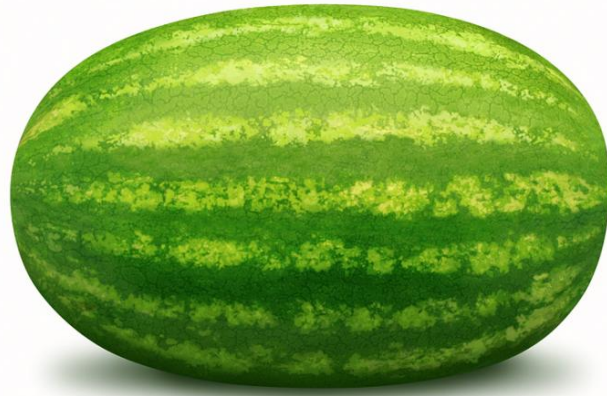


## A Pea Just Can't Be a Watermelon



We all consider ourselves as dabblers in digitizing. Any of us can take a design and do some quick changes, delete a part, add a flower and make it bigger and bigger and smaller and smaller.

Ok, just because we can do it, does that mean it is going to work? NO, not every time. You will have some occurrences where it will work, and that will give you a false sense of accomplishment to keep doing it. But no matter how much you try you cannot safely grow a pea into a watermelon. Yes, they are both semi round, green and seem like they might work, but we all know that a pea is just plain green and round, while a watermelon had many shades of green in it and is actually not round but round shaped with lots of details. In the same sense, your 3x3 design is most likely NEVER going to be a jacket back.

When a small design is digitized it is done with the correct amount of stitches and details that are allowed in that size. When the same design is digitized for a jacket back, you can see many more details, there is space to use specialized stitches, and objects that were not seen in the smaller size are now visible to be added to the composition of the design.

When you take that small design a try to stretch it, even in good digitizing software, it won't look near as good in a larger size as it did in the size it was created in. When I digitize a logo for a customer and they tell me they want their 12x15inch logo done on a 2x2 hat, I smile and tell them to "try and help me out. Take a piece of paper and make a 2x2 inch box in it. Now take your crayons and color in that box what you want me to digitize." It brings to their mind that even though thread seems small, you can't embroider a mural on a 2x2 stamp. Now take the paper and use the whole sheet and your colors and see what you can get into that space.

Better understanding of how things work?

So, can you "safely" enlarge or shrink a design. My answer is not to perfection. You can attempt a small 10% increase and will probably see success in most cases. But even then some of the specialty stitches can change, the patterns change and stitches that were set at a direct pattern for a reason can be off. When this happens the design is then off, outlines don't hit, satin stitches turn to fills, pretty decorative stitches go away and more.

If you need something larger, either go back to the designer and ask if she could enlarge them for you or redigitize them for a larger size for you, or try adding things to the design, like a pretty decorative oval or some flowers or coordinating embellishments to it to bring it to the size you need. But no matter how hard you try...you just can't get that pea to be a watermelon...and you shouldn't try it!

Happy Stitching from A Design By Lyn and Platinum Embroidery