

think[box]

Tajima Embroidery Machine

Tutorial: Make an Iron-On Patch

Introduction

An Iron-On Patch is a great way to add embroidered designs to fabric items that may not fit in an embroidery frame like, hats, wallets, and more.



Schedule wisely

Look at the clock. Consider what time think[box] is closing. If you have not yet embroidered your design, follow our [embroidery tutorial](#) first. Embroidery will take 30 minutes or more, depending on your design.

Your **first experience** making a patch may take around **30 minutes**, do you have that much time? If not, you may have enough time to at least get your design ready.



Getting Started

1. Gather your patch materials. To make a patch, you will need your finished embroidered design on scrap fabric, iron-on transfer paper, Fray Check, fabric shears, scissors, a heat protective sheet, and the item you want to adhere the patch to.

You can ask a student technician for the roll of iron on transfer paper and a bottle of Fray Check.



2. Cut out a piece of iron-on transfer paper from the roll. The piece should be slightly bigger than the design on your fabric



3. Plug in and turn on the iron. When the iron is plugged in, the small screen on the handle should say "OFF". Press the grey rectangular button placed below the spray buttons **once** to turn the iron on.

Pressing continuously allows you to change the fabric/heat settings. The higher the number, the hotter the iron gets.

You should choose the heat setting that correlates to the material you embroidered on.

If you made your patch on project muslin from thinkbox, use the 6th setting for cotton and allow 1 minute for the iron to heat up.



Making the Patch

4. Place your materials. Once the iron is hot, place the iron-on transfer paper on the ironing board with the smoother side face down. Take your patch design and put it on top of the piece of iron-on transfer paper. Make sure the rougher side of the transfer paper is touching the back of your patch design.

Place a heat protective sheet over your patch to protect the threads from direct contact with the iron.



5. Iron your design for about 15 seconds. Make sure to iron over all parts of the patch, and apply moderate pressure while ironing.

Lift up the fabric to check if the iron-on paper is fully secured to the back of your patch design. If not, do another 15 second pass of ironing.

If the iron-on paper still isn't fully secure, you can increase the heat setting and try again. Be careful to avoid melting your fabric.



7. Add Fray Check. Fray Check is a solution that stops fabric from fraying. We recommend applying it before cutting the outline of your patch. **Gently** squeeze the bottle to apply a small amount of the liquid to the fabric bordering your embroidered design. Allow the fabric to dry completely for 15-30 minutes.

Always test on an inconspicuous area first to ensure no color change occurs on your fabric or embroidery.



8. Cut out your patch. Use fabric shears!



6. Peel off the back. Peel off the smooth side of the iron-on transfer paper leaving a shiny adhesive coating on the back of your patch.



9. Apply the patch. Align the patch to where you want it applied on your item.

Place a piece of thin scrap fabric over your patch to protect the threads from direct contact with the iron. Use the same ironing settings and technique as before, and iron until your patch completely adheres to the item's surface.



Clean Up

10. Please place any scraps from your project in a waste bin, and put away any tools you used. Return fray check and iron-on transfer paper to a Student Technician.



11. Turn off the Iron. Make sure the iron is turned off and unplugged. Once the iron has cooled down, neatly coil the cord.



You are done

12. Thank any Student Workers or staff who have helped you, and celebrate your new skills.

