

Monogramming Etiquette

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Adding decorative initials to bed, bath or table linens; garments or accessories is a great way to personalize them, whether for yourself or for a treasured gift. Lettering can be created by hand or machine in any type style appropriate to the project—from elegant and formal to fun and funky!

Initially Yours

A classic monogram consists of 3 initials. If your project is for a bridal gift, the initials are the first name, maiden name and new last name. For example, Karen Ann Smith marrying Todd Michael Jones would create a monogram: KSJ.

All letters can be the same size, or the married last initial can be placed in the center and enlarged.

KSJ KJS

Another classic styling is to use the bride's first initial, her husband's first initial and the married last initial all the same size.

KSJ

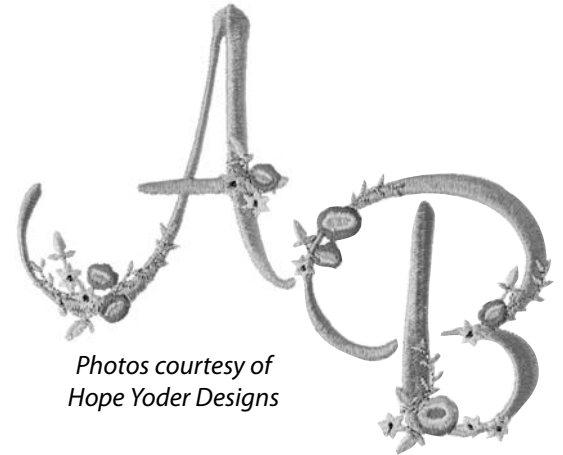
Or, to simplify, it's common to use only the couple's last initial.

J

Another approach is to combine the bride's first initial, her husband's first initial and the married last initial centered either above or below the two.

J
KT

KT
J



*Photos courtesy of
Hope Yoder Designs*

With a Twist

But, what if the bride is keeping her last name? There are several ways to handle this monogramming scenario.

First, stitch only the bride's initials in name order.

KAS

Or, blend the couple's initials into a joint monogram. Combine the husband's last initial and the bride's last initial with a dot, flower or other design between them.

S • J

With a hyphenated maiden/married name, monograms become even more interesting. One way to handle this is to use the bride's first name initial and the husband's first name initial beside (or below) the combined last name.

KS-JT

If you're making something for someone who is single, simply use their initials as is.

What if it's a second marriage for the bride? Use the bride's first, maiden and newly married name initials. Don't use the first married name.

Letter Perfect

If any monogram style ends up spelling a distracting or off-putting word, rearrange the styling and letter sizing to eliminate the reference.

When punctuation is part of the name (like O'Riley), the first letter of the last name is used for monogramming.

For last names that begin with Mc, such as McDouglas, use only the first initial of the last name.

Monograms for men are simpler than the combined scenarios listed above. Whether you're embellishing above a shirt or robe pocket or on a dress shirt cuff, simply place all the letters in name order and make them the same size. Or place the last initial in the center and enlarge it for emphasis. 🍷