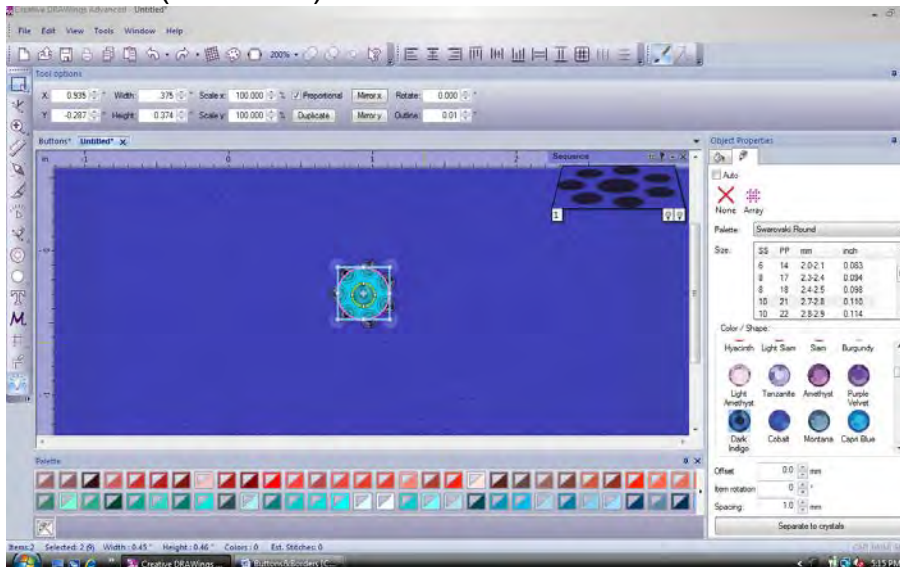


12. Load the template material into the cutter. Cut template.

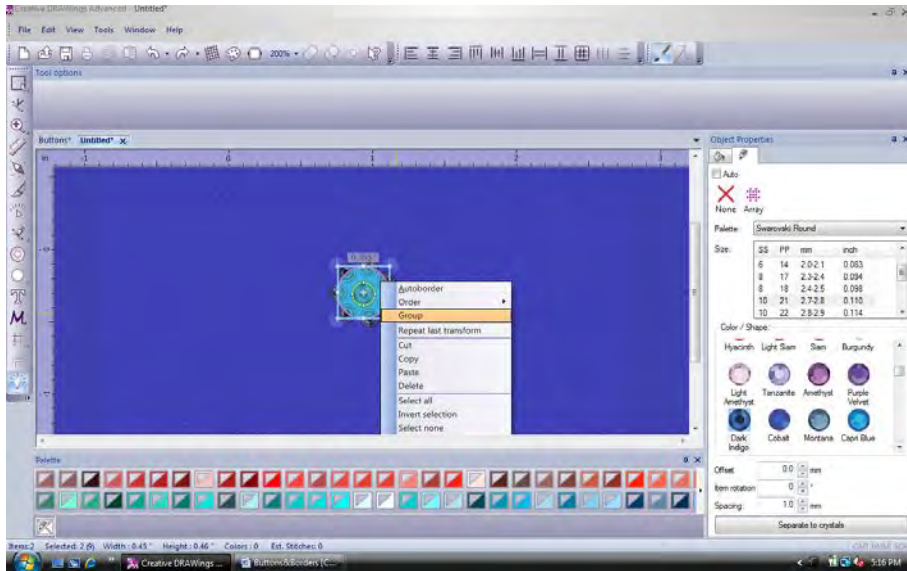
This is the perfect size for covering a 3/4" or 7/8" button form such as the buttons used for the [organza caplet in the Sew4Home tutorial \(below\)](#).

