

Craft Emoji Proposal

To: UTC

Date: July 28, 2017


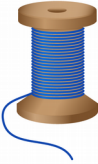


From: Amanda Hickman, Amberley Romo, Emojination, Jennifer 8. Lee

Summary.

We are proposing a slate of fiber arts emoji to fill a gap.

In 2016 and 2017, emojiopedia reported that both KNITTING and SEWING topped their list of emoji most requested by users. Though textiles, and the making and mending of them, are a defining feature of human civilizations, and the core tools in textile production date to our neanderthal predecessors, the emoji character set includes no glyphs that represent the tools of textile production and repair. We propose four new emoji to rectify this

The NEEDLE AND THREAD and SPOOL are universally recognizable as symbols of a tailor or dressmaker's shop, while a BALL OF YARN clearly and easily meets the need for knitting emoji as well as crocheting and other fiber arts. The universally recognizable SAFETY PIN, which is essential for marking and basting textile projects and for countless other uses, completes the set of textile and crafting emoji.

EMOJI	IMAGE	ALSO REPRESENTS	REASON
Needle and Thread		Medical sutures, tailoring, sewing, mending, quilting, embroidery	Frequently Requested
Spool		Bobbin, Floss, spooled or queued computing processes, threaded conversations.	Frequently Requested
Ball of Yarn		Twine, string, rope, cord, wool	Frequently Requested
Safety Pin		Kilt pin, diaper pin, quilt pin	Frequently Requested

Images by Cherin Sanih / <http://cherinsanih.com>. They may be freely distributed in connection with this proposal.

Proposal for NEEDLE AND THREAD Emoji

Submitted by: Amanda Hickman, Amberley Romo

Date: July 1, 2017

Abstract

We are requesting the addition of a NEEDLE AND THREAD to the emoji character set. Though the making, mending and wearing of textiles is a defining distinction of human society the current emoji character set includes no sewing or textile related emoji. The NEEDLE AND THREAD fills a notable gap in the tools category.

Introduction

Clothing, virtually all of which incorporates some amount of sewing in its construction, is a defining characteristic of human civilization, and yet we have no emoji for SEWING. Humans are the only animal species that constructs and wears clothing. Not only did clothing allow our pleistocene ancestors¹ to migrate to north into colder climates, but by the time we began to organize ourselves into societies, distinctions between clothing were integral to our community identities, from Scottish clan tartans to Native American bead work.

Though the emoji character set includes glyphs for a number of tools: 🔨 🛠️ and 🧰, there are no glyphs for the making, mending, or maintenance of textiles. Notably, the available tool glyphs are all strongly associated with trades traditionally dominated by men (carpentry, construction, maintenance of machines). Though cobblers and tailors and sail makers make heavy use of the needle and thread, in many cultures sewing remains strongly associated with women.

Alongside the YARN, SAFETY PIN and SPOOL OF THREAD proposals, this is one of several sewing and fiber arts proposals that fill a notable gap in the character set.

History

The [oldest known sewing needle](#)² is 50,000 years old and predates homo sapiens. Ancient Egyptians made ceramic needles, Romans made bronze and iron needles. The ancient Indian

1: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_clothing_and_textiles#Prehistoric_development

2: <http://siberiantimes.com/science/casestudy/news/n0711-worlds-oldest-needle-found-in-siberian-cave-that-stitches-together-human-history/>

Vedas describe the care and use of steel needles³ for medical purposes. We've refined the design a bit, and we produce needles in a wide range of sizes, but the basic design of the needle pulling thread has not changed.

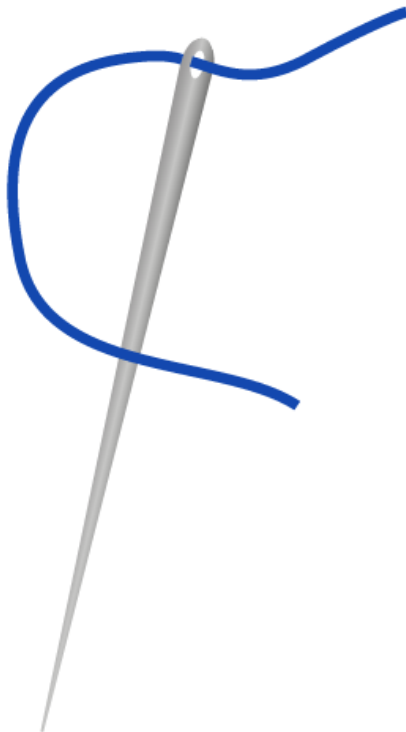
A threaded needle is used to stitch leather shoes, canvas sails, delicate silks, cotton shirts. It is used for decorative embroidery work, quilting, tatting lace, darning stockings, applique, cross-stitch, beadwork, and making tapestries. The Japanese tradition of sashiko (or 刺し子) uses a needle and thread, as does Korean bojagi (보자기). Countless Native American tribes decorate day-to-day and ceremonial clothing with carefully sewn beadwork.

Names

(Suggested short name and keywords, as in the [Emoji List](#)).

- NEEDLE AND THREAD
- SEWING | MENDING | QUILTING | TAILORING | STITCHES | SUTURES | EMBROIDERY

Images



Artwork created by Cherin Sanih

3: <http://fashion-history.lovetoknow.com/fashion-history-eras/history-needles-sewing>

Selection Factors Inclusion

A. Compatibility

We are not aware of an existing NEEDLE AND THREAD emoji or icon.

B. Expected Usage Level

Frequency

There is no where in the world where people don't make and mend clothing, bedding, luggage, and decoration by sewing. Mass production happens on sewing machines, but everywhere high end couture sewing and tailoring happens with a simple needle and thread, as does mending and tailoring. Nearly 5 million Instagram posts use the #sewing hashtag and another 4 million are tagged #embroidery. Just shy of 800 thousand are tagged #quilting. These are just a few of the many, many crafts and pursuits that require a needle and thread.

