



## STEP BY STEP: Emblems- Creating Badges and Patches

### SUPPLY LIST

- E-Zee Badge Film 100 (mic.)
- Design digitized for stand-alone patches
- Hot Knife (optional)
- Heat Seal (optional)

The ability to embroider emblems can expand and enhance your embroidery business. Emblems can be the solution for enhancing or branding promotional items that are difficult or impossible to stitch on (golf bags are a good example). A patch or badge can be used where the required design is very heavy and dense or has a stitch count too high to put directly into the garment. If emblems are sewn on, they can also be a money-saver; they can be removed and replaced with a different emblem if the garment needs to be remerchandised for another season, a different event, or even reused for a new employee.

### Patch, Badge, Emblem? What's the difference?

Emblems are a category of separately embroidered ornaments that are affixed to garments and accessories for a variety of purposes. Generally speaking, emblems fall into two broad categories, badges and patches. Badges are a kind of emblem used most often in official uniform applications for heraldry decoration, or to denote rank, membership or achievement. Patches are generally any other kind of stitched emblem featuring an image, logo, nameplate or message.

## EQUIPMENT

### Designs

Designs for stand-alone emblems are either digitized with an appliqué element and are used in conjunction with a stable base fabric, or they are digitized to be stitched out using thread only. Thread-only emblems have a digitizing sequence which builds the base "fabric" of the patch first.

With either type of design, the last part of the design that is stitched out is typically the satin outline stitch that acts as the merrowed edging of the finished product.

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# EQUIPMENT (continued)

## Base Material

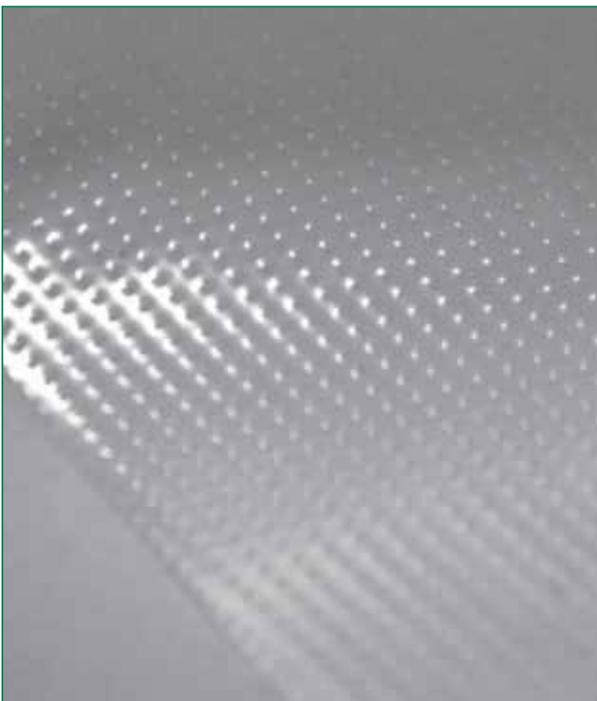
E-Zee Badge Film is a 100-micron-thick plastic material. It can be hooped alone and embroidery can be done directly on it. The satin stitch outline perforates the material so that it can be removed easily. Additionally, it is a “heat-away” product that can be removed with heat. E-Zee Badge Film is two-sided; you will notice that one side is smooth and the other side is textured with small bumps.

**For all thread-only emblems, use 2 layers** and hoop them together with the textured sides facing each other, which will help keep the layers from slipping.

For appliqué patches, use 1 layer.



E-Zee Badge Film



Enlarged to show texture



# TECHNIQUE

## Step 1 Hooping

- **Hooping for Thread-Only Emblems** Secure and hoop 2 layers of E-Zee Badge Film by itself in a hoop appropriately sized for the design. Ensure that the film layers have been stacked with the textured sides together, and are taut and smooth with no movement inside the hoop. You are now ready to bring the hooped film to the machine
- **Hooping for Appliqué Emblems** Secure and hoop a single layer of E-Zee Badge Film by itself in a hoop appropriately sized for the design. Ensure that the film is taut and smooth with no movement inside the hoop. You are now ready to bring the hooped film to the machine.



## Step 2 Embroider the Design

- **Thread-Only Emblems** Allow the design to run until finished.
- **Appliqué Emblems** If not already existing in the design set-up, add stops in the appropriate places to allow for laying out and tacking down the appliqué material. Keep in mind that different appliqué methods may or may not require the use of a hot knife for finishing and cleaning the edges.



## Step 3 Removing the Excess Material

Once the machine has finished embroidering the entire emblem, remove the film and design from the hoop. You can now simply tear away the excess film from the finished satin stitch edges. If there are any residual film pieces that remain after tearing it away, you can remove them completely with heat from a heat gun, hair dryer or a household iron. The correct heat setting you will need may vary. Test at a lower setting and increase as needed to achieve optimal results. Melted remnants can be brushed away.



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## Step 4 Finishing Options

An emblem may be attached to the item or garment it is intended for by either bonding or sewing.

- **Heat-Seal Bonded Emblems** A bonded emblem is a permanent attachment that holds the patch to the garment or item by adhering with a layer of heat seal. Heat seal is a heat-activated adhesive which is first bonded to the back side of the emblem and then bonded to the bag, garment, cap, etc. It often adds a bit of stiffness to the emblem and area on the garment where it is bonded. Embroiderers who wish to supply their customers with finished emblems they can attach at a later time themselves should share the manufacturer's recommended heat settings for the type of heat seal used.
- **Sewn Emblems** A sewn emblem is attached to the garment without the use of a heat seal. This can be done on garments, bags, caps, etc. Patches and badges intended for a sewn-on attachment may also be attached with an embroidery machine using an appliqué method with the alignment and tack down stitches.

