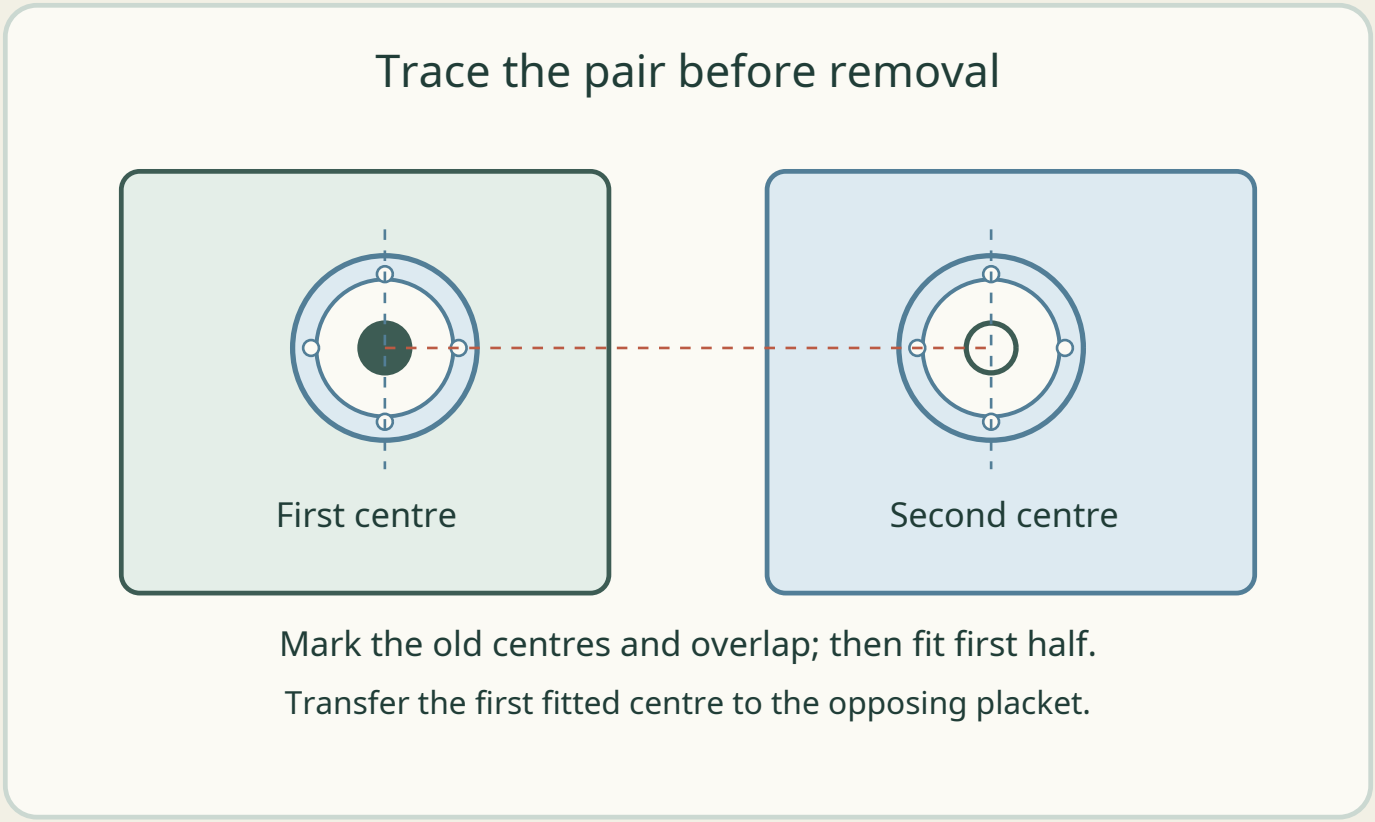
Replace a Broken Sew-On Snap



Replace both halves of a broken sew-on snap as a matched pair and retain the original closing position.

14 practical steps • Original diagrams and repair records

Illustrative repair plans — not physical test results

Before you start

A broken snap is different from a sound snap that has merely come loose. This guide replaces both halves of an ordinary adult garment's sew-on snap with a compatible matched pair. Exclude riveted or press-in hardware, sharp embedded fragments, protective or high-strain closures, and extensively damaged plackets. Do not combine unidentified halves simply because they look similar.

