

LEARN IT LIVE!

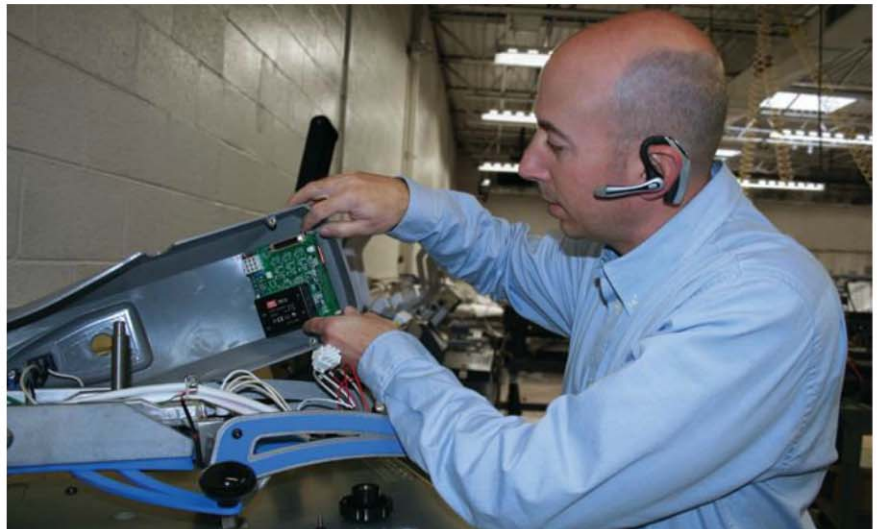
If you have a strong foundation in using CorelDRAW, it's time to move past the basics. Attend "Next-Level Graphics: Use CorelDRAW to Create Stunning Visual Effects," an education session on Monday, April 2, at 4:00 p.m. at The ASI Show San Diego. You'll learn tips and techniques that will help increase your creativity using intermediate graphic design skills and time-saving shortcuts. Visit ASIShow.com to register for free.

machine maintenance

Heat Press Repair In A Hot Second

Hotronix recently launched a new Blue Ribbon 24/7 Support program that ensures all of its customers have access to support anytime they need it. To qualify, all you need is the serial and model number of your press.

In addition to the expanded telephone support, Hotronix has added a new section on its website to make it fast and easy for customers to identify and order parts for machine repairs. By clicking on "Online Store" on the top navigation bar, you'll see a drop-down menu. Choose "heat press replacement parts" to see a detailed parts location guide diagram of each press model. Each part is numbered in the diagram, which corresponds to a price list on the same page. Simply click on the part you need, and you are prompted through the order process. For more information, visit www.hotronix.com



5 STEPS To Better Cap Embroidery

Drew Coufal, owner of Kent, OH-based Sew & Sew Embroidery, offers five key steps to better cap embroidery.

- STEP 1: Properly Digitize and Consider Logo Size.** Set up with stitches running from center of cap out as much as possible to prevent puckering or quality issues over center of cap seams. Cap logos typically max out at 2.25" to 2.50" tall on most styles. Keep your design within these specs.
- STEP 2: Choose a Backing.** Use a heavyweight cap backing for best results. Leave plenty of excess backing to fit around cap frame, backing and cap so there's a nice seal on all sides for the tightest hooping and registration results.
- STEP 3: Hoop the Cap.** Fit cap tightly around cap frame and be sure to keep centered and straight. Use the cap side clips as needed to keep material flat and tight. The flatter the cap panels in the frame, the better; any puckering, especially in the center seam, can cause registration issues as well as excess needle breaks.
- STEP 4: Align Cap Drivers and Set Speed.** Be sure the space between the arm and cap driver are correct. Too high or too low can create stitch issues. Slow the machine down slightly from the standard flat speed used for other merchandise. (Most machines will do this automatically in cap mode.)
- STEP 5: Finish.** Pull the backing, check for any stitches that may need to be trimmed and package for final delivery.

