

# CREATION OF TRADITIONAL KASHMIR EMBROIDERY THROUGH COMPUTERIZED MACHINE EMBROIDERY

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## Abstract

Traditional motifs are being used in Indian textiles since prehistoric times and are handed over from one generation to the other. Traditional motifs are highly influenced by religious belief, culture, environment, act of day to day life, architecture, history, rulers etc. The skilled worker have modified motifs based on the urges and whims of the kings who invaded and ruled India for several years. Weavers and designers had also taken inspiration from their environment to create the variety of motifs and designs. Indian skilled worker have created various motifs and patterns which are unique in their styles and color combinations like creeping vines and floral patterns, which remind us of Mughal history and the Islamic portrayals. Motifs like elephant, lotus, fish, conch shells and horse etc. which represent the philosophy of Hinduism and the concept of bring good-luck, health and wealth are typically found in the textiles worn in the occasional functions which represent poetic expressions and imaginations towards life, and devotional characters. Traditional Kashmir embroidery motifs were developed using CAD software. Samples of hand embroidery as well as computerized machine embroidery were created.

**Keywords:** Motif, Computer aided designing, Digitization, Computerized embroidery.

## Introduction

Kashmir is a valley surrounded by nature. Its natural beauty is unsurpassed. Apart from its natural beauty, Kashmir has made a noble contribution to the development of the cultural tradition of India. It becomes a great center of Buddhist learning. Srinagar (capital of Kashmir) known as the city of beauty and knowledge was founded under the great Emperor Ashoka during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. It is laid out along the river Jhelum which is crossed by seven wooden bridges.

Kashida is the general term used to signify Kashmiri embroidery. It originally started with the 'darn' stitch used by or darners to finish a shawl. It is a simple running stitch which gives a woven effect on a shawl. Kashmiri embroidery is remarkable more for the skilled execution of a simple stitch rather than the elaborate quality of the stitch itself. The close link between nature, history and the crafts of Kashmir is reflected in the characteristics and development of embroidery. Kashmir embroidery draws inspiration from the gentle colors of the landscape and from its varied natural beauty. The designs are all taken from nature like sprays of flowers, almond, and birds of many kinds, flowering shrubs and floral motifs of Persian style.

## Methodology

Total 25 motifs were collected and critically analyzed by researcher on the basis of their suitability to traditional work for computerized machine embroidery. Ten motifs of Kashmir embroidery were sketched manually as well as scanned from books; magazines etc. were again digitized by CAD to get the required intricacy and fineness. The samples were created through hand embroidery as well as computerized machine embroidery. The created Kashmir embroidery samples are presented in Figure 1.

E	ME	HE	ME
			
KE1		KE2	
			
KE3		KE4	
			
KE5		KE6	
			
KE7		KE8	
			
KE9		KE10	

(HE-Hand Embroidery, CME- Computerized Machine Embroidery, KE- Kashmir Embroidery)

Figure 1. Embroidered samples of Kashmir embroidery

## Result and discussion

All the samples of hand embroidery and computerized machine embroidery were analyzed by researcher on the basis of different criteria. The acceptability score of Kashmir embroidery were calculated. KE10 of Hand embroidery got highest score of 581 and KE5 of Computerized machine embroidery got highest score of 562 out of 600. In comparison to the other samples of hand embroidery, the scores were high in neatness, color effectiveness, suitability of motif, acceptability of concept and overall appearance of the samples and in comparison to the other samples of computerized machine embroidery, the scores were high in quality of workmanship, neatness suitability of stitches, acceptability of concept and overall appearance of the samples. Further it was found that samples of hand embroidery KE9, KE7, KE6, KE2, KE1, KE5, KE4, KE8 and KE3 and samples of computerized machine embroidery KE8, KE6, KE7, KE9, KE3, KE2, KE1, KE10, and KE4 were next in ranking. Which was highly appreciated by judges.

Sample of hand embroidery KE10 got the highest score for neatness, KE6 got the highest score for quality of workmanship, KE10 got the highest score for color effectiveness, KE10 got the highest score for texture effectiveness, KE10 got the highest score for suitability of motif, KE7 got the highest score for suitability of stitches, KE10 got the highest score for acceptability of concept, KE 7 & KE10 got the highest score for overall appearance of the sample. Sample of computerized machine embroidery KE3 got the highest score for neatness, KE5 got the highest score for quality of workmanship, KE2, KE7, KE8 got the highest score for color effectiveness, KE5 got the highest score for texture effectiveness, KE7 & KE9 got the highest score for suitability of motif, KE1 got the highest score for suitability of stitches, KE10, KE3 & KE6 got the highest score for acceptability of concept, KE 2 got the highest score for overall appearance of the sample, which was found to be very appealing to the panel.

All the respondent liked and appreciated the samples. Majority of the respondent revealed that the concept of traditional embroidery using computerized machine embroidery was very unique and elegant and it provides immense potential which is still untapped. The greatest challenge is to make it suit contemporary method of embroidery to save the time and give it attractive look and suitable for younger generation.

The traditional motifs used for developing samples of embroidery were highly appreciated by the panel of judges. The respondents highly appreciated the workmanship of the samples and according to them the developed designs would have good buyers in the market as the younger generation prefer traditional thing to wear. The acceptability index throws a light on the fact that human beings always remain in search of something traditional to satisfy their thirst for their choice of garment.

## Conclusion

From the study it was concluded that the traditional Kashmir embroidery can be created through computerized machine embroidery. The embroidery were successfully adapted for the application of surface enrichment. As a logical extension the chosen and developed motifs may be used for the development of samples of computerized machine embroidery. Thus traditional Kashmir embroidery can be created through computerized machine embroidery to save the time and expenditure as well as maintain heritage of India.

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