

Written Response Draft 1

What's unexpected about this thing you just made? Did it pose a particular technical challenge?

What unexpected to me the most was the intricate interplay between machinery and sewing skills. Despite the automated nature of a sewing machine, it requires a certain degree of manual dexterity and control, which I underestimated. My first attempt was full of errors - tangled threads, uneven stitches, an inability to control the needle's trajectory, and a bent needle due to my negligence in backstitching. This was in stark contrast to the predictability and control I was used to with digital tools.

What do you understand better or differently about your tool or medium now?

Influenced by my background in computer work, my initial approach was efficiency-driven. However, the sewing machine required patience and a slower, more focused participation. Transitioning from hand sewing to machine sewing was a critical moment, allowing me to feel the push and pull of the needle through the fabric, and fundamentally understand the principles of sewing. This tactile experience brought a new recognition of the physicality of design, emphasizing the value of the process over efficiency.

What kind of output or knowledge does this tool or medium favor?

Sewing machines favor tactile and physical output. This realization expanded my design philosophy - it's not just what's seen; it's part of the design, what's felt.

What relationship does it have to graphic or communication design?

Incorporating sewing into graphic and communication design bridges the gap between traditional craftsmanship and contemporary design aesthetics. It emphasizes the potential of physical texture and materiality in design, providing a tactile complement to visual elements.