Silver Buttons
by Tim McCreight

Here’s a great way to use PMC to make your favorite clothes even more special.

Use any of the three versions of PMC, and remember that they will shrink, either a little of a lot.

1 Roll out a sheet of PMC to a thickness of at least three and no more than six cards. Larger buttons require thicker material.

2 To cut out the disks, trace a coin, or use a plastic template. Remember to account for shrinkage: start with the intended diameter and add either 15% or 30% to determine the starting size you need.

3 Make a pattern by rolling a cap from a tube of paint or toothpaste. As simple as it is, even this tool offers several variations. You can roll all the way around, make several straight passes, or overlap passes.

4 Poke holes for thread. For large buttons, use a small drink stirrer. For smaller holes, use a needle—put it into the PMC and wiggle it gently in a circle.

5 Fire the pieces according to the manufacturer’s recommended schedule.

6 Oxidize (optional) and polish by tumbling or with steel wool or a brass brush.