

TIPS FOR USING METALLIC THREAD:

Metallic thread is something of magic if used properly. It can really create life to a simple design. However, if not used appropriately, there lies a beast beneath its beauty. Embroiderers prefer not to use it unless necessary. Metallic thread is more breakable than ordinary thread. Secondly, it is more expensive than rayon or polyester thread. Then again, if you utilize it successfully, you can WOW! your client.

The following are some useful tips for using metallic thread.

- 1) Digitization for metallic thread should be different. You will need to inform your digitizer if certain part of the design you will use metallic thread. Stitch length and density needs to be adjusted since the metallic thread is thicker than the ordinary thread.
- 2) Try not to use metallic thread in all of the design. Try to decorate only some parts of the design with metallic thread to add glitz and glamour. Too much of metallic thread may make the design uninteresting. Use it sparingly.
- 3) Use larger needle. Since metallic thread strand is larger than the rayon or polyester, a larger eye of needle can compensate for this type of thread. Tear and wear would be lessened. It's always good to start with a new needle.
- 4) The machine needs to be slowed down a bit. Since metallic thread is more fragile than the common thread, slowing down the machine may get the thread to run delicately. Also downtime would be reduced. The amount of speed can be adjusted by seeing how well the design is running at that moment.
- 5) Do not use cheap low quality thread. Use particular type of thread that has a good brand name and has been there for a long time in the market. Thread from a company with good reputation can take away all of your headaches.
- 6) Small letters or minute details should not be embroidered with metallic thread. Short stitches can cause lots of kinks and strip threads.
- 7) Check your machine to make sure that there is no barrier or rough spots.
- 9) Test run it before actual production. As embroidery is comprised of endless factors (thread type, needle, backing, thread tension, design details etc), it is better to test run it to find various variables so that the design runs to its highest quality.
- 8) Try to embroider on soft but not too delicate fabrics. It's also better to use soft backing so that needle or thread will heat up less while embroidering.