Once the crystal cluster is created, duplicate a number of clusters to create a border. The alignment tools keep everything level and evenly spaced! Here's how its done:

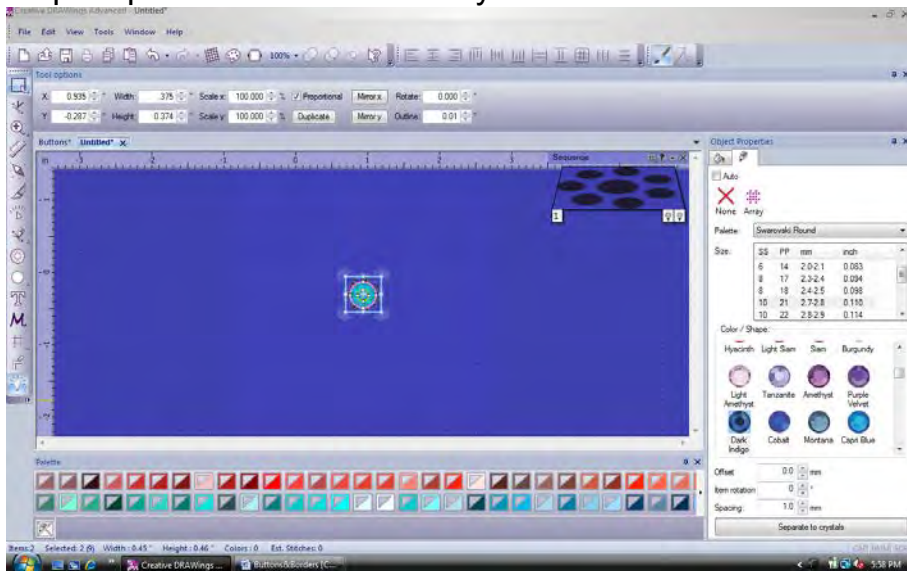
1. Select All (Control A)



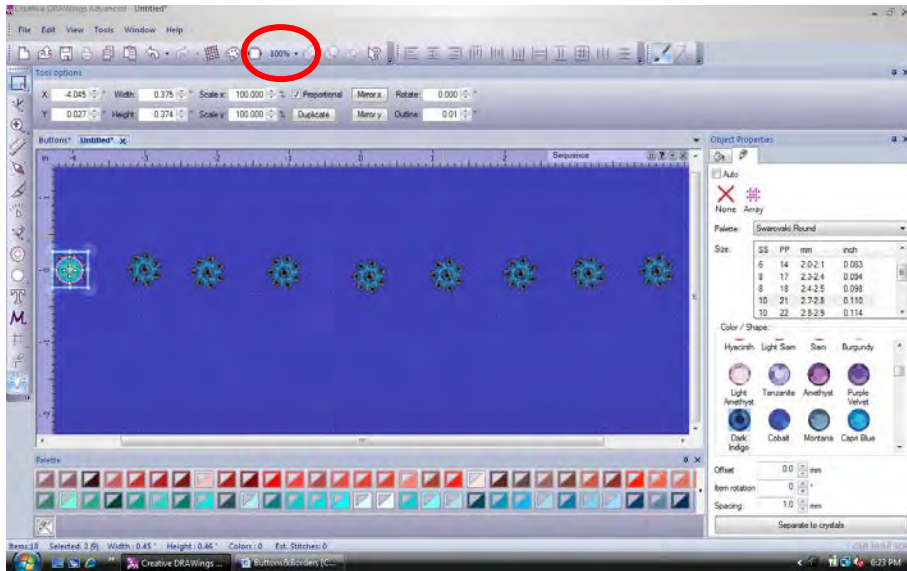
2. Right click on the cluster and select Group.



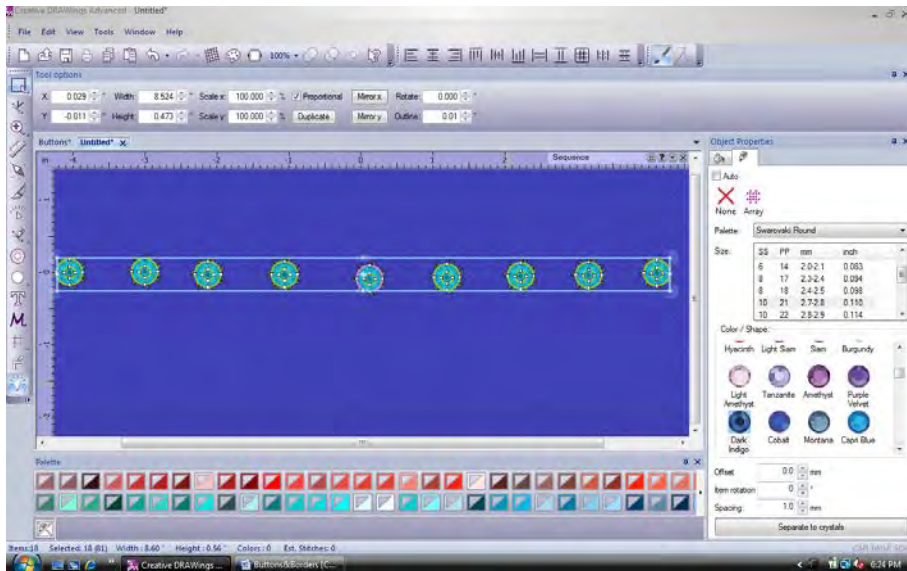
3. Change the Zoom to 100%. The screen will have a ruler at the upper edge to help us place our clusters of crystals.