#sewing	#embroidery	#quilting
4,977,886 posts	4,255,120 posts	786,887 posts

Multiple Usages

Sewing, quilting and embroidery are by no means the only use for the NEEDLE AND THREAD. A surgeon uses a NEEDLE AND THREAD to suture a wound. The needle and thread is essential to taxidermy, upholstery, and book binding. Sail makers use a needle and thread to bind canvas. Hikers use a needle and thread to lance blisters.

The finest couture ball gown is hand sewn, as is a patch that keeps a worn pair of jeans in service a little longer.

Symbolically, a needle and thread can represent finery (couture, embroidery, fine tailoring) as easily as it represents resourcefulness and conservation (mending and repairing clothing and other textiles, rather than discarding and replacing them).

C. Image Distinctiveness

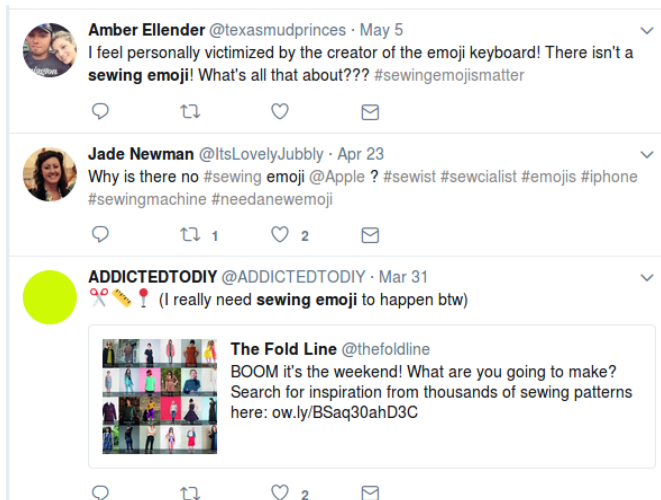
A threaded needle is unmistakably that. Though a simple glyph might represent a wide range of thread and needle sizes, it is unlikely to be confused with any other emoji.

D. Completeness

The NEEDLE AND THREAD fills a notable gap in the available emoji to represent tools, making, crafts and art. It is both versatile and vital.

E. Frequently Requested

Sewing and Knitting were among the top emoji requests on Emojipedia in 2016⁴ and 2017⁵.



Selection Factors Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

A sewing needle has broad application, and the design of a needle is universal, worldwide. A large needle can pull leather cording through a canvas sail, a tiny needle can pull fine thread through finer silk. But they all share the same basic form, and a single glyph can capture both large and small. Throughout the world for tens of thousands of years humans and our precursors have used a threaded needle to make and mend.

4: <http://blog.emojipedia.org/top-emoji-requests-2016/>

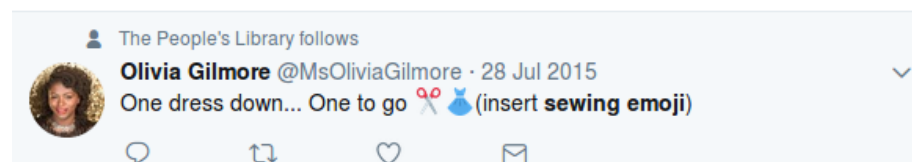
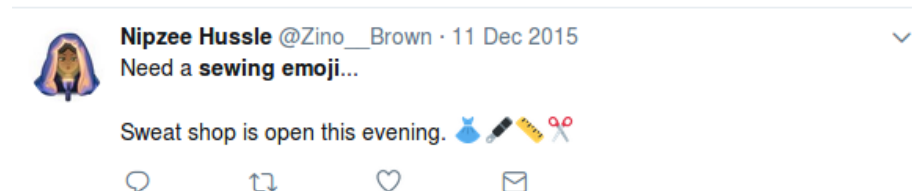
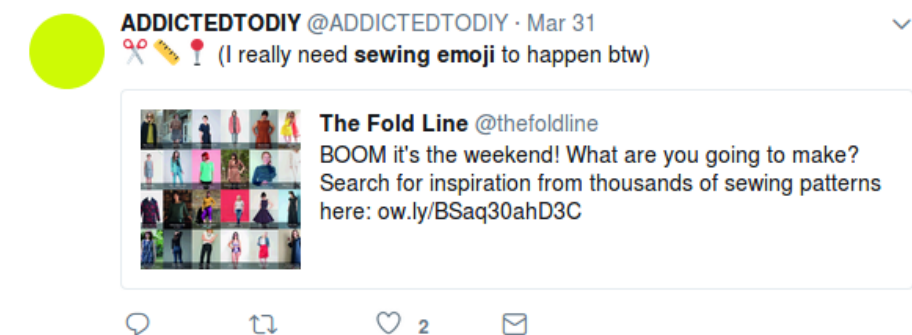
5: <http://blog.emojipedia.org/top-emoji-requests-2017/>

G. Open Ended

We are proposing several sewing and textile related emoji: the SAFETY PIN, THREAD SPOOL, and KNITTING, but we do not believe that the addition of these core textile tools opens up a new category of emoji.

H. Already Representable

There is no existing emoji that approaches the sewing needle. 🌀 and 🌀 are sometimes used to represent string or thread. The pin and scissors are used in sewing but appear as often as a gripe about the inadequacy of the current emoji character set:



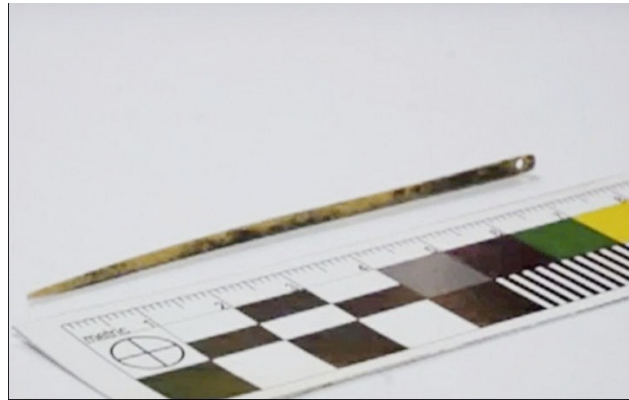
I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

The design of the needle is tens of thousands of years old. It is not copyrightable.

