

	TRACE-PM 3.4 Buttons, Fasteners, and Attaching Threads	
	<i>Document #: 7357</i>	<i>Page 1 of 2</i>
	<i>Revision #: 1</i>	<i>Issued Date: 04/10/2018</i>
	<i>Document Manager: Cheryl Lozen</i>	<i>Approved By: Jeffrey Nye</i>

3.4 Buttons, Fasteners, and Attaching Threads

3.4.1 Introduction

A button is a knob or disk used as a fastener or as a decoration on clothing. Other fasteners include snaps and hooks and eyes. Buttons are made in various sizes and of various materials and the attachment method varies.

The attaching threads may be made from a homogeneous material or a mixture of textile fibers.

3.4.2 Safety Considerations

Standard Laboratory Precautions

3.4.3 Preparations

Standard Laboratory Practices

3.4.4 Minimum Standards & Controls

Buttons/Fasteners: Three sided drawing (top, bottom and side) with measurements if a transfer is detected.

Attaching Thread: Same minimum standards and controls as in the identification and comparison of fibers.

3.4.5 Instrumentation

None.

	TRACE-PM 3.4 Buttons, Fasteners, and Attaching Threads	
	<i>Document #: 7357</i>	<i>Page 2 of 2</i>
	<i>Revision #: 1</i>	<i>Issued Date: 04/10/2018</i>
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3.4.6 Procedure or Analysis

3.4.6.1

Examine the clothing to determine if any buttons are missing. If buttons are missing, proceed with the examination.

3.4.6.2

Compare the buttons on the clothing to the questioned button visually and stereoscopically. Make drawings of the top, bottom and side of the known and questioned buttons. Record the pertinent dimensions of the buttons, including diameter, thickness, hole size and shank length, if applicable. Examine pearlescent buttons using a polarizing light microscope and observe the nacreous pigments. Determine whether or not the same nacreous pigments are used in all the buttons. If the button is made from a man-made polymer, determine the type of polymer using FTIR or other appropriate techniques.

3.4.6.3

Compare any attaching threads on the questioned buttons to the attaching threads on the buttons from the clothing.

3.4.6.4

The questioned button/attaching thread is consistent with originating from the piece of clothing if there is no discernable difference between them. If there is a difference in diameter, consideration must be made of the missing button location. A possible solution is to attempt to find the same type, color, manufacturer, etc. at a store and compare to that garment.

3.4.7 References

None