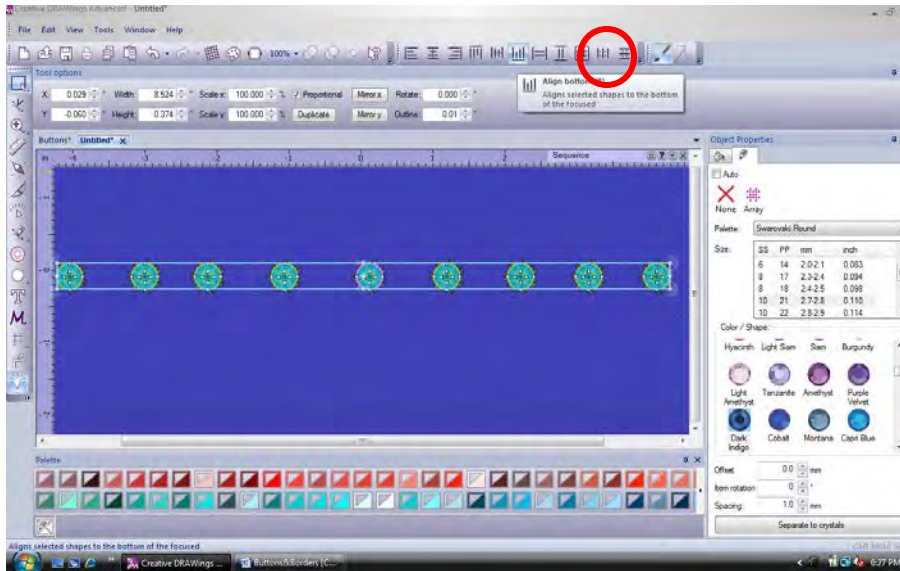
4. Use Duplicate to add clusters. Create a row of clusters about 8" long.



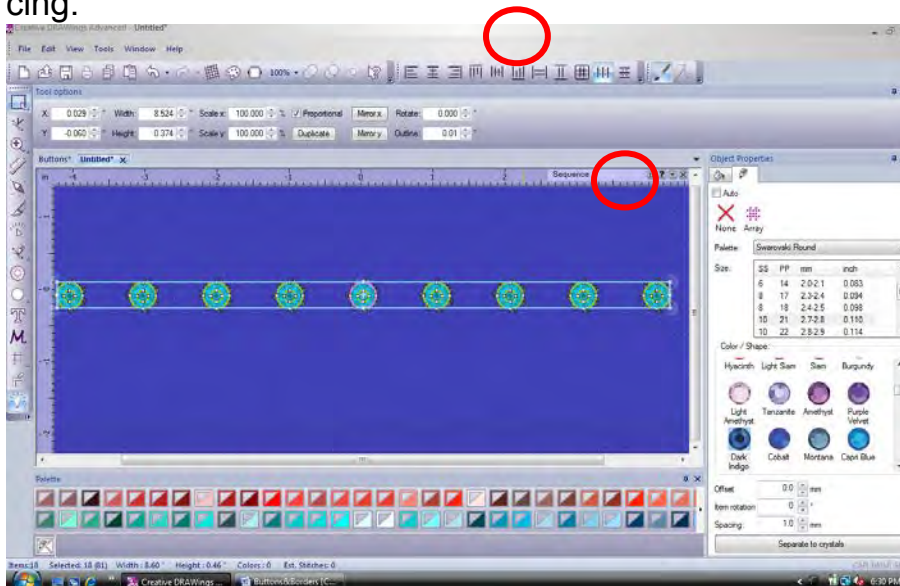
5. Select All (Control A)