Materials

Garment off the body, new matched sew-on snap pair, paper, pencil, ruler, removable marker, compatible needle and thread, small scissors, capped seam ripper if appropriate, clips and comparable spare cloth. Keep small parts and sharp tools secure.

Plan the repair

Trace the original overlap, centre of each half and orientation before removing the old pair. Example: a matched 10 mm sew-on pair with four outer attachment holes on each half replaces an equivalent old pair, provided it fits the original cloth and fastening arrangement. Check the new pair engages and releases gently in the hand before fitting. Remove the old attachment threads one at a time; do not pry embedded metal. Sew one half at the recorded centre and then transfer its centre to the opposing placket while the garment lies naturally aligned. Keep mating faces opposed and attachment threads out of the central mechanism. Fit the second half and observe the closure without deliberate stress.

Steps 1–2

1. Identify the type of snap

Check that both halves are sewn through visible attachment holes. If metal is crimped or riveted into the fabric, refer rather than prying it out.

2. Identify damage and cloth condition

Look for a broken or distorted part and any sharp edges. Inspect both plackets. If fragments are embedded, fabric is torn, or the fastening carries unusual strain, seek suitable repair advice.

Steps 3–4

3. Trace the original positions

Before removal, sketch the overlap, both centres and the face of each half. Record distances to a stable garment edge, such as the seam or placket edge. Note if the old closure is already misaligned.

4. Select a matched pair

Choose a new pair of appropriate diameter, thickness, attachment holes and closure feel. A 10 mm example is illustrative. Do not match an old half to a new half without verified compatibility.

Steps 5–6

5. Observe the replacement pair

Hold the new pair close to the edges and engage and release gently according to its design. Reject a pair that binds, has rough edges or requires unusual force. Follow the maker's care and attachment directions.

6. Isolate the old sewing threads

Lay the garment flat and support the first old half. Lift or snip only identified sewing threads, one at a time, keeping the blade away from the cloth and fingers.

Steps 7–8

7. Remove the old halves

Repeat on the other half. Collect all loose thread and hardware; do not lever attached metal away from the garment. Inspect the exposed fabric and defer if the old holes are too weak.

8. Mark the first new centre

Use the recorded position on the appropriate placket. Set the first half with its mating face oriented toward the other half when the garment overlaps. Clip or hold only the intended layers.

Steps 9–10

9. Sew the first half

Anchor suitable thread on the concealed face and attach through designated holes with several small relaxed passes. Alternate opposite holes to maintain position and avoid the central mechanism.

10. Transfer the mating centre

Lay the two plackets naturally overlapped. Transfer the fitted half's centre to the opposite placket with a removable mark. Compare with the original trace. If alignment conflicts, stop and resolve it before sewing.

Steps 11–12

11. Sew the second half

Separate the plackets and place the matching half on the transferred mark, facing the first. Sew all intended holes with small relaxed stitches and secure the thread on the concealed face.

12. Inspect both attachments

Count tools, remove clips and check the halves lie flat and the central mechanism is clear. The garment should not have trapped layers, protruding thread or puckering.

Steps 13–14

13. Observe gentle closing and opening

Support the fabric immediately behind each half. Close and separate the snap gently with the garment off the body. Stop if the pair catches, resists or pulls the fabric out of shape.

14. Keep the record

Note both centre positions, replacement type and attachment observations. Follow compatible care instructions and inspect after ordinary use. Refer if the new pair repeatedly fails.

Fix, care and preserve

One half is missing from the new pair.

Obtain the correct matched pair instead of mixing unknown hardware.

Old metal remains embedded.

Stop and refer; do not pry or cut the garment around it.

Second centre is offset.

Recheck natural overlap and transfer the first centre again before sewing.

The new snap pulls or distorts the placket.

Remove the garment from use with that closure; reassess fit, backing or hardware.

