

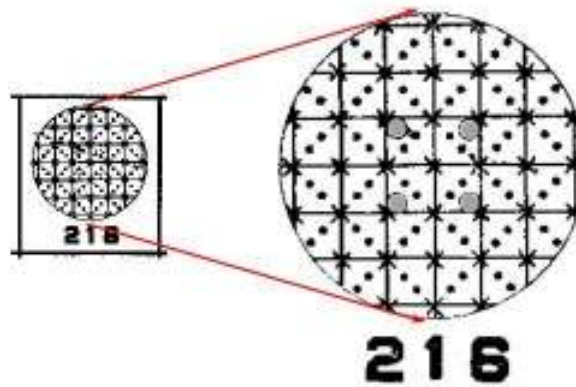


Introduction

- Wilfred Morgan, a draftsman and artist published in 1939-40 three booklets describing 293 calico button patterns known to him.
- In 1956 Beatrice and Lester Lorah met Morgan and added 34 more patterns.
- The Lorahs rearrange the numbers so that similar patterns are grouped together. This is published in the *"Guidelines for Collecting China Buttons"* copyrighted to the NBS, 1970.
- I have personally observed several dozen unlisted patterns "beyond 327".

Helpful Hints

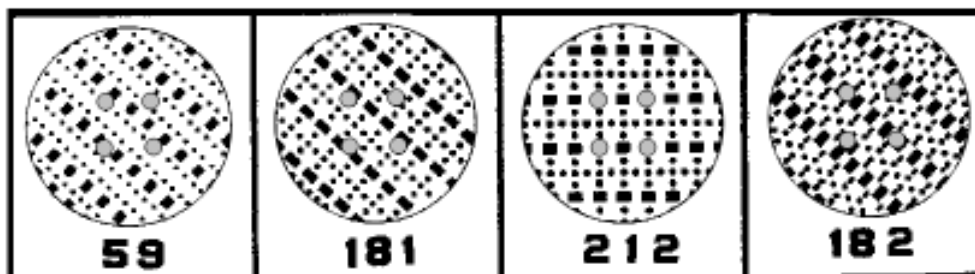
Use enlarged images from the 'Guidelines for Collecting China Buttons' book.



(Don't use the image in the book, they're too small!)

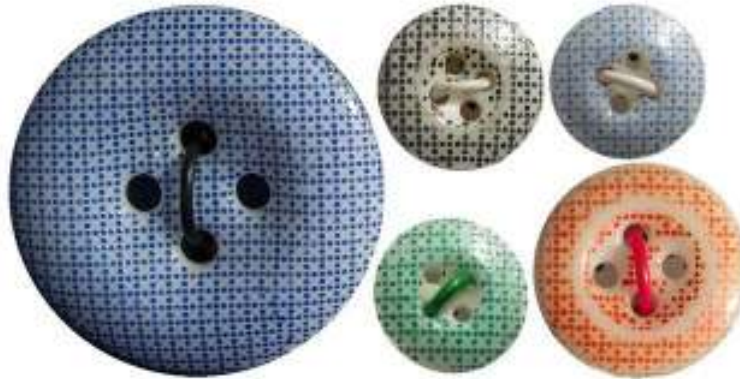
Helpful Hints

Cluster buttons with a similar patterns on a single card.
Use a large magnifying glass to see the differences or
enlarge the patterns dramatically with a copier.



Helpful Hints

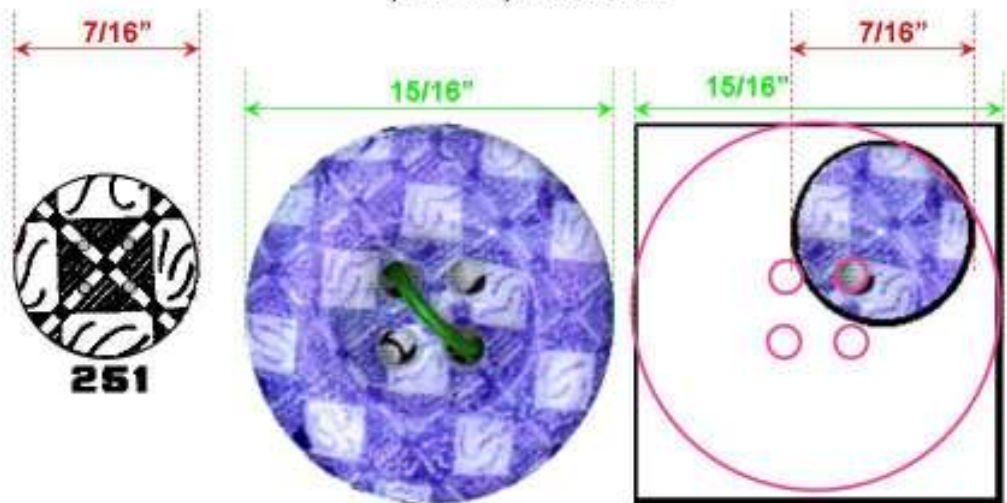
How would you count the repeat pattern on buttons of such a size range?



33

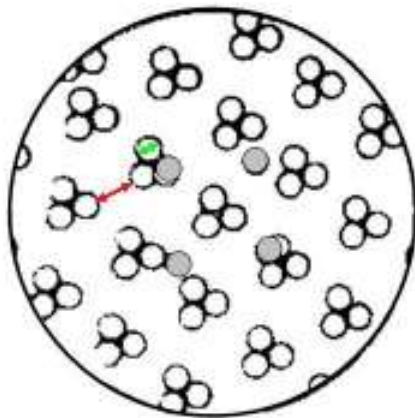
Helpful Hints

The patterns shown in the china book are usually for 7/16" (11mm) buttons.

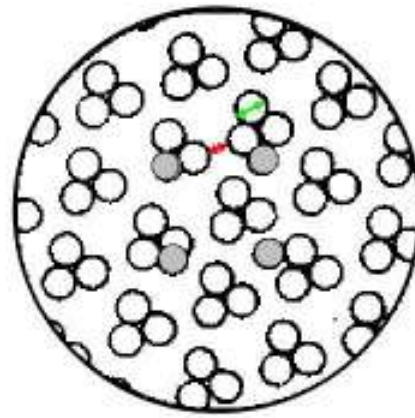


Pattern 4 vs. 5

The space between the triads of circles is greater than the diameter of a circle for #4 but *smaller* for #5



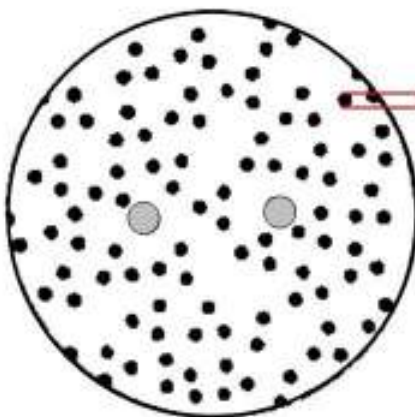
4



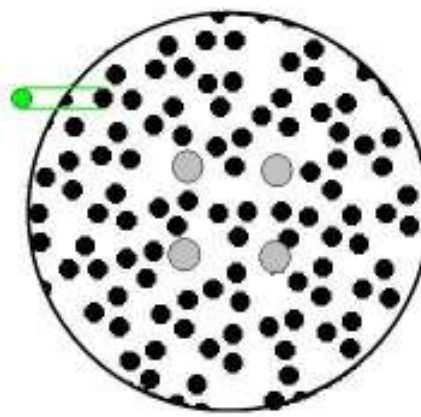
5

Pattern 28 vs. 31

A difficult pair.
The dots in #28 are 30% smaller than the dots in #31.