The image we are submitting does not have any significance that would make it unsuitable for encoding as a character. There are no copyright, religious, or issues that reference anyone historic or living.

J. Transient

The 50,000 year old siberian bone needle bears a striking resemblance to a modern sewing or tapestry needle. Humankind shows no sign of abandoning sewing by needle.



K. Faulty Comparison

There is no existing sewing emoji.

Sort location

(Proposed sort location for the emoji in [Emoji Ordering](#))

- Object-textiles, after [tool](#) and before [medical](#)

Other Information

Author Bios (optional)

Amberley Romo (amberleyjohanna@gmail.com) is a software developer and avid knitter. Amberley grew up (and currently lives in) Texas, and has been very involved in the fiber arts communities of both Washington, DC and Austin, TX. She is passionate about knitting as a meditative practice, and community activity.

Amanda Hickman (amanda@velociraptor.info) runs a fellowship program that helps creative technologists collaborate with journalists on storytelling and audience engagement projects. She has been sewing since she was six years old, and cherishes the independence afforded by mending, altering and making her own clothes. She is currently working on patching a pair of jeans and tailoring a blazer.

Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category:

Canonical Combining Class:

Bidirectional Class:

Decomposition Type:

Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored:

Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Proposal for SPOOL OF THREAD Emoji

Submitted by: Amanda Hickman, Amberley Romo

Date: July 1, 2017

Abstract

We are requesting the addition of a SPOOL OF THREAD to the emoji character set. Though the making, mending and wearing of textiles is a defining characteristic of human society the current emoji character set includes no sewing or textile related emoji. The SPOOL OF THREAD helps fill a significant gap in the tools category.

Introduction

The SPOOL is a cylinder, usually flanged (having a rib, or rim¹), around which thread is wound for distribution and use. In addition to thread, wire, cable, paper, film, straps or tape may also be wound onto SPOOLS.

Though the emoji character set includes glyphs for a number of tools: 🔧, 🛠️ and 🗜️, there are no glyphs for the making, mending, or maintenance of textiles. Notably, the available tool glyphs are all strongly associated with trades traditionally dominated by men (carpentry, construction, maintenance of machines).

Alongside the NEEDLE AND THREAD, YARN, and SAFETY PIN, this is one of several textile proposals that fill a notable gap in the character set.

History

We were not able to find much data on the history of the spool but the very earliest sewing machines² dating to the 1790s depended on thread that was wound onto a spool. Some researchers date the first spools to the mid 1700s³ shortly after the invention of the spinning jenny. Nonetheless, since spools became widely available in the early 1800s, the spool has been in active use as a core industrial building block and consumer product. A search of Ali Baba yields over 200,000⁴ different spool varieties available for purchase. They come in all sizes, empty or loaded up with thread or plastic filament or welding wire, made out of wood, metal, cardboard or plastic.

1: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/flange>

2: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sewing_machine#Invention

3: http://sewalot.com/sewing_machine_threads.htm

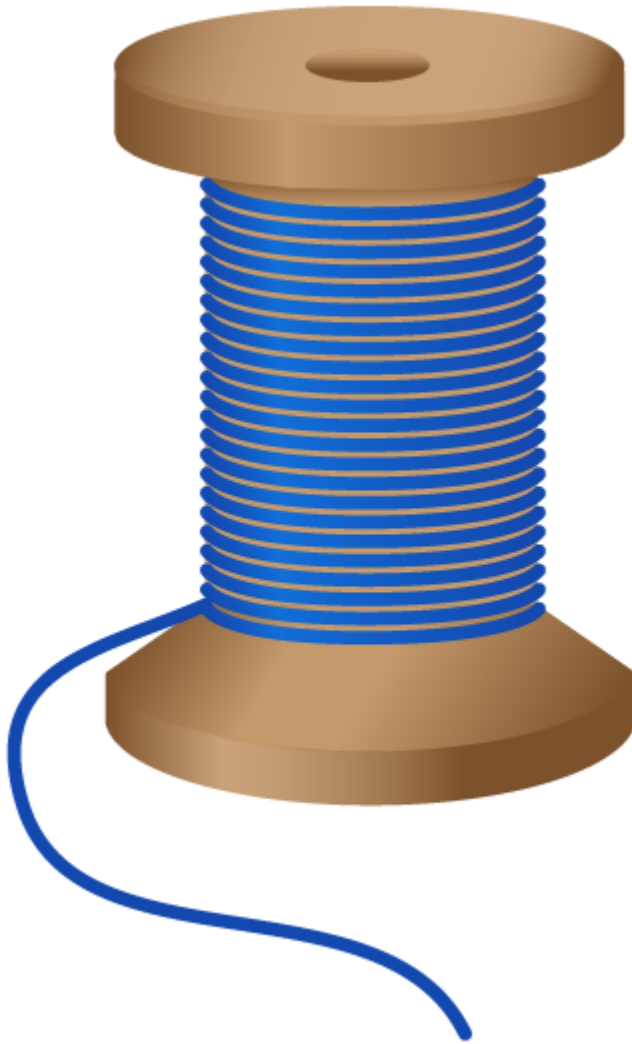
4: https://www.alibaba.com/trade/search?fsb=y&IndexArea=product_en&CatId=&SearchText=spool

Names

(Suggested short name and keywords, as in the [Emoji List](#)).