Originality and evidence boundary

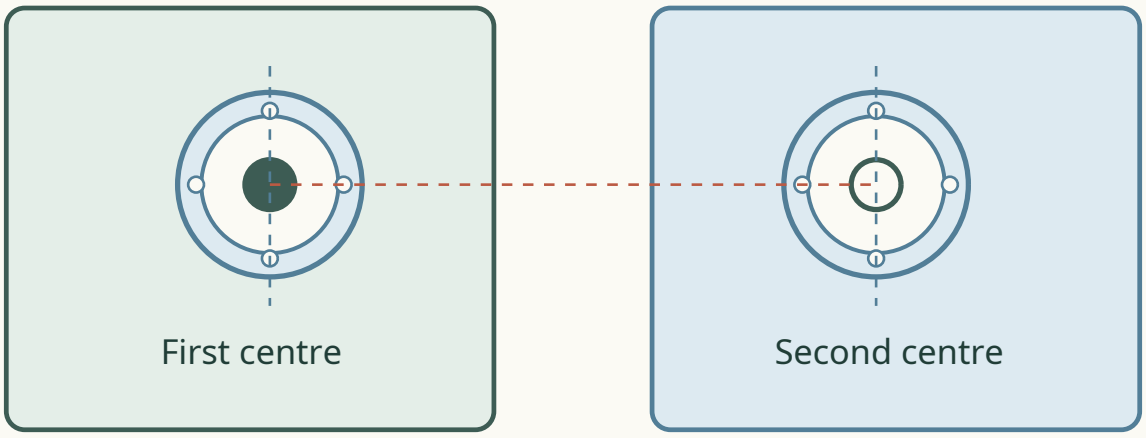
Original Steadleaf English prose, design, artwork, diagrams and records. Follow actual item, material and tool instructions. No physical repair, durability, load, strength, washing or compatibility testing was performed by the publisher. Adult ordinary clothing mending only; no safety or performance certification.

Print the following pages separately if desired. Measured schematics are not full-size cutting patterns. Record only actual observations.

Pattern 1

Paired-position tracing: mark both old centres and the overlap before removal; place matched 10 mm example stud and socket facing each other, then transfer centre from first fitted half.

Trace the pair before removal



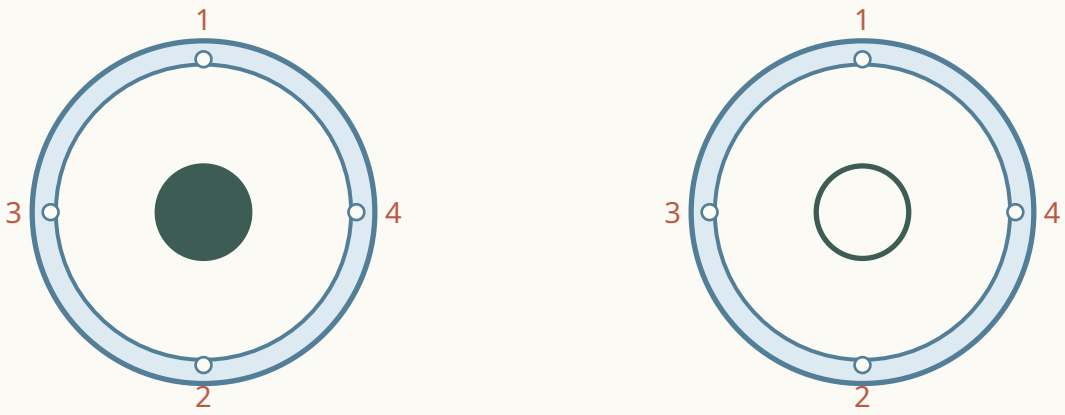
Mark the old centres and overlap; then fit first half.

Transfer the first fitted centre to the opposing placket.

Pattern 2

Attachment sequence: four outer holes on each example half, opposite holes first, then remaining holes; avoid centre mechanism. Sketch of matched pair, not a sizing template.

Attach both halves through outer holes



First half

Matched second half

Opposite holes first; then remaining holes.

Keep the mating centre clear • 10 mm example

Record 1 — Materials and repair plan

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Garment / care / original snap type

Old pair condition / fragments

Fabric around both halves

Original first centre / reference

Original second centre / overlap

New matched pair diameter / holes

Gentle pair engagement observation

Needle / thread / plan

Record 2 — Finish and follow-up

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

First new centre and orientation

Transferred second centre

Both outer-hole attachments

Central mechanisms clear

Tools / old components accounted for

Gentle engagement / alignment

Decision: USE / CHANGE / REFER

Date / follow-up