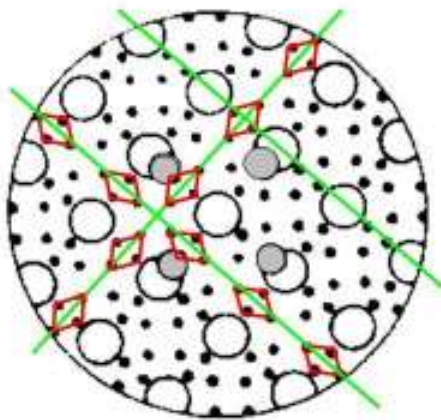
28



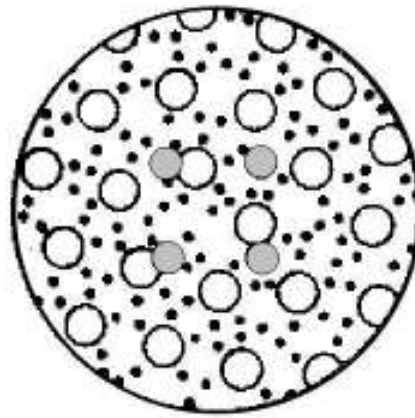
31

Pattern 7 vs. 8

In #7 the circles are in straight lines, while in #8 the circles are randomly placed. In addition, the dots in #7 form diamonds and #8 the dots are random.



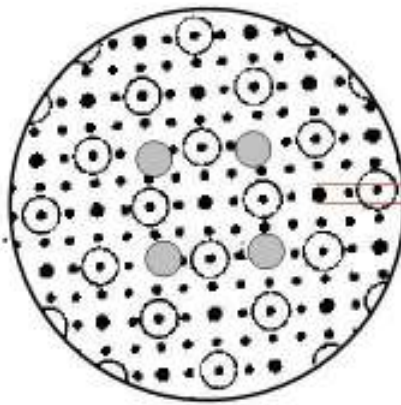
7



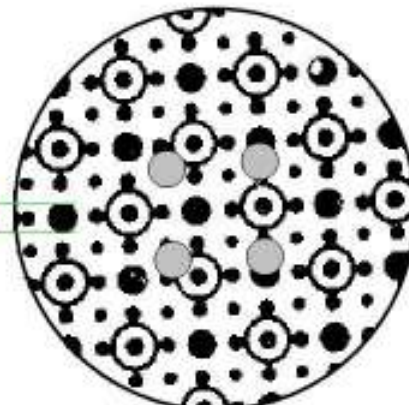
8

Pattern 158 vs. 264

#158 shows much smaller circles and dots than #264.



158

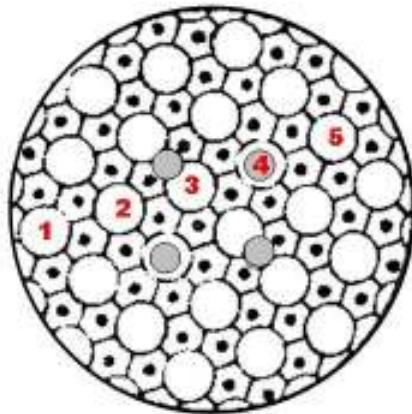


264

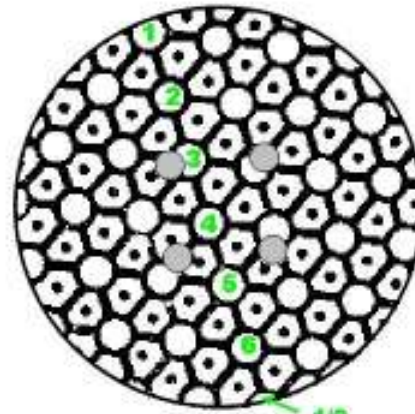
Pattern 10 vs. 269

For an 11mm (7/16") button #10 shows a 5-circle repeat but #269 shows a 6 1/2 circle repeat.

The designs are the same, but #269 shows heavier colored lines and larger dots.



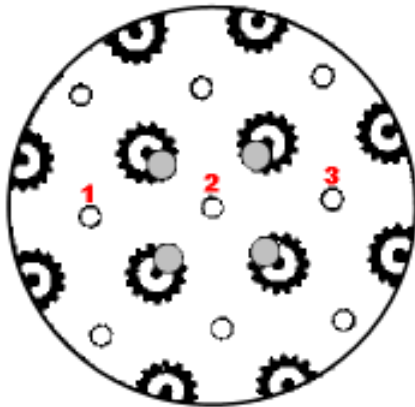
10



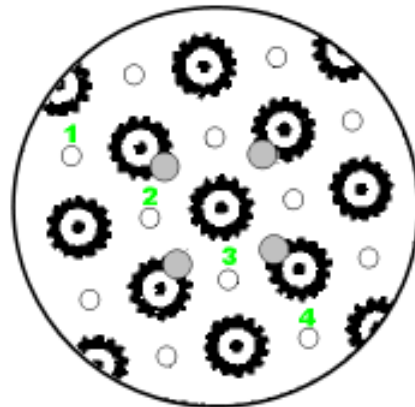
269 1/2

Pattern 16 vs. 17

Another tough pair with the same sized 'wheels' containing the same number of 'teeth'. There are three pattern repeats for #16 and four pattern repeats for #17.