- THREAD
- SPOOL | BOBBIN | FLOSS

Images



Artwork created by Cherin Sanih

Selection Factors Inclusion

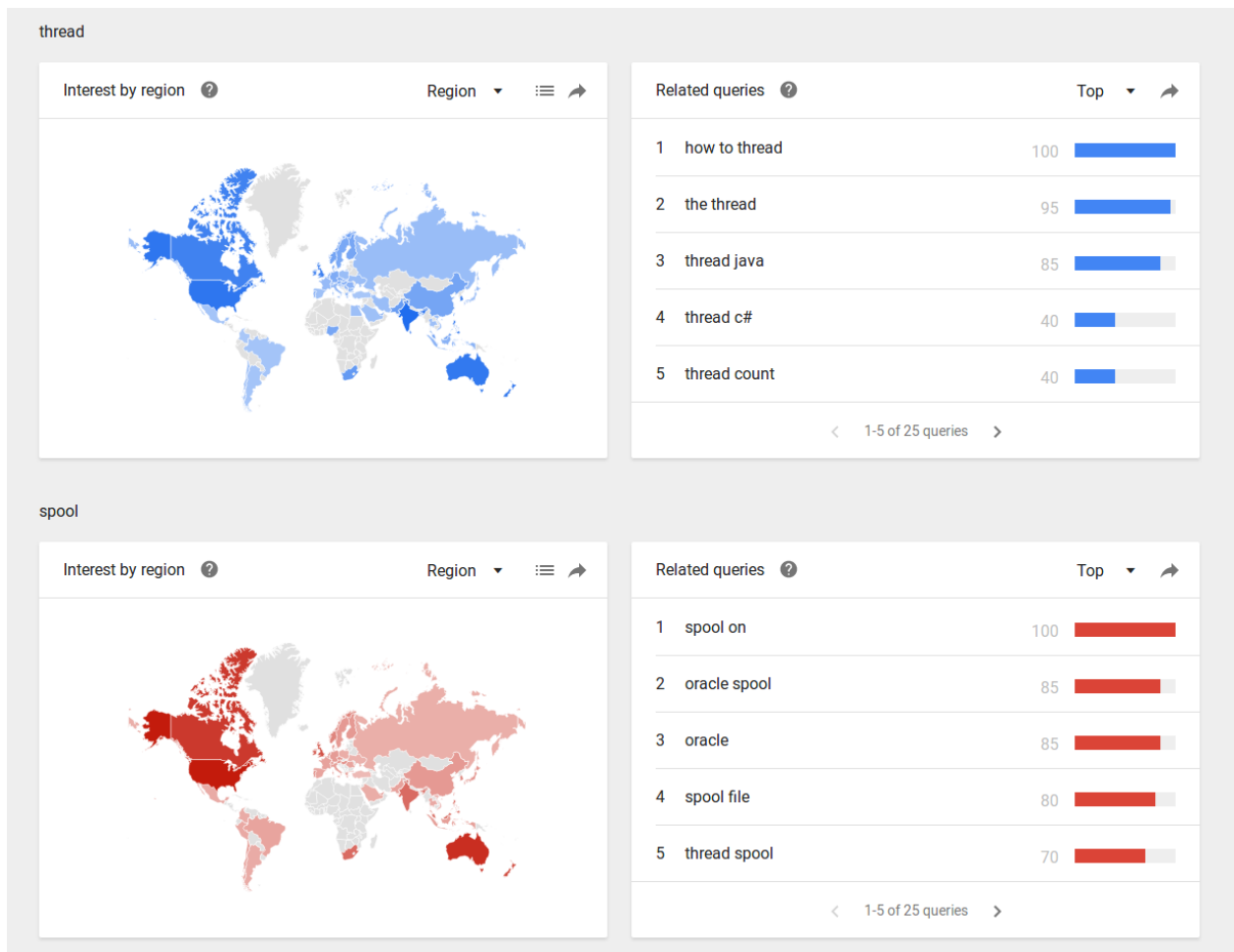
A. Compatibility

We are not aware of an existing SPOOL OF THREAD emoji or icon.

B. Expected Usage Level

Frequency

There is nowhere in the world today where the SPOOL isn't used. Because an emoji for SPOOL OF THREAD is requested frequently (see below) and because it has a wide range of possible alternative usages in computing, we believe that the SPOOL will be used very widely.



Multiple Usages

In addition to sewing thread, a SPOOL OF THREAD can indicate spools of fishing line, wire, electric cable, or 3D printer filament — all are stored in the same basic manner.

In computing, SPOOLING refers to a process that combines queuing and buffering, so a SPOOL glyph can also be used to indicate waiting line or balancing multiple tasks.

A threaded conversation could also be represented by a SPOOL. Indeed, many Twitter users have remarked that they'd love a glyph to represent "thread" in a threaded conversation:



C. Image Distinctiveness

A SPOOL is not likely to be confused with an existing emoji.

D. Completeness

As described earlier, a SPOOL OF THREAD emoji would help fill a notable gap in the tools category.

E. Frequently Requested

SEWING and KNITTING, close cousins in the category of crafting, were among the top emoji requests on Emojipedia in 2016⁵ and 2017⁶. And Twitter users regularly lament the absence of a spool/thread emoji.

Selection Factors Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

Any number of filaments can be stored on a SPOOL — from fine threads to industrial cables. A spool might be made of plastic, metal, bone or wood. The SPOOL glyph can represent any of these uses.

G. Open Ended

We believe that, along with the SAFETY PIN, KNITTING NEEDLES, YARN, and NEEDLE AND THREAD proposals, this proposal fills a notable gap in the character set. Though the tools for building furniture and machines are well represented in the tools category, the tools necessary to create and maintain textiles are notably absent. This proposal fills that gap.

H. Already Representable

There is currently nothing close. ⵍ and ⵍⵍ are sometimes used to represent string or thread. 🍝 PASTA or 🍜 STEAMING BOWL emojis are sometimes used because pasta and noodles are thread-like in appearance. But all of these are clearly inadequate.

