

# TIP SHEET

Thread Tech

## USING 60-WEIGHT

Embroiderers confounded by their inability to produce small lettering, fine detail and shading may be overlooking a simple solution: switching from a conventional 40-weight thread to a thinner 60-weight, says Alice Wolfe, marketing communications manager for Laconia, N.H., thread supplier Madeira USA Ltd.



Madeira Free Designs

<http://www.madeirausa.com/public/Downloads.asp>

● When a design calls for small lettering or fine detail, consider using 60-weight thread.

Though 60-weight thread has been around for a while — Madeira came out with its rayon 60-weight four years ago and polyester two years ago — Wolfe says many embroiderers don't understand how to use it. Toward that end, the company has posted some free design downloads at its Web site ([www.madeirausa.com](http://www.madeirausa.com)) for embroiderers to experiment with the thread, which is available in 45 colors in polyester and 65 in rayon. Madeira also recommends the following procedures:

- Use a #65 needle and increase density.
- When digitizing, avoid using fill in the areas of a design using 60-weight.
- Adjust your machine tension for the thinner thread. (Tip: Where space and number of machines allow, prepare one machine head with the correct needle setup for the thinner thread so you don't have to change back and forth.)
- When embroidering on knitwear such as sport shirts, use a tone-on-tone fill stitch behind the 60-weight stitches.

According to the company, 40-weight thread cannot achieve block lettering smaller than six to seven millimeters tall. By comparison, 60-weight thread allows for block letters only three millimeters tall. — R.L.