16

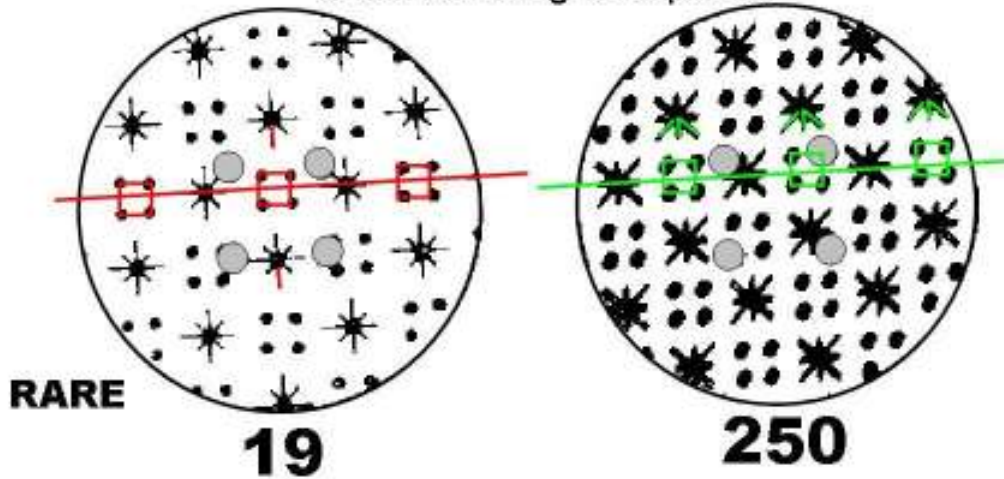


17

Pattern 19 vs. 250

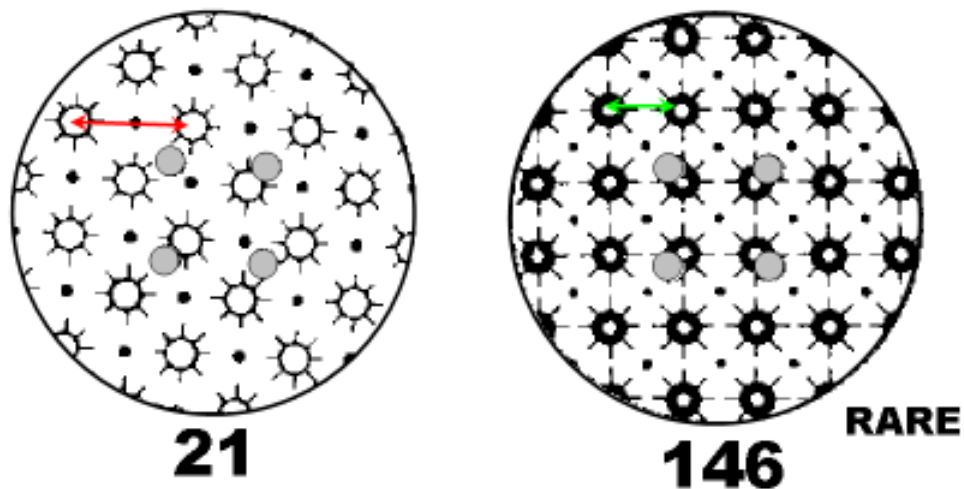
Align the patterns so that squares of dots alternate with the stars to form a horizontal line.

#19 shows a star standing on one point while #250 shows a star standing on 3 points.



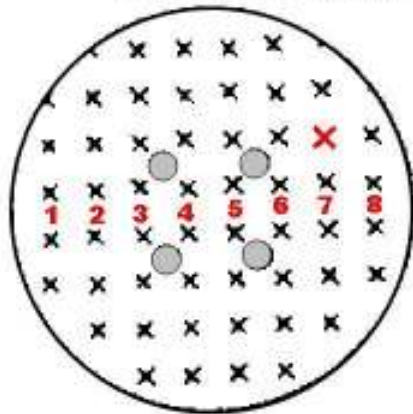
Pattern 21 vs. 146

Patterns are closer together for #146. The circle is much more heavily colored for #146.

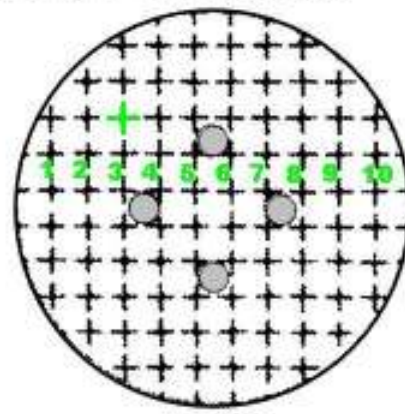


Pattern 24 vs. 168

Aligning the patterns in the usual 'X-Y axis' shows #24 to have Xs while #168 shows + signs. #168 has 10 pattern repeats, while #24 has only 8 or 9 repeats.



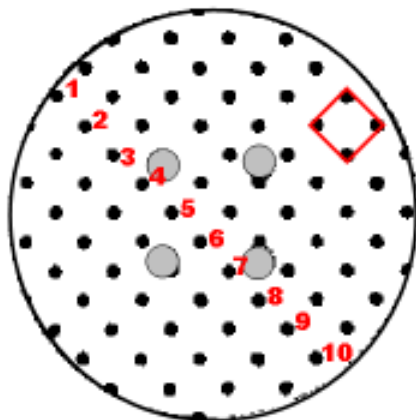
24



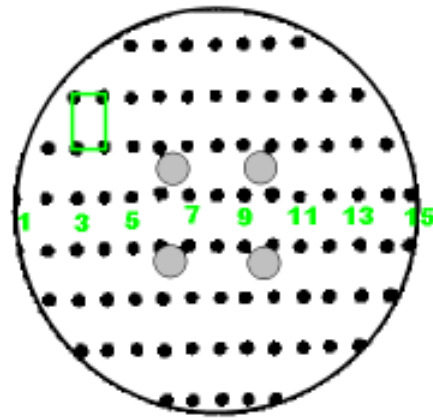
168

Pattern 25 vs. 26

#25 shows a 10-dot repeat but #26 has about a 15-dot repeat. In #25 the dots are aligned to form squares, while in #26 the dots form rectangles.



