



Rich Medcraft, a digitizer in Washington, has perfected the art of producing high quality embroidery designs with Supertwist by reducing density settings. He explains, “Since metallic Supertwist is a 30 weight thread, I use lighter densities, longer stitches and less underlay. The results are smooth running, beautiful designs that seem to come alive!” He adds, “The light reflecting qualities of Supertwist will bring a ‘wow’ factor to your customers by offering dazzling embroidery that is unique to your business.”

Rich explains the technique he used in his holiday patch: “The background for my holiday tree is created with Classic Rayon #40. A layer of Supertwist is stitched over the top, using a gradient density, or slightly greater density on the top half. This provides a nice 'sparkle' effect. The tree and star are stitched using all Supertwist. The tree is digitized with only an edge-walk underlay and light top density. This design will sew well on knits as well as woven garments. I recommend a medium Cut Away backing, like 2 oz., for knits and a medium 2 oz. Tear Away for wovens.”



Rich uses Supertwist to accent or enhance elements in his designs. He points out, “You can take a relatively simple design and make it extra special with Supertwist.”

## Q&A

### **Do I need to change my needle when switching to Supertwist?**

When using Supertwist #30, use a 90/14 size needle. If you have any problems threading the needle try this: Make a loop of a length of regular rayon thread and put the two ends of the regular thread through the eye of the needle. Drop the end of the Supertwist that is threaded onto your machine through the rayon loop. Pull the ends of the rayon thread through the eye of the needle, and the Supertwist will be pulled through with it.

### **If I want to use stock designs and add the sparkle of Supertwist to them what changes need to be made?**

You will need to do one of two things to reduce the density. First, if you have a stitch processor in your embroidery software, reduce the density in the areas for the Supertwist by about 20%. If you don't edit in your software, try increasing the size of your design by 10%. That should reduce the density enough to allow for the 30 weight thread.

Tension is slightly different with these 30 weight threads, too. Lighten up on the pre-tensioner to allow the thread to pass through them; control looping by tightening up the regular tension knob. Machine speed may have to be adjusted as well. A slower speed will smooth the progress when embroidering more difficult designs. (Madeira recommends an embroidery speed of 650 – 700 spm for Supertwist.) The bobbin thread should also be changed to the thinnest thread when using Supertwist.

### **Is there a recommended backing for designs sewn with Supertwist?**

Supertwist doesn't require any specific backing. Your choice of backing will still depend on the type of fabric you are sewing on.



**For questions regarding Madeira's Classic Rayon #60 or Polyneon #60,**

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