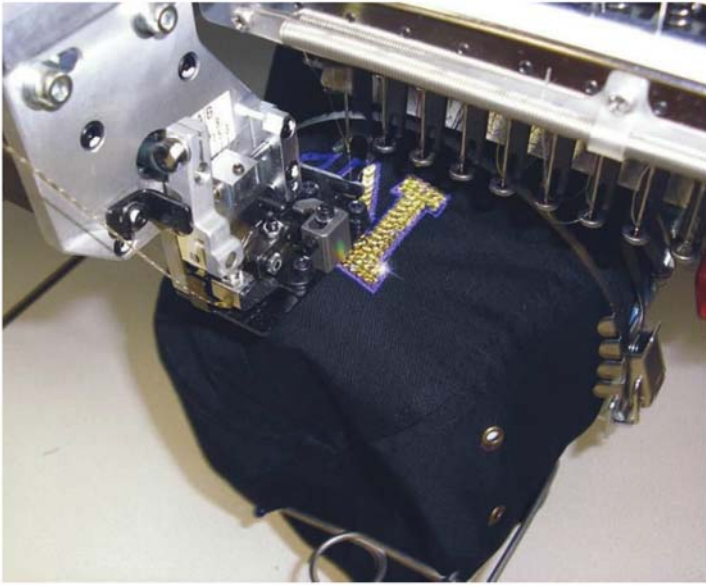


A top-level course on embellishing caps with sequins.

Decorating Workshop – 430

Senior

Top Off Headwear With Sparkle



Sequined embroidery is a classic way to add some sparkle to headwear. As evidenced by Sew & Sew Embroidery (circle 107 on Free Info Card), it's smart to use sequins for large areas and not fine details. photos courtesy of Sew & Sew Embroidery

Want headwear with style? Look for sparkly embellishments. Rhinestones, glitter ink or even faux-sequined heat transfers are all great choices. But when it comes to a classic option, many clients seek the signature look of sequined embroidery.

When you plan to stitch sequins into a logo, consider the artwork. “Designs will need to support the sequin shapes and size to look clean,” says Drew Coufal, owner of Sew & Sew Embroidery, adding that fixed shapes limit application to some degree. For that reason, he recommends fine details and small elements in a logo be stitched with standard embroidery, leaving the main elements for sequined application.

To keep the process simple, don't use more than one sequin size. “Most shops with a sequin device,” Coufal explains, “tend to run only one size sequin due to the complexity involved with changing over the sequin device mechanics to drive a different size sequin.” Round sequins come in sizes from 3 mm to 7 mm or more, and each one can have a different interior hole diameter. In addition, there are various sequin shapes and coatings to choose from.

“With all of the variables and complexity with the process, most shops prefer a specific style and even brand of sequin that they know will run well with their machine and sequin device,” he says.

Keep these tips from Coufal in mind when you digitize a logo for sequin embellishment and prepare for the run:

- **Pay close attention to the starting tie-down stitches.** If these are not digitized well, the sequins may not get attached on the first few sequin drops as the machine starts up.
- **Know how your software codes will affect the sequin device.** For example, will the sequin device retract to the up position to perform a trim or stay in the sewing field? (The machine will run faster if sequin devices do not need to retract to trim.)
- **Plan for how the sequin device feeds the reels of sequins;** some equipment allows for the sequins to be fed from any angle, while other machines limit angles from which the sequins can be feed.
- **Consider the type of fixing stitch to be used.** There are dozens of fixing stitch types ranging from star-shaped tack-downs to simple running stitch-style tack-downs; each has its own set of parameters such as the overlap of the sequin shape, the sequin size/diameter, positioning, spacing, feeding direction and orientation.
- **When running any sequin logo,** check your hoop size, design size and sequin foot very carefully, allowing for the device to freely move and retract to avoid costly frame contact.