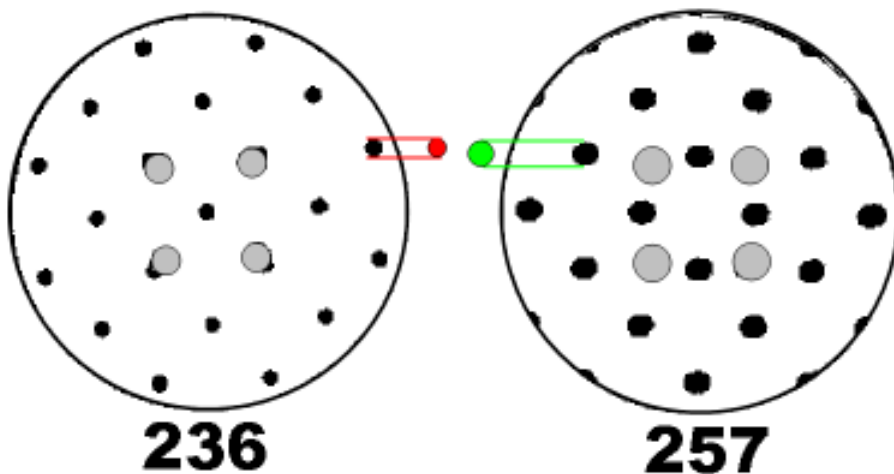
25



26

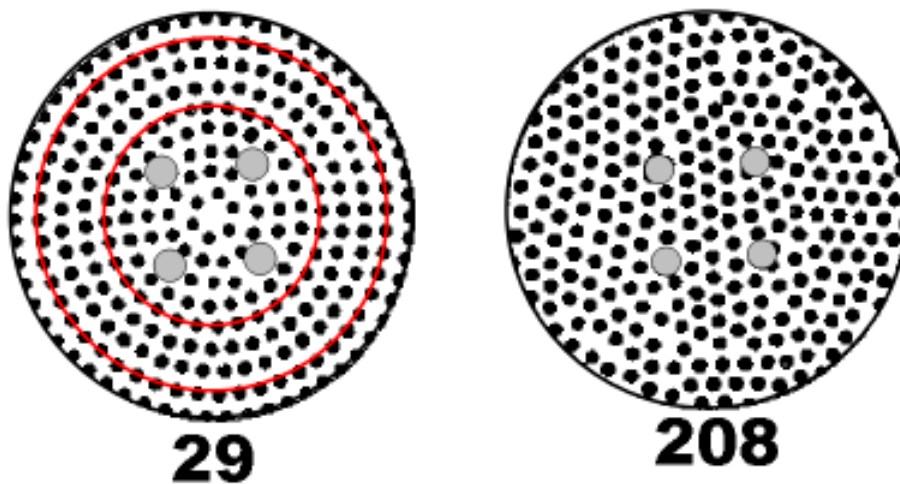
Pattern 236 vs. 257

The dots are nearly twice as large for #257 compared to #236.



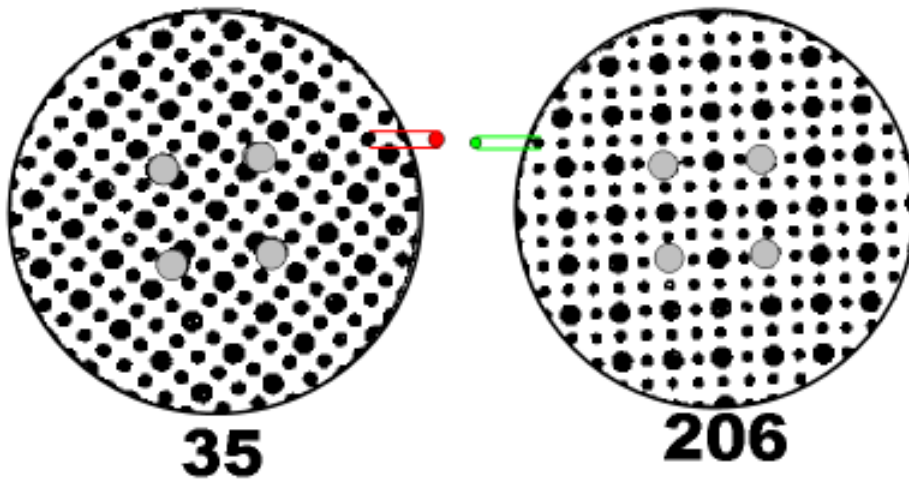
Pattern 29 vs. 208

The dots form concentric circles for #29 but are randomly placed for #208.



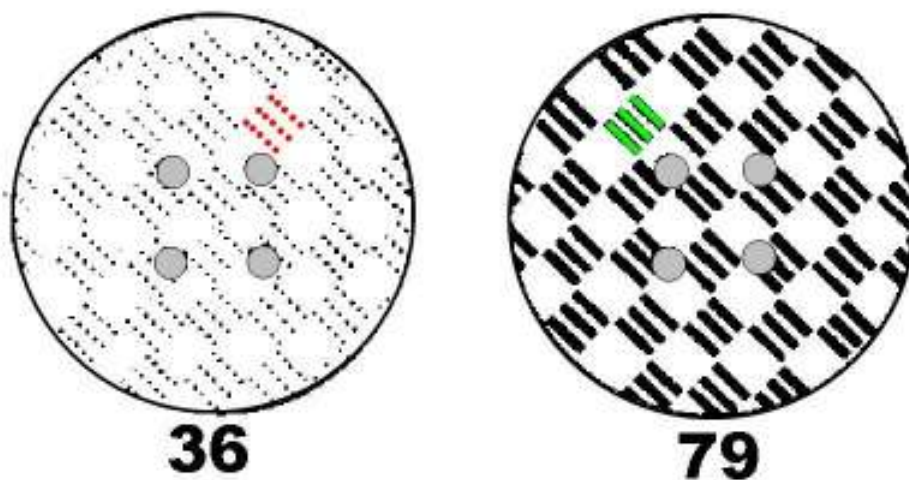
Pattern 35 vs. 206

A very tough pair. The smaller dots are 20% larger for #35 compared to #206.



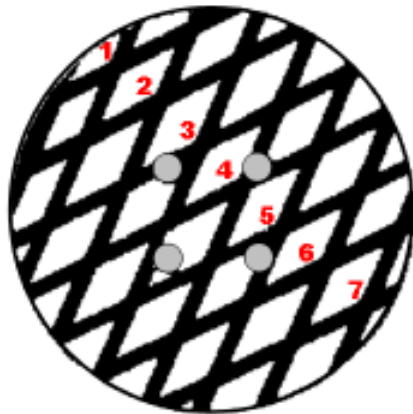
Pattern 36 vs. 79

#36 is made up of dots and #79 is made of solid lines.

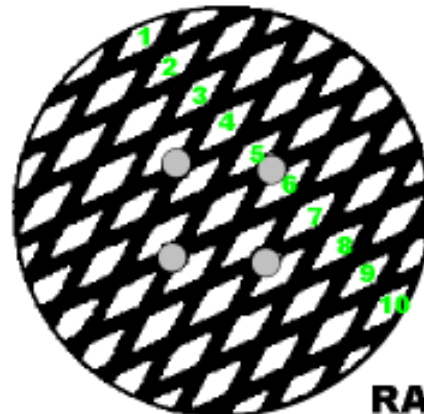


Pattern 99 vs. 100

There are about seven colored lines across the button for #99 but ten for #100.



99

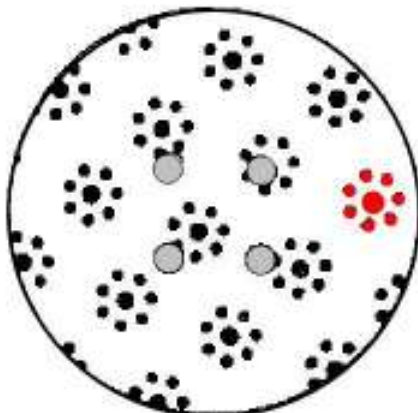


RARE

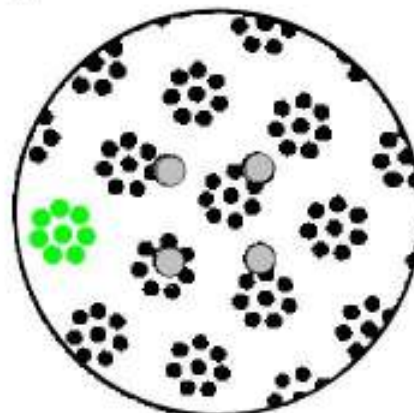
100

Pattern 42 vs. 44

Both are 8-dot patterns. The center dot is larger than the surrounding dots in #42. All the dots are the same size in #44.