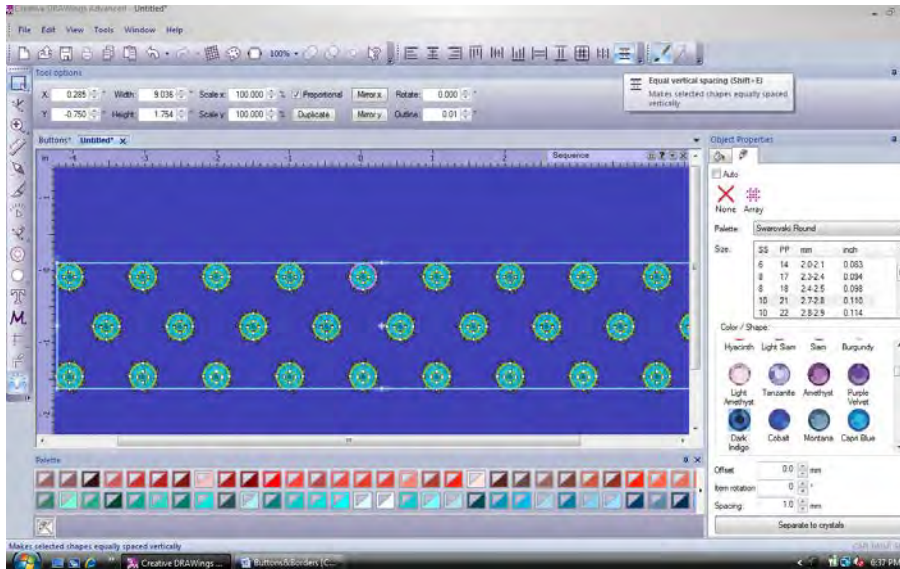
6. Click on Align Bottom.



7. The clusters are now all in a straight row. Next, click on Equal Horizontal Spacing.



8. This creates a perfectly spaced border of crystals, ready to export to the cutter. But there's more! We can use the same set of alignment tools to create a border with multiple rows by grouping our first row, and then using Duplicate to create more rows. Position the rows, and use Equal Vertical Spacing to perfectly space the wide border.

