

Stitching Logos on Caps

by Paulette Bell

Stitching caps with the ten needle embroidery machine requires the cap frame kit. The ten needle machine has a larger stitching field, which is 2 3/8" by 14" or "ear to ear" embroidery. This exercise is stitching only on the front portion of a six panel cap.

Supplies needed:

Ten needle machine

Cap frame Kit: contains the following, one cap frame, a mounting station or "jig" and the cap frame driver and clips for the side of the cap frame. Also included are the accessories for calibrating the driver to the machine. Please refer to machine manual for calibration of driver to machine. The calibration process is done only once and the parts needed for calibration are in the cap frame kit.

Needle plate spacer included in the plastic accessory box

Tear away stabilizer cut to size for cap if needed

Threads

Step 1:

Turn off machine. Remove table from the embroidery machine. Then remove the frame holder from the machine. Secure the two light grey screws to the frame holder as they are not needed.

Step2:

Turn the machine back on and it will center itself in place.

Step 3:

Loosen the two small grey screws and remove them from the cap frame driver. These two screws will be used to secure the driver to the carriage of the machine. Next on the underside of the cap driver loosen the two large grey screws **do not remove them**. Slide the open ring of driver over the cylinder arm of the machine, attaching it to the carriage on top. The large grey screws will fit into the mounting slots under the carriage arm. Tighten all screws in place.

Step 4:

Place small black plastic needle plate spacer in place on the cylinder arm. This spacer is found in the accessory box that comes with machine.

Step 5:

Mount the jig (mounting station) on the stand of the machine or on a sturdy table. It is secured by a large screw on the bottom of the cylinder. Next attach a cap frame to the jig.

Step 6:

Select a cap for the embroidery. Open the tabs on the back of the cap and fold out the sweatband. If stabilizer is to be used, place it on the cap frame and secure it with the teeth on the frame. Slide the cap into place and close the guide over the bill of the cap and secure it with the latch located on the right side of the frame. Slide the bill protector over the bill. Smooth out the wrinkles in the cap, rotate the entire jig to the right and place clips to hold cap in place. Repeat same process on the left side of cap.

Step 7:

For a quick review of the process in Step 6 a video is included in the machines memory. Touch the "Machine?" icon at the bottom of the screen, then select basic operation, then the blue cap icon. Finally touch the video icon and the video will start. The video can be paused at any time for reference.

Step 8:

Load the framed cap on the machine. Bring up design to be stitched this can be either from a flash drive or from the machines memory. The height of the selected design can be no more than 2.34 inches. After loading design and colors for stitching touch edit end. The design will automatically rotate upside down.

Step 9:

At the sewing screen touch the icon with a machine /magnifying glass. This will turn on the camera for a close up view of the cap. If embroidering a six panel cap you will be able to see how close you are to the center seam of the cap. Use the arrows to center the cap. Pretty cool! To close out of this page touch the machine/magnifying glass icon to release the camera.

Step 10:

One last step before stitching the logo, go to the settings page, first page, note the frame displays, and turn on the cap frame stitching field for the 2 3/8 x 14 cap frame. Then, you will notice that possibly the design is not as close to the bill as you would like. Using the top arrow key move the design as far as it will go in the hoop. It will stop at the lowest point. Your design will be stitched closer to the bill. Pleasing all of those cap wearers!

After thoughts:

The machines maximum stitching speed for caps is 600 spm.

Caps can be a very lucrative item as they are relatively inexpensive when bought through a wholesaler. They are one of the most frequently asked for item in embroidery.

I prefer to keep my designs under 10,000 stitches and closer to 5-6,000. This makes it easy as less time on the machine. I don't usually use metallic threads as the buckram backing is rough on threads.

It is much easier if an extra cap frame is purchased, then while one is stitching the next cap can be framed.

When removing the driver from the machine, please do take off the spacer on the cylinder arm before removing the driver. The clearance between the needles and the driver is very close and the spacer makes it even closer.