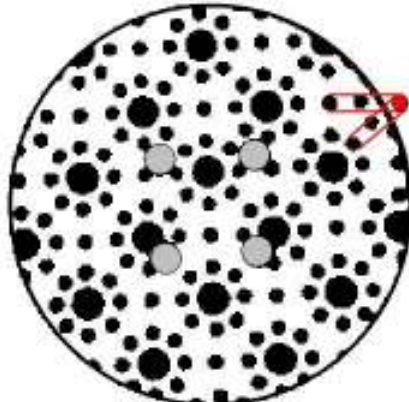
42



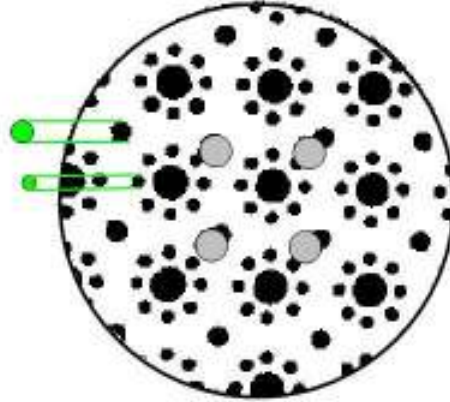
44

Pattern 45 vs. 154

Both are 9-dot patterns with extra dots in between. In #45 the isolated dots are the same size as those making up the circle. The isolated single dots are much larger than the dots making up the circle of #154.



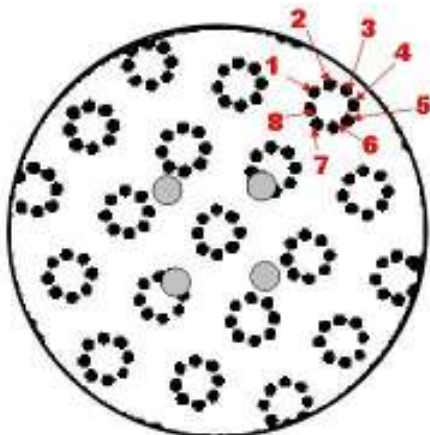
45



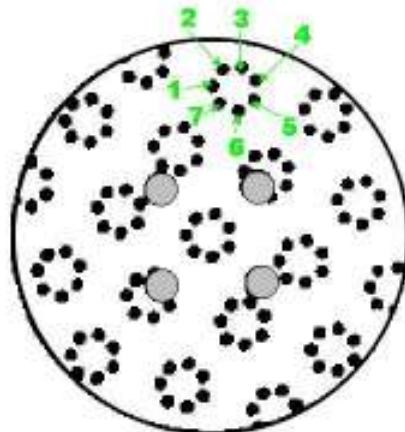
154

Pattern 43 vs. 151

#43 has eight dots and #151 has only seven.



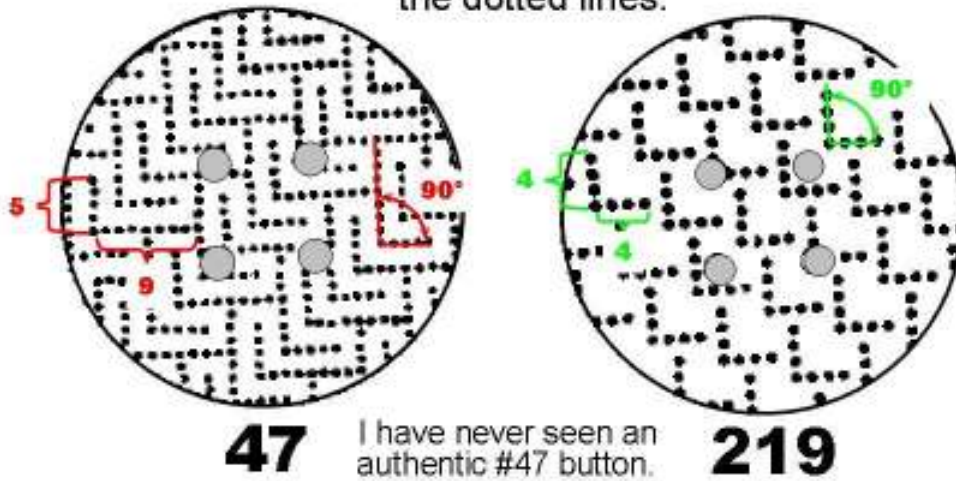
43



151

Pattern 47 vs. 219

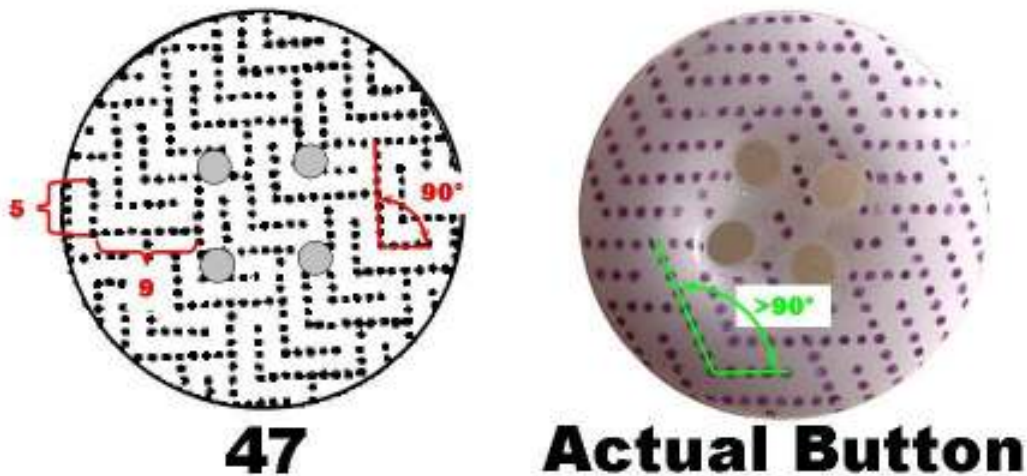
Dotted lines in #47 are at right angles & show a 5X9-dot count. Lines in #219 are at right angles in a 4X4-dot count. Most of us have buttons similar to #47 with the same 5X9-dot count, but with an obtuse angle between the dotted lines.



I have never seen an authentic #47 button.