I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

A search of the [WIPO Trademark Database](https://www.wipo.int/branddb/en/)⁷ for logos with "Image Class: US.09.01.01" (or "thread or wool, wound or unwound") turns up twelve hundred different logos that incorporate thread, yarn, or spools in some way. These common household objects that are too generic to be a trademark for any one brand.

The images we are submitting do not have any significance that would make them unsuitable for encoding as a character. There are no copyright, religious, or issues that reference anyone historic or living.

5: <http://blog.emojipedia.org/top-emoji-requests-2016/>

6: <http://blog.emojipedia.org/top-emoji-requests-2017/>

7: <http://www.wipo.int/branddb/en/>

J. Transient

There is no reason to think that humans will stop winding thread onto SPOOLS anytime soon.

K. Faulty Comparison

Sort location

(Proposed sort location for the emoji in [Emoji Ordering](#))

- Object-textiles, after [tool](#) and before [medical](#)

Other Information

Author Bios

Amberley Romo (amberleyjohanna@gmail.com) is a software developer and avid knitter. Amberley grew up (and currently lives in) Texas, and has been very involved in the fiber arts communities of both Washington, DC and Austin, TX. She is passionate about knitting as a meditative practice, and community activity.

Amanda Hickman (amanda@velociraptor.info) runs a fellowship program that helps creative technologists collaborate with journalists on storytelling and audience engagement projects. She has been sewing since she was six years old, and cherishes the independence afforded by mending, altering and making her own clothes.

Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category:

Canonical Combining Class:

Bidirectional Class:

Decomposition Type:

Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored:

Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping:

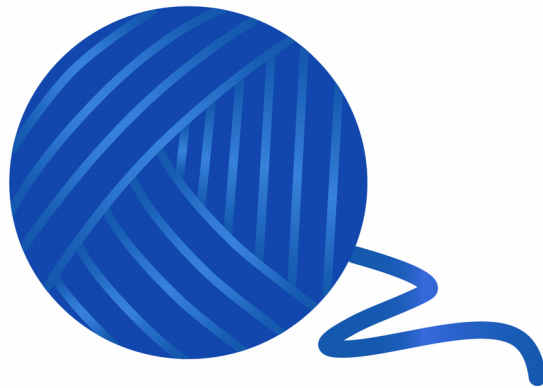
Simple Lowercase Mapping:

Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Proposal for BALL OF YARN Emoji

Submitted by: Amanda Hickman, Amberley Romo

Date: July 1, 2017



Abstract

We are requesting the addition of a BALL OF YARN emoji. Depending on vendors' renditions. It could be interpreted as BALL OF STRING. The addition of a yarn- and string-related emoji would fill a gaping hole in the extremely limited craft and textile sets.

Introduction

Though the emoji character set includes glyphs for a number of machinery and construction tools (eg. 🔧, 🛠️, and 🚧) there are no glyphs for the making, mending, or maintenance of textiles. Notably, the available tool glyphs are all strongly associated with trades traditionally dominated by men, while trades and crafts such as knitting and sewing have historically been associated with women's work and interests.

History

Due to the fragility of materials used to create YARN, it is not surprising that there is little preserved evidence of them. In 2016, archaeologists studying ruins in England found artifacts shedding light on the late Bronze Age — 3,000 years ago, including, “balls of thread, hanks of yarn, and fine linen.”¹ The oldest known example of a knitted object dates back to 11th century Egypt² but the complexity of the design of those ancient Egyptian socks suggest that knitting was not new, even then.

1: <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/07/bronze-age-inferno-preserved-extraordinary-view-life-united-kingdom-3000-years-ago>

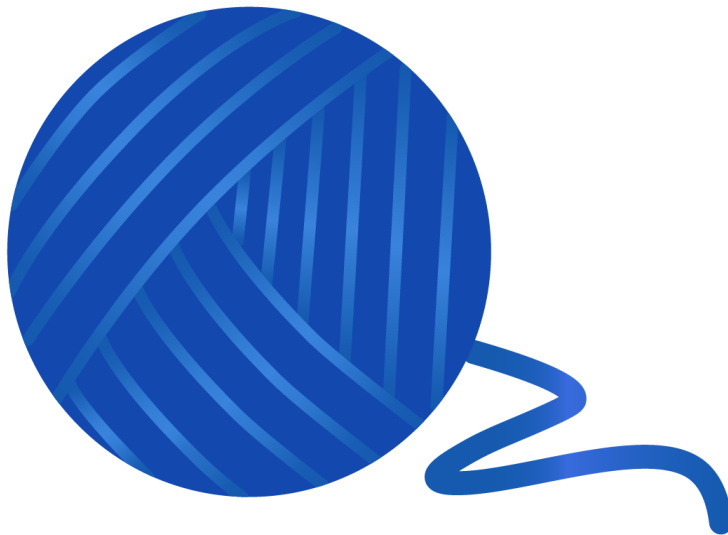
2: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_knitting#cite_note-2

Names

(Suggested short name and keywords, as in the [Emoji List](#)).

- YARN
- TWINE | STRING | ROPE | CORD | WOOL

Images



Artwork created by Cherin Sanih / cherinsanih.com

Selection Factors Inclusion

A. Compatibility

Currently, there are no yarn or fiber-art related emojis in use by major platforms. There is a released app ([Craftmoji](#)) which supplies craft stickers/imagery.

B. Expected Usage Level

Frequency

There is a very high expected frequency of use, worldwide. The practice of fiber arts in general (including, but not limited to, knitting and crochet) is global. [Ravelry](#)³, the largest and most prominent online community of “knitters, crocheters, designers, spinners, weavers and dyers” has over 6.5 million registered users. Reddit hosts thriving fiber communities, with countless spinoffs:

3: <http://www.ravelry.com/>

- Knitting (56k+ subscribers)
- Crochet (50k+ subscribers)
- Sewing (58k+ subscribers)

The #yarnemoji hash tag has been in active use on Twitter⁴ and Instagram⁵ since at least 2015.

