

Proposed Grading Matrix – V1.0

Draft by Liem Bahneman liem@spacepatchdatabase.com

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This is a draft of a proposed standard and public comment is encouraged.

	Front Embroidery	Edging	Back	Finish Quality	Other
Pristine <i>“Virtually perfect patch.”</i>	No snags. No stains. Colors are bright and even.	No snags. No fraying.	No snags or cracks. No stains. Tail is glued down.	Embroidery is tight and in perfect alignment. All features are properly centered and colors aligned.	Less than 2-5% of patches of similar manufacture will qualify.
Mint <i>“Nearly perfect in every way”</i>	Only the first signs of fuzzing of the embroidery, no snags. Coloration may be subtly faded under close inspection. No stains.	Only the first signs of fuzzing of the edge. No snags or gaps in the selvedging.	No stains or snags. Anchor threads are intact.	Embroidery is overall, very tight, but some slight imperfection and misalignment.	Almost all new patches will likely fall under this condition rather than “Pristine”
Near Mint/Mint <i>“Nearly perfect with outstanding eye appeal.”</i>	All of the above, but with one or two of the traits below:				
Near Mint <i>“An excellent copy with</i>	No stains. Slight discoloration or fading.	Less than 10% show signs of fraying or fuzzing.	Light stains over less than 10% of surface. Tail may	Some slight imperfections, text embroidery is looser than	Lies flat, no rippling.

outstanding eye appeal.”			hang free but lies flat. A few anchor threads may be loose.	ideal.	
Excellent/ Near Mint	All of the above, but with one or two of the traits below:				
Excellent “May have blemishes that do not detract from the overall appeal.”	Some very small stains on less than 10% of the front. Light fading or unevenness in color. Light snags or fuzziness that do not detract from the appeal.	Fuzziness or fraying on less than 30% of the border. Color fading. Small gaps may be found in the selvaging, particularly in corners.	Light stains on the back, less than 30% of the area. Some bits of adhesive may be found. Many anchor threads disconnected and loose.	Concentric borders may be misaligned. Jaggedness of lettering may be evident. Features may be off center, but only slightly.	May not lie perfectly flat on a flat surface.
Very Good/ Excellent	All of the above, but with one or two of the traits below.				
Very Good	Some surface wear, fuzziness over more areas. Twill may have brushed appearance in places. Color fading and variation from exposure to sunlight. Holes from staples. Modest staining on the front that does not detract from the overall appearance	Border fuzziness extends to more than 50% of the edge. Gaps in selvaging may be as much as 1mm in size. Corners may be worn or showing signs of curl.	Tail is loose and may extend outside patch area. Adhesive or glue stains present. Anchor threads are loose. Some cracks in the glue material.	Borders may be off center, other features off center. Alignment between colors is noticeable.	Some light rippling when laid flat. Patch is still firm.
Good	Small, dark stains on	Multiple 1mm gaps present.	Anchor threads are		Patch bends somewhat

	<p>the front. Some small sections may be threadbare. Holes or thread may be found around the edge from being applied to an object.</p>	<p>More than 70% of the border has frayed or fuzzed. Corners are curled and are fuzzing/defraying. Rippling of the patch from exposure to water may be evident.</p>	<p>loose and tangled. Adhesive or glue pieces may be found. Cracks in the glue.</p>		<p>under own weight.</p>
Used	<p>Large stains, large areas of missing thread. Patch shape is not true (oval when it should be round). Large stains on the front.</p>	<p>Pointed edges very worn. Edges very skewed from repeated washing.</p>	<p>Substantial rippling from exposure to water. Anchor threads tangled. Fuzziness of back threads. Large stands or pieces of adhesive found.</p>		