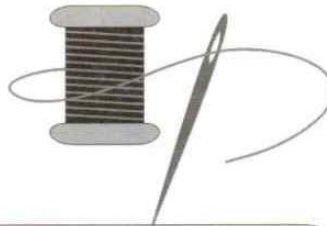


EMBROIDERY GUIDELINES



Embroidery (hand)

- ◆ 'A piece of embroidery' means the back will be looked at—that is, a made up item such as a framed picture is not acceptable
- ◆ 'An embroidered picture' does not require the back to be open so is acceptable framed and behind glass
- ◆ Are stamped linens or kits allowed?
- ◆ If adapted, should this be stated?
- ◆ Is there credit for an original design?
- ◆ Can it be mounted and/or framed?



DEFINITION

Creative Embroidery: An art form where the embroiderer interprets established techniques and stitches in her own way, choosing materials and methods to achieve an imaginative result. Stitches will be worked by hand or machine, using a wide variety of threads in an original, creative manner, including techniques such as applique, quilting, fabric manipulation and the incorporation of other contemporary materials such as paper, metal and beads to add interest and texture

All embroidery designs should seek effective combinations of fabric, thread, stitchery and applied material to give colour and texture appropriate to the shape and intended purpose.

Judges will look for skill in the use and adaptation of basic and (where appropriate) more advanced stitches worked in well-chosen threads. The edge of the work should be suitable for the design and traditional embroidery techniques such as Hardanger and Ruskin Lace should be carried out and finished appropriately.

Items should be unsoiled and appropriately presented with the shape not distorted and design markings or iron-on transfer marks not visible. Mounting may enhance the presentation, if the schedule allows. See also *Canvaswork and Cross-stitch*



Embroidery (machine)

- ◆ Is “Free Machine Embroidery” specifically required, i.e. the free-style manipulation of machine and hooped fabric?
- ◆ Are computer-generated embroidered images, worked on an embroidery machine allowed?
- ◆ Is the use of in-built embroidery patterns worked on a sewing machine acceptable?

DEFINITION

Machine embroidery may refer to any decorative stitching worked on a sewing or embroidery machine. Free machine embroidery specifically refers to work done in a hoop on a sewing machine with the feed removed and the stitching guided by hand.

Machine embroidery skills may be demonstrated by the achievement of maximum effect from the minimum of stitch. Skilful use of a variety of threads and tension can indicate a high level of ability with a sewing machine, and the incorporation of beads and other contemporary materials as embellishment can add interest. In-built patterns can be used to great effect by the alteration of machine settings, including tension, and the use of interesting threads. Techniques such as quilting and hand embroidery may be included but the machine embroidery should predominate.

Computer-generated designs can be identified by their “manufactured” appearance. Whereas computer skills such as digitising may have been applied, the machine embroidery should be judged on the end result, which should be even and sufficiently dense to cover the background without stitches overlapping and distorting the fabric. If an outline has been applied, it should be accurate and follow the design—poor stabilising of the hooped fabric can result in the outline being slightly “off”. Trailing threads visible through the stitched areas can be avoided by trimming after every colour change.