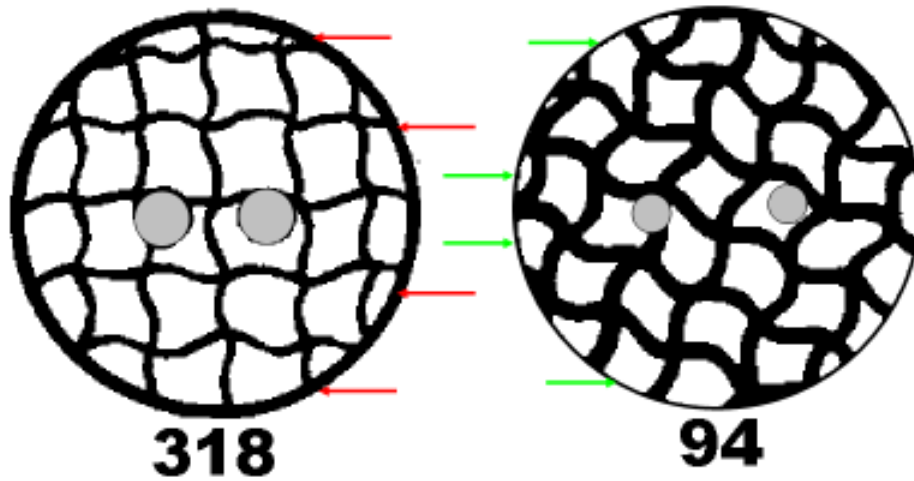
Pattern 47

Will the real #47 show up?



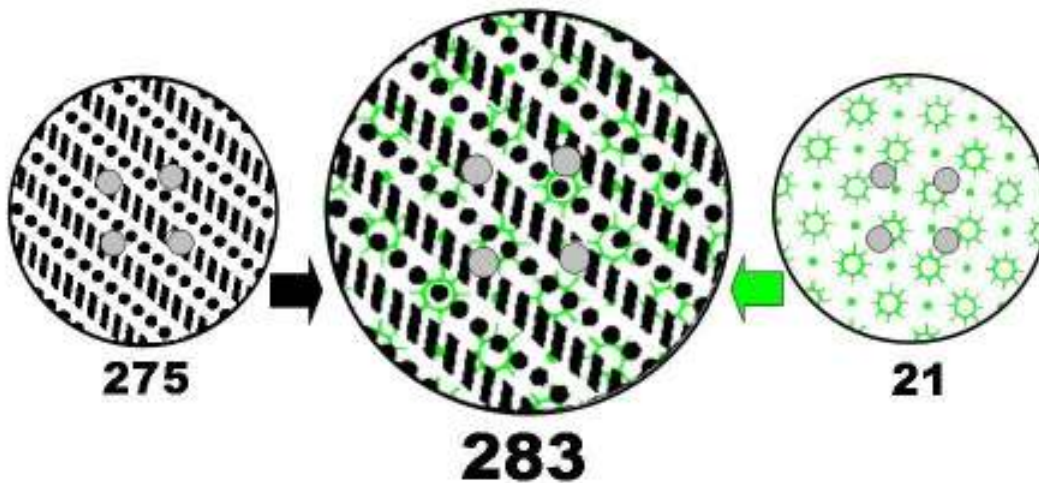
Pattern 318 vs. 94

#318 has a colored rim, but #94 does not.



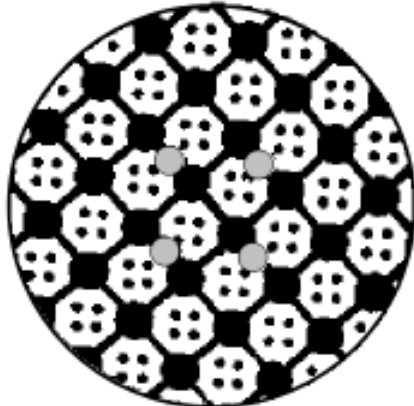
Pattern 283 vs. 275

The two basic patterns are identical but #283 also has the pattern of #21 in the background.

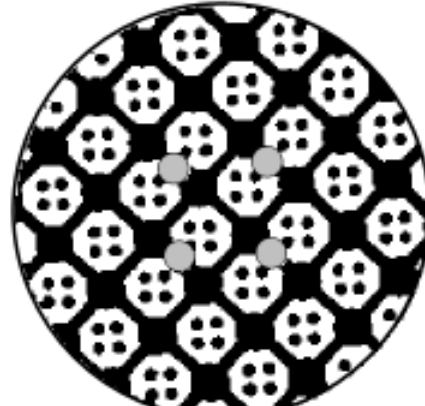


Pattern 134 vs. 144

Patterns are identical except the coloration of dots and lines is heavier for #144 than for #134.



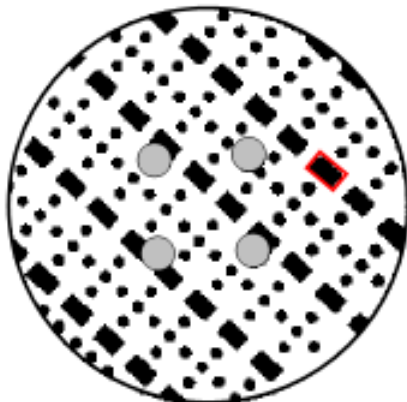
134



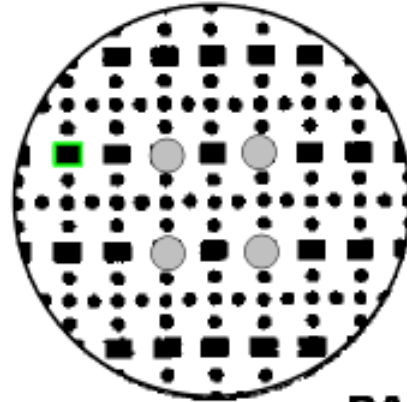
144

Pattern 181 vs. 212

Very similar patterns. The rectangles of #181 are more like rectangles, but in #212 they are more like squares.



181

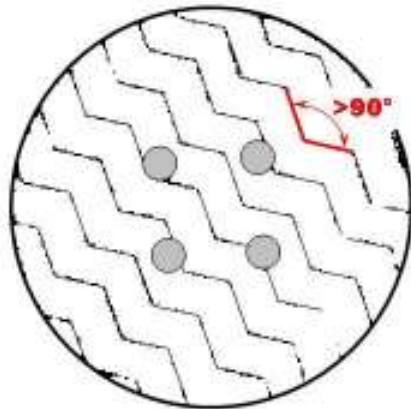


212

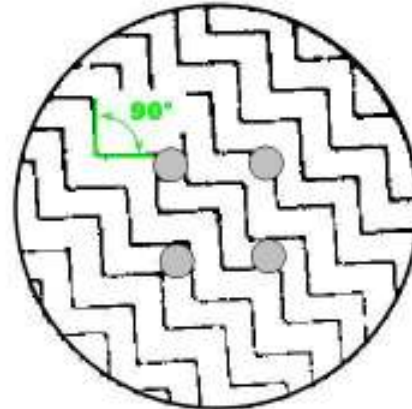
RARE

Pattern 87 vs. 88

In #87 the lines intersect to form obtuse angles. In #88 they form right angles.