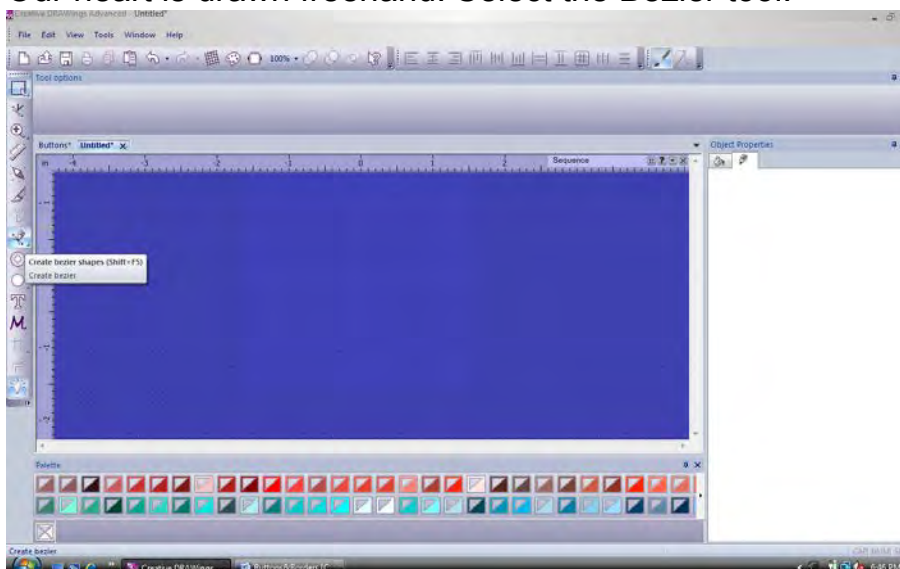


9. Load the template material into the cutter. Cut template.

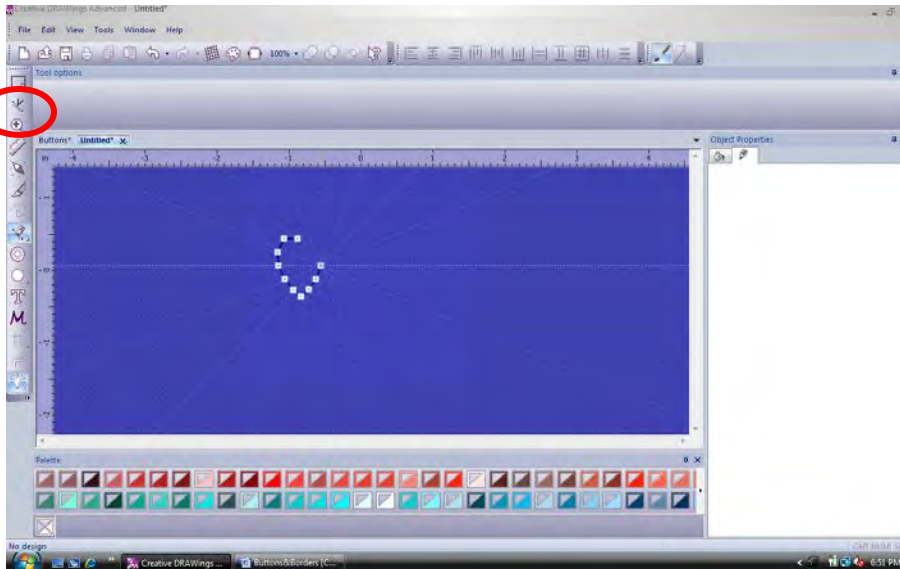
Use this technique to create the borders used for the [embellished candle wraps featured on Sew4Home](#).

We used clusters of crystals for the first two lessons, but there are other shapes that are beautiful as buttons and borders. For our third lesson, let's create a small heart. Here's how it's done:

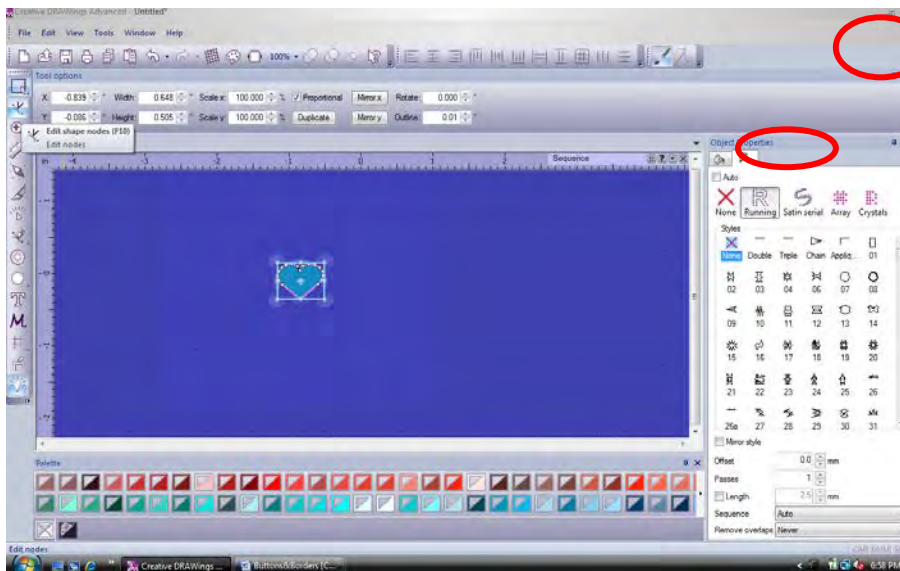
1. Our heart is drawn freehand. Select the Bezier tool.



