

# Santa's Magic Button

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My little nephew loves the Elf-on-the-Shelf game that his ingenious Grandma sets up for him each year. The rest of us like to contribute where we can, so when I saw a post about "Santa's missing button" on line, I just had to add my own version to the elves' tickle trunk!



I started by making up the button using my 1.25" button machine and a design I created on the computer. For the shank, I used a "welded-up eye" and a hole-back.



I'm really pleased with how the Santa button turned out; here you can see the welded-up eye that forms the shank on the back:



(Even if I didn't own a machine, I would still have made my own button, using a purchased covered-button kit like the one at right, and adapting the method slightly to work with the printed paper.)



With the button made, my next step was to create a tag so it could be placed on the Christmas tree for my nephew to find.



I made up a suitable tag design on my computer and sized it approximately 2.5" x 4.5", then printed it out on 110lb cardstock. I punched two tiny holes in the card and tied the button in position. A length of baker's twine forms a hanging loop by which the tag can be suspended from the Christmas tree.

My next task was to come up with a suitable message. I know there are lots of verses available on the internet, but I wanted something a little different, so I made up my own rhyme – in limerick form! It turned out to be the most difficult part of the whole project, and I struggled with it for days, tweaking it here and there until I was finally satisfied:

*The elves have played a joke on old St. Nick  
They took his special button, as a trick!  
Now the old gent's distraught,  
And the elves – well, they ought  
To restore it back to Santa Claus, real quick!*

*Instead, the elves have stashed it on your tree--  
It's red and round and pretty as can be,  
On a tag of its own.  
You should leave it alone  
For now, and just see what will be.*

*The magic of St. Nick will fill the air,  
And you'll enjoy a Christmastime so rare:  
A magical season,  
With joys beyond reason,  
And we'll do it over next year – if we're spared.*

The three stanzas just fit nicely onto the Christmas stationery that I had on hand.

Below is the complete kit. As a last touch, I pulled out some red envelopes from my stash, then made up and printed an "Elf Mail" label for the front.



My sister will be able to hang the button tag from the tree, then have the elves leave the letter for my nephew to find one morning in December. I only wish I could be there to see him discover it all!