BEST PRACTICES
3D EMBROIDERY

T E A M

■ **Here are the basic essentials to create a great looking 3D design on a cap.**

- Not all design types can be created in 3D style. Only designs with specific features will work for 3D.
- The raised 3D appearance is created by sewing the design over a piece of foam.
- Designs that have lots of detail or a very high thread count will flatten the foam, virtually eliminating the raised appearance.

■ **Here are the guidlines for designs that create a quality 3D look on custom and stock caps**

- Use only two colors in the design with only one border and one outline color
- Simple designs like a single letter or two interlocking letters are best.
- The main body of the design should be 1/2" wide or less in order to do a satin stich over the foam. More on this discussed on the next page.

BIGGER ISN'T BETTER

Design height should be 2.25" or less, so not to reach the crown break.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Simple designs with low thread count look the best.

FLAT BORDERS

The borders of the fill area should be flat to highlight the filled main component of the design.

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■ **To best illustrate what can and cannot be done in 3D, here is a before and after example of a design that was submitted and the final result that could be created in 3D.**

BEFORE

AFTER

The original design had many fine details that would crush the foam and nearly eliminate the raised look.

This is the final revised design. The result is not true 3D but the final design has a slightly raised appearance.

■ **For detailed art designs we recommend these alternatives to 3D:**

- **HD embroidery on a Custom Cap.** The factory uses a high thread count to create some dimension in the design.
- **Printed Twill Patch on a Stock Cap.** The design is done as a patch then sewn onto the cap.

■ **The size of a 3D design is very important.**

- Any design with a feature that is more than 1/2" wide has to be done with a Fill Stitch, which is a tight series of small stitches.
- A fill stitch will crush the foam, nearly eliminating the raised appearance.
- The best looking 3D designs are done with a Satin Stitch, which is one long stitch that allows the foam to retain its shape

■ **Choosing the right design type at the time of order saves time and increases customer satisfaction.**

- Rejected 3D art requests adds time to the approval process
- When production rejects a submitted design for 3D, it stops the order entry process.
- The proposed design will be materially different than the original, as it will eliminate all fine details and multiple outlines.