87



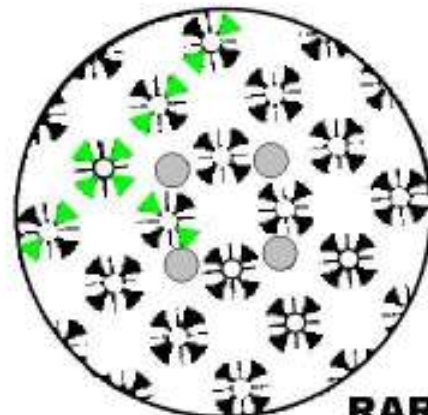
88

Patterns 113 vs. 114

In #113 the straight lines of adjacent figures point at each other.
In #114 the "trumpets" of adjacent figures point at each other.



113

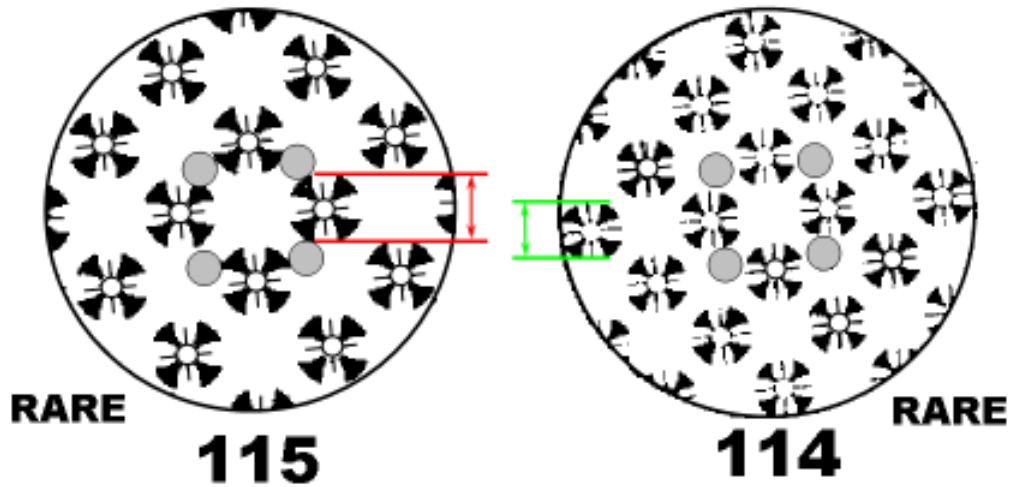


RARE

114

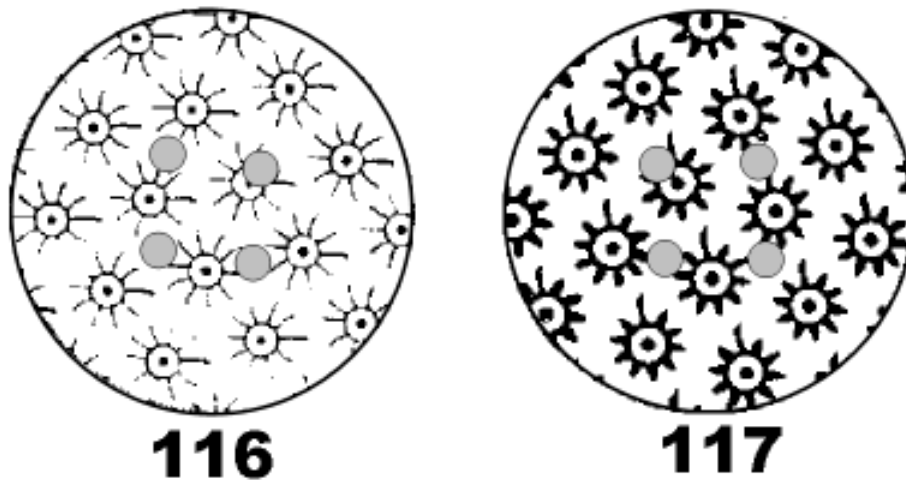
Patterns 114 vs. 115

In #114 & #115 the "trumpets" of adjacent figures point at each other. In #115 the figures are much larger than in #114.



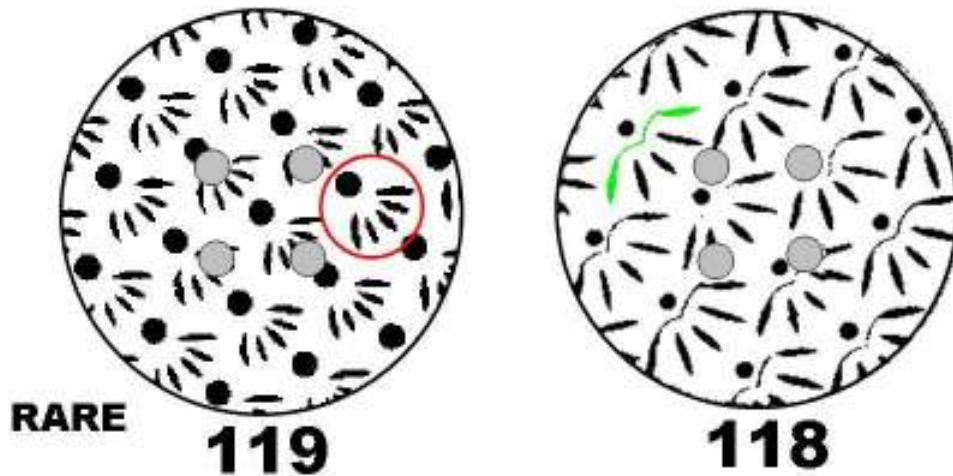
Pattern 116 vs. 117

The designs are very similar. The coloration is much lighter for #116 compared to #117.



