

“Last One I Have” Button-Badge Ornament

<jensoriginalsembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

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While browsing on line recently, I came across a funny ornament trend: plain discs reading “It’s the last [one] I have, and it’s hanging by a string”. I laughed out loud when I saw these, and immediately thought of several folks on my gift list who would get a kick out of them.

I should mention that, in general, I don’t really care for crude humour on Christmas ornaments – often they are not so much funny as just plain bad taste.

This one, though, struck me as genuinely funny, because it so neatly captures the frustration so many people feel around the bustle and demands of the holidays. I thought some of my peeps would feel the same.

It seems everyone had heard of this trend before I did, because I saw lots of variations of this same idea, from a whole host of different makers. Most were made of laser-cut wood, but I figured I could do something similar, using my trusty 2.25” button maker.



(For details on how these button ornaments are made, and to see lots of samples, check out my project post from 15 September 2023).



As with all of my button ornaments, I started by creating a graphic. I liked the rustic feel of the ones I’d seen on line, so I gave my image a wood-look background and added the captions using a button designer program. (If you don’t like the f-bomb version, you can always substitute something less aggressively Anglo-Saxon.)

As you might remember, these ornaments are made from two buttons, linked with a jump ring and glued back-to-back. Though I sometimes use different images, for this one I'm using the same image on both sides.



Once the glue is set, I add trim around the perimeter of the ornament.

Normally I opt for beads or braid to trim out my ornament, but this time I wanted to run with the rustic tone of the image, so I selected a natural jute cord. Its rough-textured surface helps reinforce the implicit theme of fraying nerves, and provides the perfect complement to the rough-hewn sensibility of my ornament.

I usually finish off my button ornaments with a beaded element, or sometimes with a ribbon. Neither of those seemed right for this ornament,

which – in keeping with its own declaration – needs to be hanging by a string. So I opted for a length of thinner jute twine, looped around the jump ring and tied in a knot. It's perfectly in keeping with the ornament's rustic look.

In my pictures I'm showing the family-friendly version, but the ones I made for my guys are the X-rated variety. Despite its edginess, I'm pretty sure that they will get a good laugh from this ornament.

And though I love Christmas and don't find it a source of frustration – so did I.