Variations on "yarn" and various fiber arts are hugely popular on Instagram. As of June 2017, Instagram users had used these tags tens of millions of times:

#yarn -- 3,022,054 posts
 #knitting -- 7,069,283 posts
 #knit -- 4,269,454 posts
 #crochet -- 11,406,507 posts

Multiple Usages

A BALL OF YARN emoji can be used to represent any number of coiled fibers or filaments including twine, rope, or string. BALL OF YARN can be used to convey a wide spectrum of fiber arts including crochet, macrame, amigurumi, knitting, weaving, and spinning.

A long and elaborate narrative (real or fictitious, but often unbelievable) is also called a YARN, while the telling of such stories is "spinning yarns" — a YARN emoji can also be used to represent entertaining, complex, or dubious stories and storytellers. And YARN is famously popular as a toy for 🐱 cats.

In computing, Yarn is currently the name of a popular package manager. The BALL OF YARN or string could also be used to represent string theory, a foundational theoretical framework in physics.

C. Image Distinctiveness

A BALL OF YARN emoji would be fully distinct from any in the current emoji set.

D. Completeness

The BALL OF YARN emoji would go a very long way toward closing a giant hole in the current selection of available crafting-related emoji. The BALL OF YARN emoji is broadly applicable to the fiber arts community at large — both knitters, crocheters and others.

We are not aware of an existing YARN or BALL OF YARN emoji on any of the major platforms, though "Craftmoji" supplies craft stickers/imagery (though not as keyboard-accessible emoji) that include knitting and crocheting themes.

4: <https://twitter.com/hashtag/yarnemoji>

5: <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/yarnemoji/>

E. Frequently Requested

Twitter users regularly lament the absence of a YARN emoji. To wit:

- <https://twitter.com/kentcdodds/status/786220453685633026>
- <https://twitter.com/FarahA30/status/787907196763766784>
- <https://twitter.com/lucianekmd/status/787129130613559301>
- https://twitter.com/_novasaint_/status/785923988375474176
- https://twitter.com/SerenaTV_/status/766335413959192576
- <https://twitter.com/amyhoy/status/788520865214390272>

Related crafts like Knitting and Sewing are consistently among the top emoji requests. See: 2016⁶ and 2017⁷.

Selection Factors Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

YARN may be made from any number of animal (eg. alpaca, angora, wools, silk), plant (eg linen, cotton, bamboo, hemp) or synthetic fibers. A ball of yarn is a very generic form that any number of fibers can take.

G. Open Ended

YARN does not open up a new category of emoji. Rather it takes a large step in completing the existing set, especially in combination with the several other textile emoji proposals we have submitted.

H. Already Representable

☞ and ☜ are sometimes used to represent string or thread. In combination with the EWE, GOAT or RAM, they can indicate wool, but these are vague approximations.

I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

A search of the [WIPO Trademark Database](#)⁸ for logos with "Image Class: US.09.01.01" (or "thread or wool, wound or unwound") turns up twelve hundred different logos that incorporate thread, yarn, or spools in some way. These common household objects that are too generic to be a trademark for any one brand.

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6: <http://blog.emojipedia.org/top-emoji-requests-2016/>

7: <http://blog.emojipedia.org/top-emoji-requests-2017/>

8: <http://www.wipo.int/branddb/en/>

J. Transient

Humans have been knitting since at least the 11th century and were working with yarns and other fibers well before that. There is no sign that we're winding down.

K. Faulty Comparison

Sort location

(Proposed sort location for the emoji in [Emoji Ordering](#))

- Object-textiles, to be added after [tool](#) and before [medical](#)

Other Information

Author Bios (optional)

Amberley Romo (amberleyjohanna@gmail.com) is a software developer and avid knitter. Amberley grew up (and currently lives in) Texas, and has been very involved in the fiber arts communities of both Washington, DC and Austin, TX. She is passionate about knitting as a meditative practice, and community activity.

Amanda Hickman (amanda@velociraptor.info) runs a fellowship program that helps creative technologists collaborate with journalists on storytelling and audience engagement projects. She has been sewing since she was six years old, and cherishes the independence afforded by mending, altering and making her own clothes. She is only just learning to knit.

Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category:

Canonical Combining Class:

Bidirectional Class:

Decomposition Type:

Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored:

Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping:

Simple Lowercase Mapping:

Simple Titlecase Mapping: se Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Proposal for Safety Pin Emoji

Submitted by: Amanda Hickman, Amberley Romo

Date: July 1, 2017

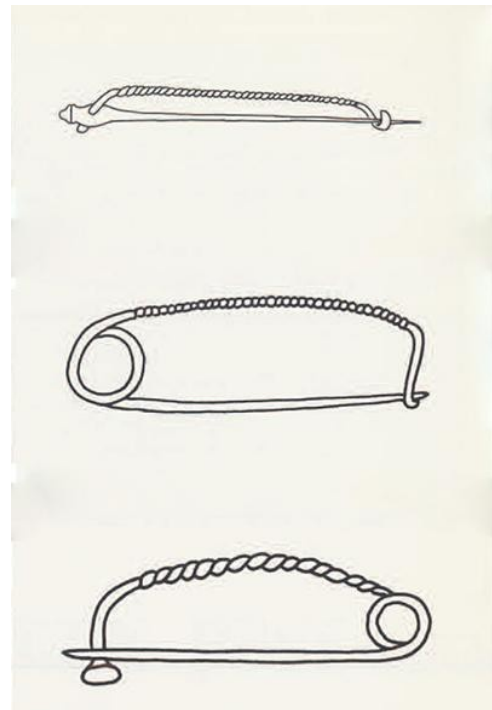
Abstract

We are requesting the addition of a SAFETY PIN emoji. Though the making, mending and wearing of textiles is a defining characteristic of human society the current emoji character set includes no sewing or textile related emoji.