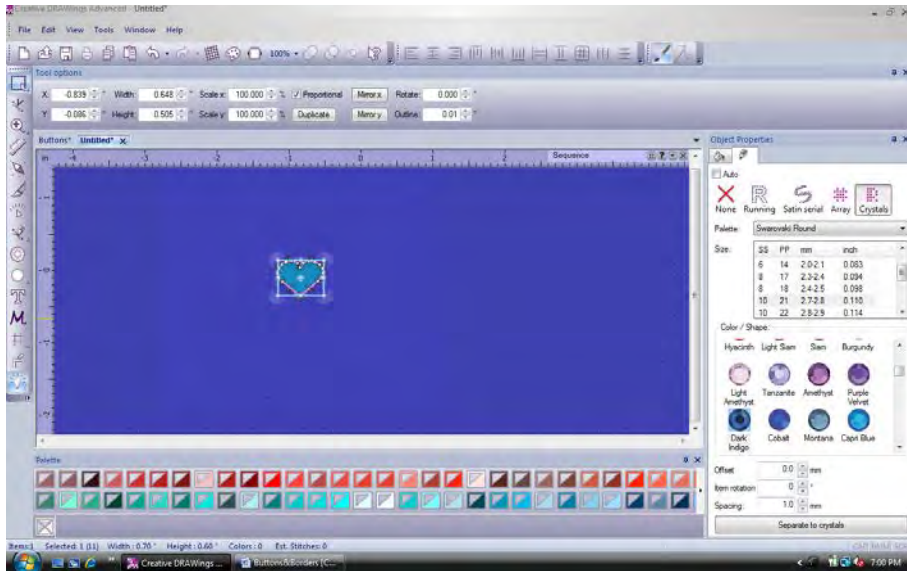
2. Click on the screen, creating a heart shape.



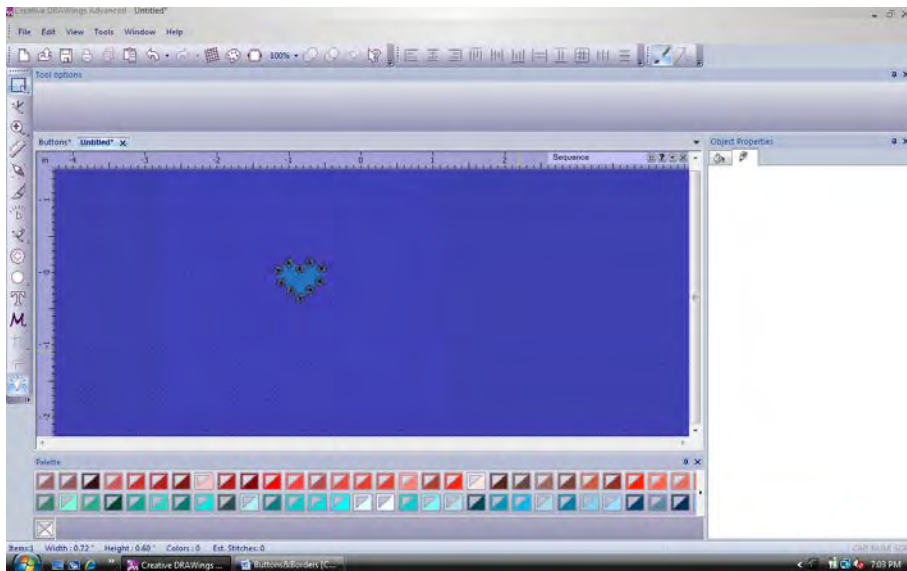
3. Right click to when the shape is complete. Use the Edit Nodes tool to adjust the shape until you have the perfect heart. Size the heart to .50 in width. This combination of tools can be challenging, but practice makes perfect. Or use the pre-made heart shown in the lesson. The file is provided for you as a separate download from the Artistic site.



