

## The Wonder of Woven Patches

By Mary Van Horn

It seems like a question that I hear several times a week – What can I do if I need small lettering or tiny detail in my patch, but I can't increase the physical size of the patch?

Unfortunately, embroidery that looks wonderful cannot generally be done in very small lettering or in lettering that has relatively small serifs or fine detail. Embroidery, by its very nature is not an art form that can capture minute detail, but weaving can now come to the rescue.

We have recently started to offer a totally new form of patches that are woven instead of embroidered. They look wonderful and are able to capture tiny detail or lettering that cannot be achieved otherwise. The lower case lettering in the “Harajuku” patch that is pictured below is approximately one sixteenth of an inch in height. That is about one quarter the size of the smallest lettering that we consider workable in an embroidered patch. As you can see, the tiny lettering is clear and easily readable. The small borders surrounding the lettering are also clean and clear.



This is not to say that woven patches are ideal substitutes for all embroidered patches because they certainly are not – they lack the three dimensionality that can be achieved in many designs by our talented artists, but when clarity and detail are necessary they often fill the need.

We are able to mellow the borders or laser cut them to almost any shape, but we are limited to no more than 8 colors and a maximum single dimension of 8 inches. These can also be made with heat-seal, self-stick and plastic backings.

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