

Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman



Scott Goodman, owner of Sewing Machine Warehouse & Needle.com has been servicing the sewing public since 1976.

Break Free From The Past!

This is a bold new world. You have seen the new, bigger embroidery machines, with their massive touch-displays, and humungous embroidery frames.

What might be holding you back?

Our ancestors kept sewing machines for generations. Today's culture is technology-driven; features, speed, convenience, win! Our values change over time. I would feel awkward wearing grandpa's pocket watch, and I probably won't be handing the current iWatch down to my children or grandchildren. When is it time to retire your embroidery machine and invest in new technology? Here are some concepts that may be holding you back from embroidery nirvana.

I think floppy disks might make a comeback.

Technology moves in one direction, on a linear path. Older technology, physical or virtual will not respond to your standing ovation, and play another tune. If your embroidery machine sports a floppy disk, compact flash, or serial cable, you will not be able to kick the can down the road much longer. The device drivers will run on Windows ME, 98 and XP, but may be orphaned on Win 7, 8 or 10. (Anyone know what happened to 9?)

Give up the ghost! Copy your designs to a more contemporary form-factor, preferably cloud or USB thumb drive. Let me translate. The cloud refers to places on the internet that feature vast amounts of memory storage and robust anti-virus security, from trusted companies like Dropbox, Google, Microsoft and more. The cloud can be accessed from many devices that include computers, tablets, phones and some sewing machines. Costs vary from cheap to free and you will never worry about hard drives that crash or backing up your files.

I get frustrated trying to line up multiple design elements when creating larger projects.

Like our universe, designs are ever expanding. Let's face it. All of the cool designs are larger than 5" x 7".

So Long Charlie! This year, there are several modestly-priced, new models that will embroider designs up to 6" x 10".

I can't make out the pudgy blotches that represent information on my monochrome display. I have no idea what will happen when I press the “go” button.

Bye Felicia! Many newer models rock high-resolution color displays. These information-rich screens can present enough data to assure embroidery success. What You See is What You Get technology, shows your design in a virtual hoop. With some advanced models, you can see a virtual representation of your finished project onscreen.

Jump-stitches make me crazy! Fill stitches cross over on top of jump-stitches, making it impossible to clean up my design. Sometimes, when I remove my project mid-design, the hoop snaps open and all the fun spills out.

Pack it in! All major brands, feature models that will trim jump-stitches while embroidering. No more worries about fill-stitches covering your ever-growing web of jump stitches. This can't-live-without feature makes embroidery efficient and fun.

My baseball caps never look right. I feel like a contortionist when hooping baby onesies.

¡Adios Muchacho! Spend a little time with single and multi-needle, tubular-armed models by Baby Lock, Bernina and Brother. These semi-pro models use cap frames that move caps three-dimensionally, minimizing distortion while maximizing producibility and pride in crafts(wo)manship. Baby onesies, pockets and small, tubular projects are much easier on this class of embroidery machine.

These machines aren't free, and I spent so much on my last machine.

Bite the bullet! Many dealers will reduce the cost of new models, and take your older machine in trade, toward your new machine. No-interest programs of 24, 36, 48 or 60 months can reduce your financial impact, to rival your current monthly Starbucks budget.

When is the right time to upgrade? Embroidery is a rewarding and fun hobby, and that pastime is even more enjoyable with the right tools. Stop by your neighborhood dealership and ask about machines with the latest features. If your flip-phone starts ringing, it may be the '90s...Don't answer!

*What new features are your favorites?
Never gonna give you up, never gonna let
you down. Send me a note: GreatScott@
kneedle.com Like to find out what's new
in real time? Hit me up on Facebook:
Facebook.com/GreatScottSews*