4. Change the Line to Crystals. Adjust the size of the crystals to 10.

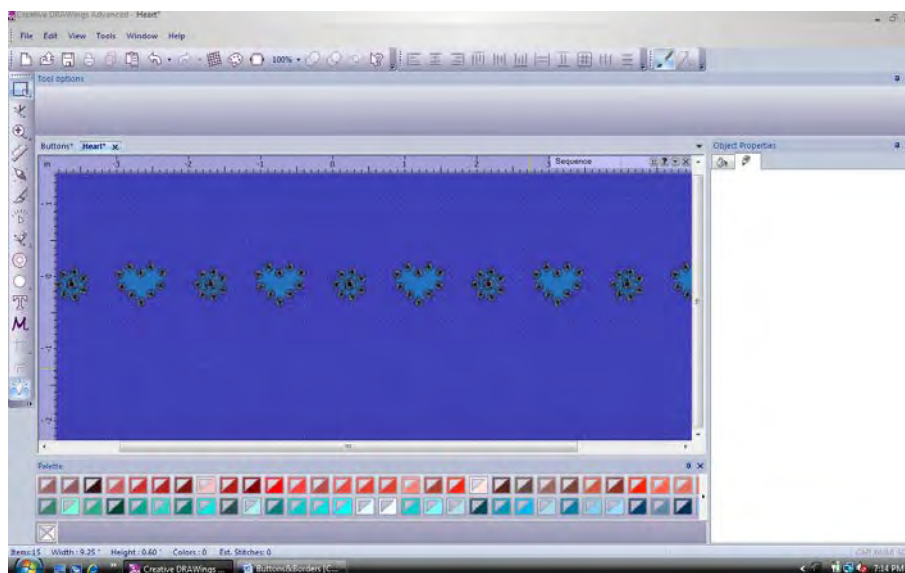


5. Finished heart!



This is the perfect size for 7/8" button forms shown in our samples. It is also the perfect little heart accent as shown on the [Sew4Home 'Tie the Knot' napkin wraps](#).

Just like the cluster, we can create borders by duplicating the heart motif and using the alignment tools. Or alternate the heart and the cluster for a more elaborate border.



Export the file to the cutter. Be sure to check As One Template because of the two sizes of crystals used in the design. Refer to the step by step instructions for the Ring Bearer's Pillow for an example of layering different sizes of crystals in one template.

Applying the Crystals

For additional step-by-step instructions and photos, take a look at the Sew4Home Tutorials linked above as well as the [Sew4Home overview on crystal application](#).

1. Peel the template material from the paper backing and adhere the template to template backing. Notice that there are two sizes of holes in the template.
2. Place the template in a tray, and pour a generous amount of size SS 16 crystals over the template. Use the positioning brush to move the crystals from side to side over the template, and just like magic! The crystals position themselves in the larger template holes right side up.
3. Carefully lift the template from the tray and pour the remaining crystals back into their container. Place the template back in the tray.
4. Pour a generous amount of size SS 10 crystals over the template. Use the positioning brush to move the crystals from side to side over the template. The crystals position themselves in the remaining template holes right side up.
5. Cut a piece of transfer tape the size of the template. Position the tape over the crystals and smooth in place. Gently lift the tape with the crystals adhered.
6. Position the transfer tape and crystals over the fabric.
7. Place the silicon pressing sheet on the surface of the Artistic Press, or if using an iron and ironing board, place the silicon sheet on the ironing board.

8. Position the fabric with transfer tape and crystals on top of the silicon sheet, and cover with a press cloth or handkerchief. Apply pressure with the Artistic Press or iron. Heat for approximately 40 seconds.

When using an iron, it is important to apply steady pressure WITHOUT moving the iron. This ensures that the crystals will stay in place during the bonding period.

DIY Wedding Sparkle with Artistic Crystals: Bejeweled Buttons

Editor: Liz Johnson
Wednesday, 30 May 2012 3:00



Beautiful buttons down the back are one of the most popular accents for wedding gowns. After all, it's the *back* of the dress the audience is looking at throughout the ceremony! By adding crystals to a simple covered button, you create instant dramatic flair. We show you ours as a feature strip on a sheer over-the-shoulder capelet, but they'd be also be beautiful as a featured top and/or bottom button on the gown itself. And they'd be striking as matching accents on the groom's and groomsman's vests. Or, go beyond the world of weddings; these bejeweled buttons would fly off the virtual shelf as all-occasion fashion accessories.

Our base capelet is made from McCalls pattern 3033. We followed the basic pattern instructions to create the View B option in a pale ivory organza with accents of taupe silk dupioni. Chiffon would also be a lovely choice as an alternative to the organza and would increase the drape and swing of the capelet.

