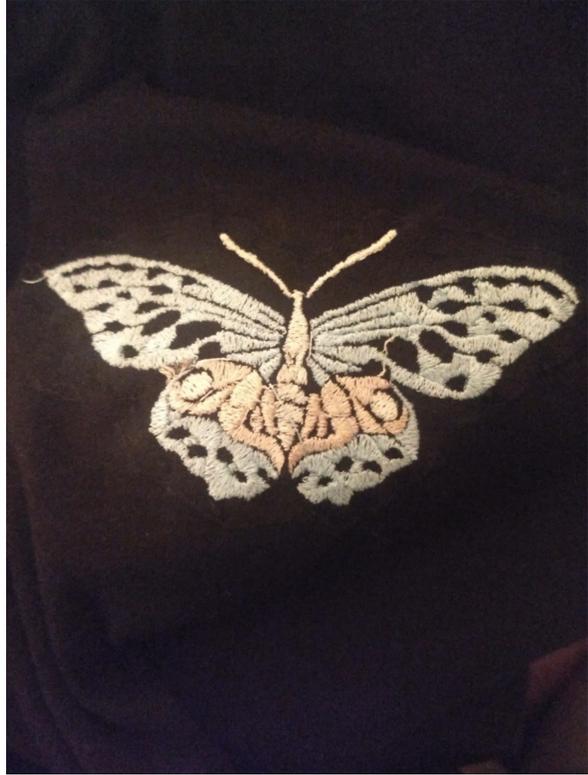


For my iteration project, I redid my sewing and digital embroidery project. Here are pictures of my original project:



Originally, I had planned to do a cocoon, caterpillar, and butterfly on the front, but the embroidery machine jammed and I was only able to complete the cocoon. This time, I decided to make my embroidery on separate fabric and attach it to the shirt through iron-on adhesive, as well as using a serger instead of a sewing machine to prevent unraveling and give my seams a nicer, professional-looking finish.

I started off with the embroidery. I simplified the design of the butterflies on the back to make it look cleaner and show off the colors of my multi-colored thread better. This time, when embroidering I used stabilizer and a universal needle instead of a jersey needle, and had no issues with jamming.



Next, it was time to learn to use my serger. I had a Singer Tiny Serger which I had never used before. It's a bit more intimidating than a sewing machine because it uses three threads, and the

threading is pretty complicated. With the help of some tweezers and a needle threader, I was able to get it going.



However, it didn't quite give the result I expected. Normally, a serged seam works a lot like a normal seam, except that the extra threads lock around the raw edge of the fabric. However, when I pulled my serged seams apart, the needle thread showed through. At first I thought this was a tension issue, but with Duncan's help I figured out that my serger is actually designed to do this. This is called a flatlock stitch, and creates seams with less bulk than normal. Here you can see how much cleaner the serged seam (above) looks than my original seams (below).



The construction of the shirt went smoothly. My original shirt shrank a bit in the wash, so this time I pre-washed my fabric to prevent this. I made the neck hole bigger and the arm holes smaller than my original, and I also made the fit of the body a little bit bigger in general.

Next, it was time to attach the embroidery with HeatnBond adhesive. First, I did a test run. I ironed the adhesive onto an extra embroidered piece I made, then ironed the embroidery onto another fabric, then sewed around it with black thread to make sure it stays. It worked pretty well, so I went ahead and followed the same process with the three pieces of embroidery on the front of my shirt. You can see the border of the embroidered pieces if you look closely, but from afar it blends into the rest of the shirt pretty well.





Overall, I think the fit of my new version is a lot comfier than the original. The extra step of embroidering on separate fabric and ironing them on turned out to be unnecessary since the sewing machine didn't jam during embroidery this time. I think the shirt would've been aesthetically a little nicer (and easier to make) if I'd just embroidered the designs straight on, but it was interesting to learn to use the HeatnBond iron-on adhesive. I think the seams would've looked nicer if I had used all black thread, but unfortunately I only had one black spool so I couldn't serge with all black. However, this doesn't really make a difference because the seams are all hidden on the inside of the shirt.