Introduction

The SAFETY PIN is a simple yet ingenious invention, which practically everyone has used at some point. It is a self-closing pin that is made from a single piece of wire, which is coiled into a spring at one end with a clasp and point at the other end. The clasp both holds the pin in place and protects users from the sharp point.

Though the emoji character set includes glyphs for a number of tools, such as the 🔪 and 🧰, there are no glyphs for the making, mending, or maintenance of textiles. Alongside the YARN, NEEDLE AND THREAD, and SPOOL OF THREAD proposals, this is one of a number of sewing and fiber arts proposals that fill a notable gap in the character set.



History: On April 10, 1849, Walter Hunt was granted US patent #6,281¹ for his safety pin. He called it as a "dress pin" but the design was unmistakably the safety pin we use today, with a single wire to form the whole pin, hinge and clasp. Hunt's invention was hardly new however: spring loaded clasps made of a single wire date back to ancient Greece and Rome.² The Mycenaean fibula shown here is clearly a precursor to the modern safety pin.

1: <https://www.google.com/patents/US6281#v=onepage&q&f=false>

2: <https://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/ancient-safety-pins/>

The safety pin is so ubiquitous today that a single factory might turn out 30 million pins in a single week.³

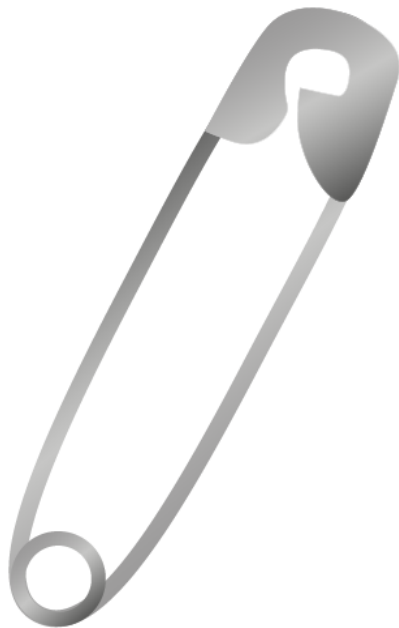
Though it has never been declared a formal holiday, a number of sources promote celebrating the anniversary of Walter Hunt's patent as International Safety Pin Day.⁴⁵

Names

(Suggested short name and keywords, as in the [Emoji List](#)).

- Safety pin
- Kilt pin | diaper pin | quilt pin

Images



Artwork created by Cherin Sanih

3: https://www.alibaba.com/product-detail/hot-selling-silver-color-safety-pin_60335791647.html?s=p

4: <https://anydayguide.com/calendar/459>

5: <https://unfold-yoga.com/2017/04/10/safety-pin-day/>

Selection Factors Inclusion

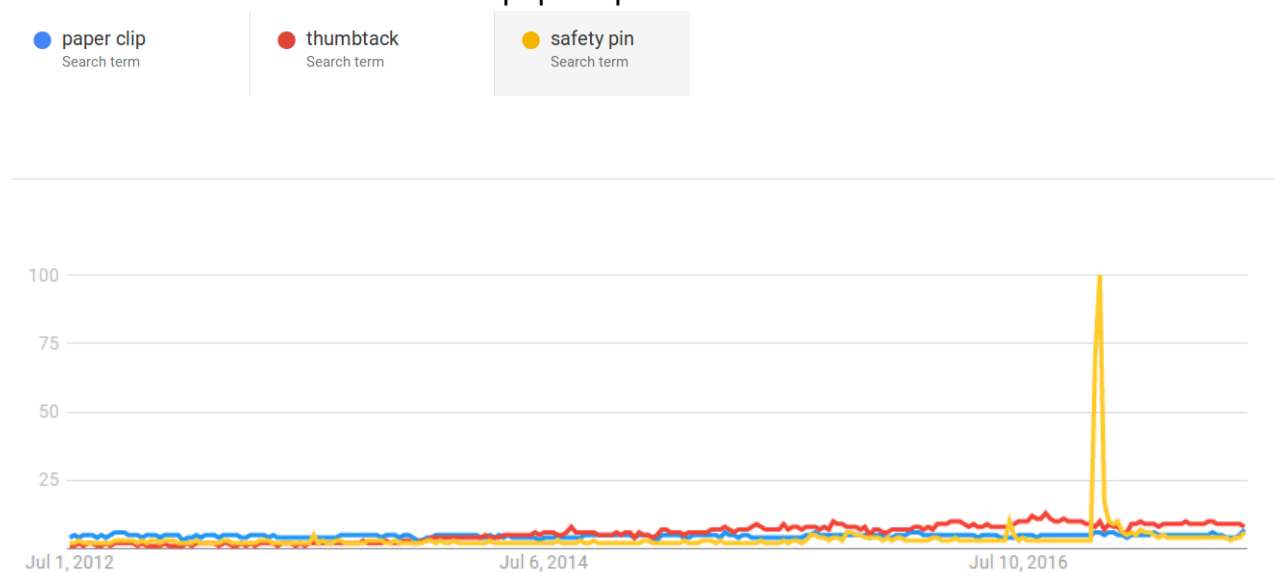
A. Compatibility

We are not aware of a SAFETY PIN icon or emoji in an existing character set.