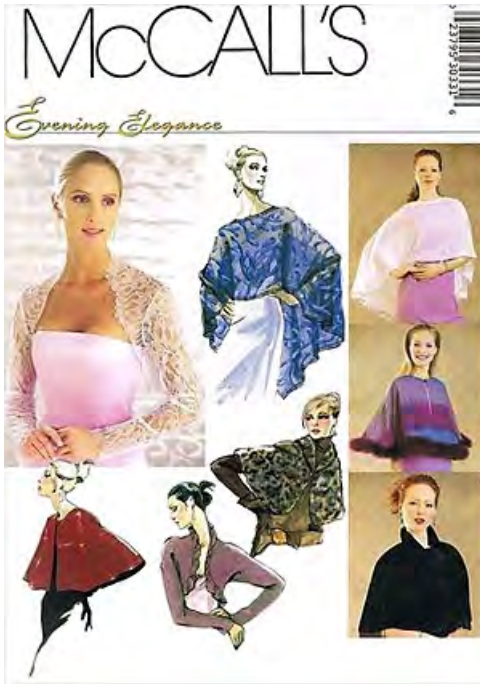
All of our **DIY Wedding Sparkle** projects are structured to provide *inspiration* rather than act as full sewing and software tutorials. We include the basics of how to make the base project(s), but not in the step-by-step detail you may be used to if you're a regular S4H visitor.

Once you're hooked on the idea and have your very own [Artistic System](#), you'll be able to visit the [Artistic website](#), where detailed step-by-step crystal design and application tutorials will be available as free downloads for our project ideas, including today's capelet with its bejeweled buttons. These free .PDF files will begin to be posted to the [Artistic website](#) at the conclusion of our S4H series.

We've also included a few handy links at the end of the article to project tutorials within our own S4H archives that will help with project construction.

Construction notes for the capelet

The McCalls 3033 pattern was a nice shape for the capelet, but (in true S4H fashion) we did make a few alterations. We lowered the neckline by 1" then finished the raw edge with a thin strip of silk dupioni as a banded facing. This facing application is shown in the pattern instructions.



We changed the capelet opening from the front to the back. To do this, we simply placed the center front pattern piece on the fold of the fabric. Then, we placed the center back pattern piece parallel to the selvage edge and cut along the center back.



We also added an accent band along either side of the back opening to form the button and buttonhole plackets for our **DIY Wedding Sparkle**: the bejeweled buttons.



The band was cut 3" x the length of the center back edge plus 1" for seams.

Sew the band to the center back, using a 1/2" seam. Turn under the opposite long raw edge 1/2" and press in place. Fold the band in half with right sides together. Sew the upper and lower ends with a 1/2" seam. For each side of the opening, turn the band right side out and press, making sure the folded edge covers the stitching line. Top stitch in place, catching all the layers.

Crystal application notes for the buttons

We played with a number of different sizes of crystals, different spacing and simplified shapes when refining our button designs. In the end, we focused on two successful styles. The first was a software generated circle with a center stone added using the software's crystal tool. Then, we hand drew a heart shape and brought this art into the [Artistic Crystal's software](#). Again, there are tools within the software to allow you to adjust the line to get a smooth curve to which to apply the line of crystals. At this very small size, we found a shape filled with crystals wasn't as successful a design. It was too hard to get a recognizable sharp in such a small size, even with the smallest crystals. The design outlines were much better.



For the majority of our **DIY Wedding Sparkle** projects, we used the [Artistic Press](#) to heat set the crystals. But, for these little buttons, we used a standard home iron. The key to remember is to press straight down on the crystals without moving the iron (as with all the projects, you are using a pressing cloth). Hold for 20 seconds, then lift. If necessary, repeat for another area of the design. Moving the iron (as if ironing clothes) can result in the crystals shifting out of position.

If you haven't already, take a look at the first article in this series, [The Business of Bling](#), for an interesting step-by-step overview of the crystal design and application.

One more thing about covered buttons and crystals (or embroidered button accents for that matter). Your design must be a bit smaller than the finished size of button; you need a little extra room around the design in order to wrap the fabric to the back.



Hints and Tips

If you are new to working with covered buttons, take a look at our tutorials. We show you the steps for both [Button Kit Covered Buttons](#) and [DIY Covered Buttons](#).

If you are new to working with sheer fabric, like the organza we used on the capelet, [check out our tutorial for some tips and tricks](#). Our Hostess Apron Series also has additional step-by-step instructions for many techniques, such as narrow hemming with sheers.

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