



With Joanne Banko
www.letsdosew.com

Sheer Delight Kimono Over Blouse

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Featuring gold metallic thread for the rose, chain-stitched leaves, and topstitching along outer edges.



General tips for Sewing and Embroidering with Metallic Threads

Please note: The following recommendations are general and based on my own personal experience and experimentation. Your particular machine model, embroidery design, or stitch selection may produce different results. Remember that it is always "best to test."

Personally, I prefer two specific brands of metallic thread, [Brother Metallic](#) and Madeira 40 weight metallic. Check with your local sewing machine dealer for these threads and others they may recommend. A good sewing machine dealer wants you to experience trouble free stitching with your personal machine and will tell you what they think works best for your make and model. I know there are many others to choose from but I have found both of these to be reliable and consistent. I also prefer standard size spools that are not cross-wound, as these seem to twist less. Here are some of my favorite colors from the Brother line of metallic thread.



- [Schmetz](#) metallic needles are designed specifically for metallic thread. I usually switch to a metallic needle *only* if I am going to stitch more than just a metallic accent here and there. Most of the time I stitch metallic with my standard size 11 embroidery needle. This needle has a larger eye that is well suited for both embroidery and metallic threads. A topstitch needle (size 12) is also a good substitute for a small amount of metallic stitching. All three of these needle types have one thing in common – a larger eye that produces less friction on more delicate threads.
- If possible, slow your sewing and embroidery combination machine down to the minimum speed when embroidering with metallic. Yes, it will take you longer to stitch but slower speed means less stress on the thread and less chance of thread breaking. Remember, even high quality metallic is still more delicate than standard polyester embroidery thread.
- Loosen the top tension slightly (approximately one whole number) when embroidering or sewing with metallic thread.
- The vast majority of embroidery designs are created for use with standard 40-weight embroidery thread. Metallic can be substituted in many cases but will likely yield different results. If you are changing an entire design to metallic consider reducing the density of the *entire design* if possible. This makes more room for the metallic so the thread does not rub against itself, producing friction. Friction can cause the thread to shred.
- Satin style decorative stitches are particularly attractive when sewn with metallic thread. The stitching area is larger and there is more space for the thread to shine. Since metallic is thinner you may want to shorten the stitch length slightly for more thread coverage. Sew decorative stitches at a consistent, even pace. Avoid stitching at top speed or the thread may twist excessively.
- For embroidering designs with metallic, use your standard embroidery bobbin thread.
- For a reversible look with decorative or straight stitching on the sewing side of the machine you can certainly wind a bobbin with the metallic for the same look on top and bottom. Be sure to wind the bobbin at a slow speed to avoid stretching the metallic thread. It is important to note that metallic thread will produce wear on the bobbin case if it is used frequently. Bobbin cases are easily replaced. However, if it is not important to have the metallic show on the bobbin side I recommend choosing regular sewing thread that blends with the actual metallic color. I will often use a gold or light grey thread in the bobbin to compliment my gold or silver metallic on the top.

Enjoy the sparkle, glitter, and glimmer of sewing and embroidery with metallic thread!