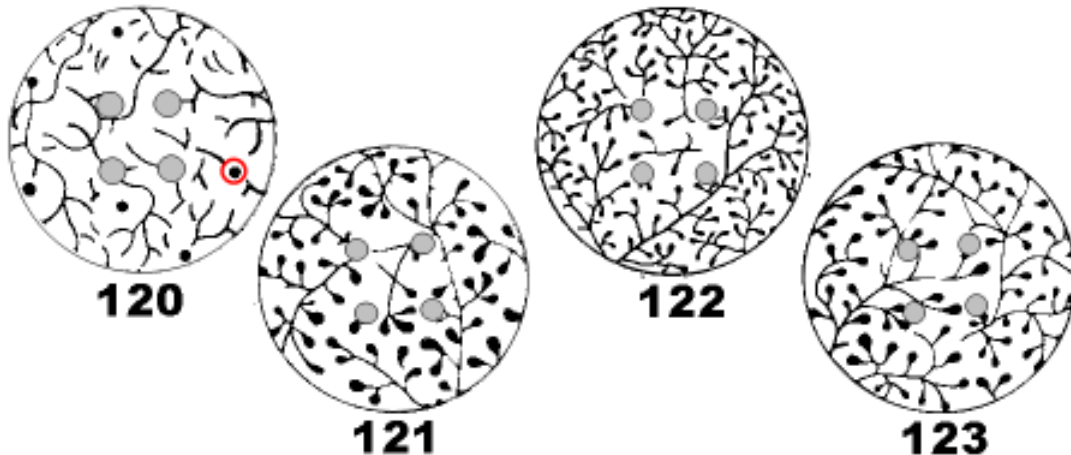
Pattern 119 vs. 118

The five 'fingers' of each figure are *NOT* connected in #119. The two end 'fingers' *ARE* connected in #118.



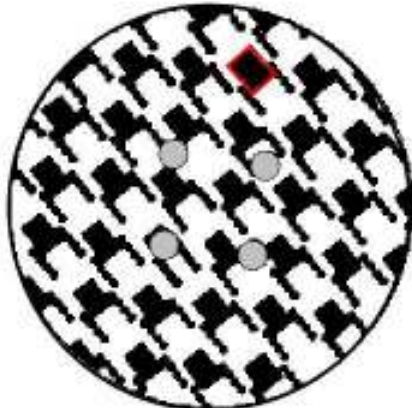
Patterns 120 vs. 121 vs. 122 vs. 123

#120 shows a few pronounced dots. In #122 the leaf pattern is more intricate and the leaf buds are very small. There are twice as many leaf buds in #122 compared to #121 and #123. The leaf buds of #121 tend to be larger and #123 has both large and small leaf buds.

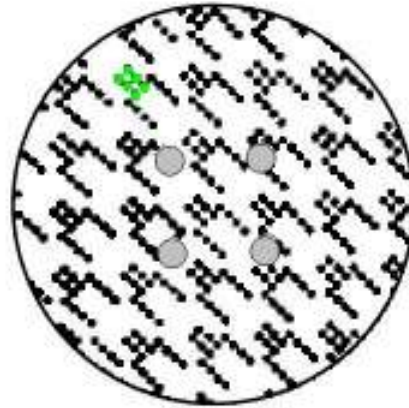


Pattern 140 vs. 276

The 'legs' of both are made of dots. The body of #140 is solid while the body of #276 is made of dots.



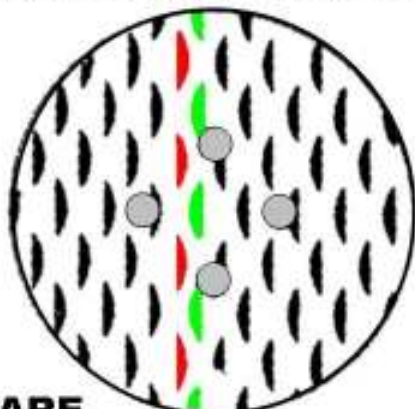
140



276

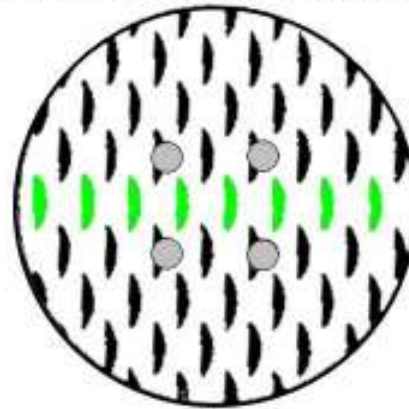
Pattern 178 vs. 202

The same curved figures are used in both, but in #202 all the figures face in the same direction. In #178 the figures on one side face towards those on the other side.



RARE

178



202

Miscellaneous Reverse color patterns

Lorah showed color on white and white on color buttons for these pairs:

Color on White	White on Color
288	278
132	143
211	245
144	135
70	214
279	260
118	147
110	199
207	308



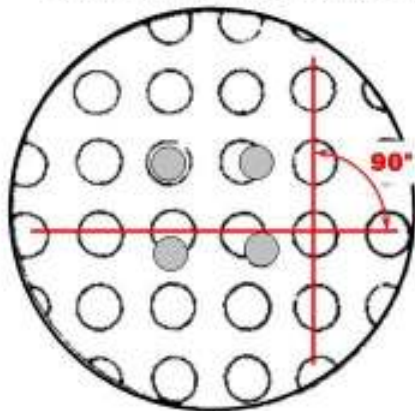
288



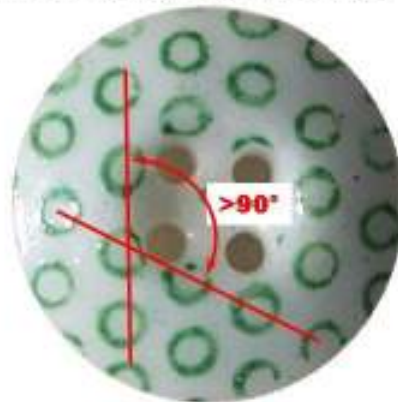
278

Pattern 3: a common Misassignment

If you draw lines through intersecting rows of circles in an authentic #3, the lines form a 90° angle. In the common unlisted pattern, the lines meet at an obtuse angle.



3



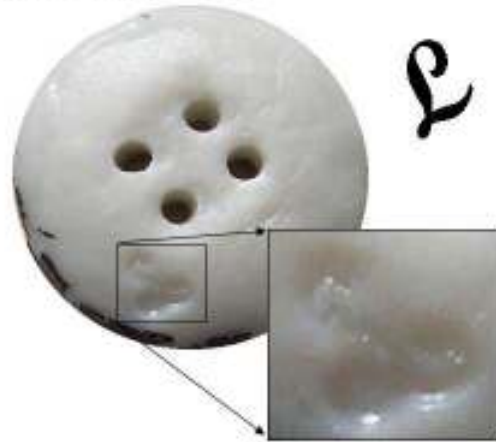
Unlisted Pattern

Modern Re-enactor Calicos

A California company makes new calico buttons for use by history buff re-enactors. These modern collectable buttons are easily identified by a characteristic back-mark resembling a cursive "L".



Like-119



Calico Treasures to Hunt

Looking for the 'Unlisted' patterns.



**#240 plus
diagonal
stripe**

**Like #126
but white
on brown**



Unique

Thanks To...

- Gretchen for preparing the graphics for this talk.
- Bruce, Gary, Millicent, Donna & many other dealers for supplying calico buttons for my collection.
- Janet White for many friendly discussions on calico and china buttons.