

# EVOLUTION OF EMBROIDERY DESIGN

## DEFINING EMBROIDERY

Em-broi-dery noun: the process or art of sewing a design on cloth



**Hand embroidery** is the most basic and earliest form of embroidery. Types of stitches included: chain stitch, buttonhole, running stitch, satin stitch and cross stitch.



**Machine embroidery** mimics hand embroidery by using a computer and digitized patterns.

## HISTORY OF EMBROIDERY

### 5<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century BC

Embroidery is dated back to 3rd century BC and began as a process to patch, mend and reinforce clothing.

Throughout 300-700, the edges of bands of trimming were reinforced with running stitches, back stitches, stem stitches, tailor's buttonhole stitches and whipstitching. To this day, it is not certain if this was used to reinforce two pieces or create decorative embroidery. This led to decorative sewing which is now known as embroidery.

### 16<sup>th</sup> century

Imperial workshops were brought to local towns to turn out masterpieces of workmanship in fabrics, figures, patterns, knots and other fashions.



### 17<sup>th</sup> century



Embroidery was recognized as the "craft of two hands" and was a sign of high social status. Gold and silver thread were used. Shoes, robes, tunics, horse trappings, slippers, leather belts, flags, uniforms and handkerchiefs were embroidered.

### 19<sup>th</sup> century

By the mid-1800s, teams of French women embroiders began using a combination of their own skill and machine looms.



### Late 1800s



The manufacture of machine-made embroidery in eastern Switzerland flourished in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 1980s

By 1980, Wilcom introduced the first computer graphics embroidery design system to run on a microcomputer. It became the first computerized embroidery machine which was marketed to home sewers.



In 1982, Melco created the first embroidery digitizing system for embroidery machines: digitrac. It sold for \$30,000.



### 1982



1982, Melco introduced the first multi-user system.

### 21<sup>st</sup> century



As of 2014, the U.S. commercial embroidery industry had revenues of \$733 million across 312 businesses and employed 3,913 people.

### 1990s

Since the late 1990s, computerized machine embroidery has grown in popularity as costs have fallen for computers, software, and embroidery machines.