B. Expected Usage Level

1. Frequency

With the exception of a spike in the fall of 2016, when the safety pin emerged briefly as a symbol of anti-racist solidarity [in the US](#) and [in the UK](#), the safety pin has remained consistent with the thumbtack and paperclip:



2. Multiple Usages

The safety pin, broadly, is a symbol of resilience and resourcefulness. A large safety pin is used as a [kilt pin](#)⁶ in less formal settings. Many generations of diapers were held together with safety pin. In the Ukraine, safety pins are fastened to the inside of a child's clothing to ward off evil spirits. In parts of Mexico, a safety pin placed as close as possible to a pregnant woman's belly is said to protect the fetus from loss and disease.⁷In parts of Europe finding a safety pin is good luck, and a portent of good

6: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kilt_pin#cite_ref-four_4-1

7: <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2016/11/three-millennia-of-safety-pins/507629/>

fortune.⁸ It was and is closely associated with [punk](#) fashion⁹ starting in the 1970s. Knitters use safety pins as stitch markers. A wedding planner's emergency kit always includes a stash of safety pins -- the safety pin is a symbol of preparedness. A first aid kit isn't complete without a safety pin for splinters and a match to sterilize it with. We use safety pins to hold clothes together in an emergency, to attach amulets, charms and patches, to keep a bodice from falling open.

🏃 In running and cycling, a safety pin indicates competition: even at the most elite levels of running competition, a runner's number is fastened to their uniform with a safety pin.



C. Image Distinctiveness

The SAFETY PIN is distinct and unlikely to be confused with any existing emoji.

D. Completeness

There is no where in the world where humans do not sew, whether for function (we need shoes, clothing, bedding) or as a creative outlet. Ravelry.com, a social network for fiber arts has 7 Million member. Burda¹⁰, a sewing magazine and social network, has over half million registered users and hosts in-person clubs in a dozen countries. And yet there are no emoji that reflect the basic tools required to create and repair textiles.

Moreover, in combination with the ROUND PUSHPIN, PUSHPIN and PAPERCLIP, the SAFETY PIN completes the set of markers and fasteners.

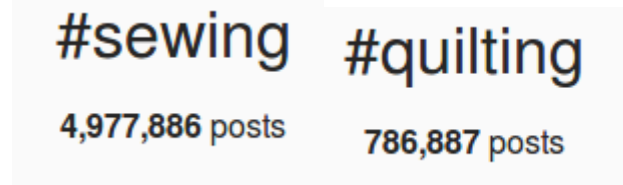
8: <http://museumofeverydaylife.org/exhibitions-collections/current-exhibitions/a-visual-history-of-the-safety-pin>

9: <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/pictures/inside-the-mets-new-exhibit-punk-chaos-to-couture-20130507/pin-it-down-0787285>

10: <http://www.burdastyle.com/statics/about>

E. Frequently Requested

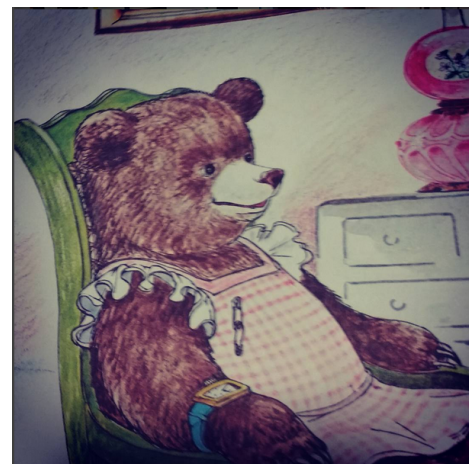
Sewing and Knitting are consistently among the top emoji requests. See: 2016¹¹ and 2017¹². The safety pin is an important contribution to the "Sewing" category. Nearly 5 million Instagram posts use the #sewing hashtag and just shy of 800 thousand are tagged #quilting.



Selection Factors Exclusion

F. Overly Specific




See multiple usages: the safety pin itself is a hugely versatile object which can serve countless literal (fasten clothing together) and figurative (preparedness, resourcefulness, resilience) meanings.



G. Open Ended

The safety pin is not open ended. Visually, it is difficult to mistake a safety pin for anything but a larger or smaller safety pin.

H. Already Representable

The  and  pushpin and map pin options are both forms of pin, but they are distinct from the self closing safety pin. The  paperclip emojis are often used to indicate "holding things together" even when those things would be better held by a safety pin.

I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

A search of the [WIPO Trademark Database](http://www.wipo.int/branddb/en/)¹³ for logos with "Image Class: VC.09.05.09" (or "safety pin") turns up two hundred different logos that incorporate a safety pin. It is widely used as a design element, but the design itself has been public domain since the 1849 patent expired.

11: <http://blog.emojipedia.org/top-emoji-requests-2016/>

12: <http://blog.emojipedia.org/top-emoji-requests-2017/>

13: <http://www.wipo.int/branddb/en/>

The image we are submitting does not have any significance that would make it unsuitable for encoding as a character. There are no copyright, religious, or issues that reference anyone historic or living.

J. Transient

The design of the safety pin has changed very little since the ancient Roman fibula and almost not at all in the 168 years since Hunt's patent. There is no reason to think that it is going away.

K. Faulty Comparison

The safety pin is not represented in the current character set.

Sort location

(Proposed sort location for the emoji in [Emoji Ordering](#))

- Object-textiles, after [tool](#) and before [medical](#)

Other Information

Author Bios(optional)

Amberley Romo (amberleyjohanna@gmail.com) is a software developer and avid knitter. Amberley grew up (and currently lives in) Texas, and has been very involved in the fiber arts communities of both Washington, DC and Austin, TX. She is passionate about knitting as a meditative practice, and community activity.

Amanda Hickman (amanda@velociraptor.info) runs a fellowship program that helps creative technologists collaborate with journalists on storytelling and audience engagement projects. She has been sewing since she was six years old, and cherishes the independence afforded by mending, altering and making her own clothes. She is currently using safety pins to keep a coat pocket from getting worse before she mends it, and to hold a patch in place while she mends her daughter's jeans.

Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category:

Canonical Combining Class:

Bidirectional Class:

Decomposition Type:

Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored:

Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping:

Simple Lowercase Mapping:

Simple Titlecase Mapping: