# Digitizer V5.5
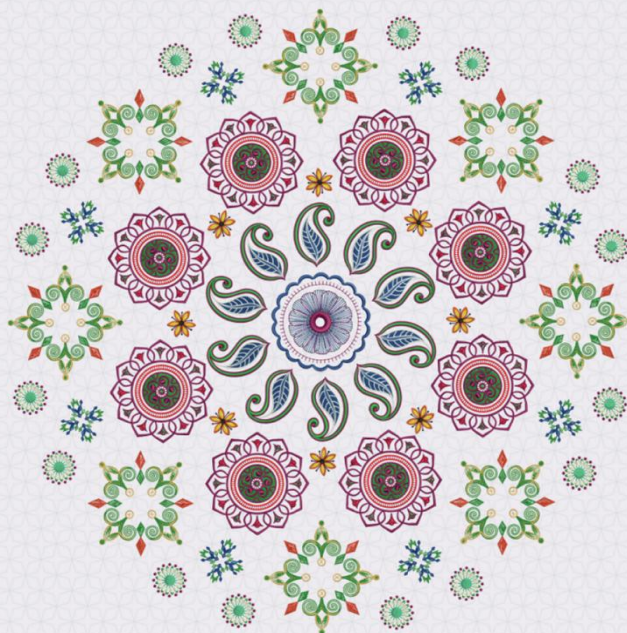


USER GUIDE

# CUSTOMIZE DESIGNS

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# CONTENTS

# INTRODUCTION

The Customize Design toolbox provides functions which allow you to make global adjustments to your designs. Explore the topics listed on the right.

Run the video to see how easy it is to make something within minutes with your embroidery software. In the project we look at creating an embroidered bookmark to keep your page and do it in style.

## General functions

Keyboard shortcuts are available for most general functions:

| To | | Press |
|---|---|---|
| Create a new design | | <Ctrl + N> |
| Open an existing design | | <Ctrl + O> |
| Save a design | | <Ctrl + S> |
| Print a design | | <Ctrl + P> |
| Close the software | | <Alt + F4> |
| Show/hide grid | | <Shift + G> |
| Show/hide Design Palette | | <Ctrl + R> |
| Display thread colors | ^ | <Alt + T> |
| Open Lettering docker | | <A> |
| Define layout work area | ^ | <Ctrl + W> |
| Show/hide work area | | <W> |
| Show/hide Overview window | | <Shift + V> |
| Show/hide Resequence docker | | <Shift + L> |
| Apply/select satin | | <Shift + I> |
| Apply/select tatami | | <Shift + M> |
| Apply/select run | | <Shift + N> then press <Enter> |
| ^ Press <Esc> to close | | |

# DESIGN INFORMATION

Manage and check design details via the Design Properties docker. This is always advisable prior to stitchout. Choose a file and select Design Properties via the Customize Designs toolbox or View (Manage Designs) toolbar.
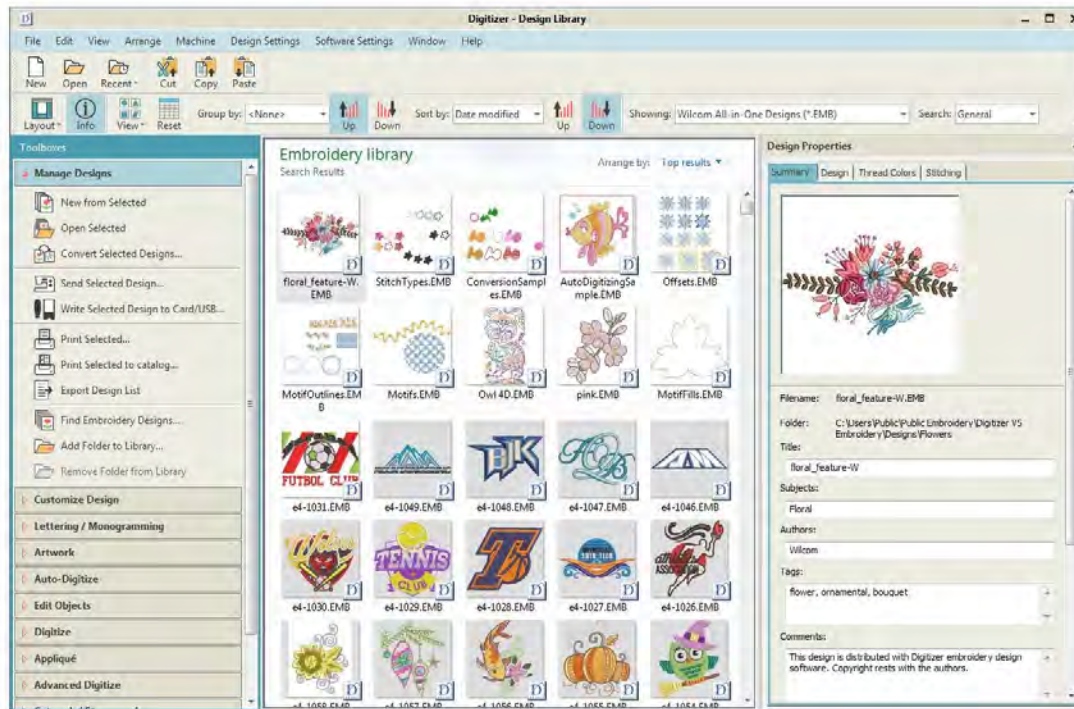


All designs in Design Library can be tagged for easy search and find. Summary information such as design title, subject, authors, tags, is fully customizable. Order information can also be associated with any supported design file. All additional information is saved with the actual design file and can be viewed in any software that can read EMB files. See also Browse designs.

> The software also provides information about designs in other ways. Before even opening a design, you can check design information directly from Windows Explorer. The design printout too provides essential production information, including a design preview, the size of the design, color sequence and any special instructions.

## Summary information

> ℹ️ Use Customize Design > Design Information to view design information such as size and number of stitches. Add comments to print on worksheet.

Summary information about a design can be viewed and edited in the Summary tab. Generally this information is used to improve searchability. Use the information to search and filter designs by

author, title, or subject. Tags can be added to improve searchability. Information can be added in the docker itself or in the Details pane (if activated). Click Save to save details with the design file.



Click a field and enter any text which will help you or others identify the design at a later date. All information on this tab is also included in the production worksheet. Information types include:

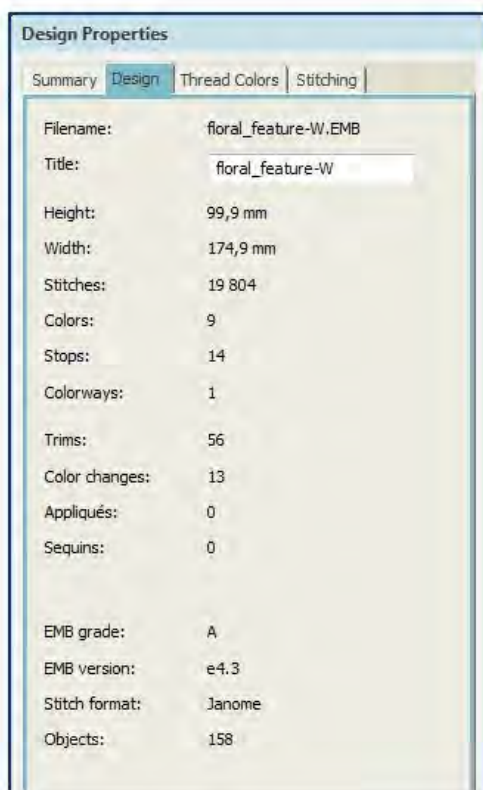| Field | Purpose |
| --- | --- |
| Title | Defaults to filename. Add a more descriptive name for easy searching. This name appears on the design worksheet. |
| Subjects | This may conform to the primary category by which the design is cataloged – e.g. the name of the containing folder. |
| Authors | Name of digitizer and/or designer – appears in design worksheet footer. |
| Tags | Keywords for potential Design Library searches. |
| Comments | These comments are included in the design worksheet as production notes. |

Information from this tab also appears in the Details pane in Design Library. The same information can also be edited in this pane.



## Design details

ⓘ Use Customize Design > Design Information to view design information such as size and number of stitches. Add comments to print on worksheet.

Select the Design tab to view design details such as height, width, stitch count and colors. The data is extracted from the design file and, apart from design title, cannot be modified.
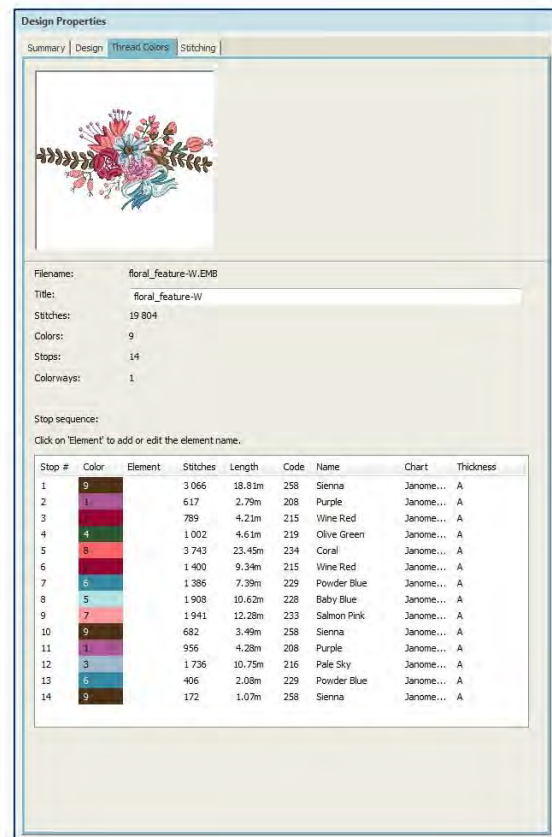
| Field | Description |
|---|---|
| Filename | File name of the selected design. This will often be a number or alphanumeric format for easy cataloging. |
| Title | Defaults to filename. Add a more descriptive name for easy searching. This name appears on the approval sheet or worksheet. |
| Height / width | Total height and width of design extents. |
| Stitches | Total stitch count for design. |
| Colors | Number of thread colors involved in the design. |
| Stops | Normally color changes are associated with Stop functions. Depending on machine format, however, the design may include an additional last stop to ensure the machine returns to the starting needle for the next run. |
| Colorways | Number of colorways in the design. |
| Trims | Number of trims in the design. Generally, you will try to minimize the number of trims. |
| Color changes | Number of color changes required to stitch out design. |
| Appliqués | Number of appliqué objects in the design (if any). |
| Sequins | Number of sequins in the design (if any). |
| Bling | Number of bling objects in the design (if any). |
| EMB grade | While embroidery files are broadly classified as 'outline' (condensed) or 'machine' (expanded), the software internally tags each as belonging to one of four types – native design (A), imported outlines (B), processed stitches (C), or imported stitches (D). |
| EMB version | The specific version of software the file was created in – e.g. e4.3. |
| Stitch format | The current machine format applying to the file. This generally corresponds to the target machine last used to stitch out the design. |
| Objects | Indicates total number of objects in the design. |

## Thread colors

Use Customize Design > Design Information to view design information such as size and number of stitches. Add comments to print on worksheet.

The Thread Colors tab displays the color sequence and stitch counts for each design 'element'. Elements equate to color changes.

Data is extracted from the design file and, apart from the Element column, cannot be modified.

| Field | Description |
|---|---|
| Filename | File name of the selected design. This will often be a number or alphanumeric format for easy cataloging. |
| Title | Defaults to filename. Add a more descriptive name for easy searching. This name appears on the approval sheet or worksheet. |
| Stitches | Indicates total stitch count for design. |
| Colors | Indicates number of thread colors involved in the design. |
| Colorways | Number of colorways in the design. |
| Colorway | Use the droplist to change colorways, if available. When choosing a different colorway, the thumbnail and stop sequence list are updated. |

The table at the bottom lists all color changes in the design as they will appear on the production worksheet. It provides the following details:

| Field | Description |
|---|---|
| Stop # | The machine stop corresponding to the color change. |
| Color | Indicates color slot number of the color in color palette. |
| Element | User-defined name to identify each color block. |

| Field | Description |
|---|---|
| Stitches | There is a stitch count for each element in the design. You can show this as a discrete stitch count or a cumulative stitch count. |
| Length | Meterage of thread required per color. |
| Code | Color code as registered in the thread chart. |
| Name | Color name appearing in thread chart. |
| Chart | Brand name of thread chart used. |
| Thickness | A: Normal embroidery thread (approx. denier 40)<br>B: Thicker than normal (approx. denier 30)<br>C: Finer than normal (approx. denier 80)<br>D: Very fine (approx. denier 100) |

## Stitching details

Use Customize Design > Design Information to view design information such as size and number of stitches. Add comments to print on worksheet.

The Stitching tab displays technical stitching details. Information includes such details as target fabric, required stabilizers, as well as total thread estimates. These may be used for costings as well as production requirements. The tab also provides thread usage estimates which may be used for costings as well as production requirements. Bobbin length calculation can be further refined if you are planning a lot of production.

Data is extracted from the design file and, apart from title and bobbin length calculation, cannot be modified.

| Field | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Filename | File name of the selected design. This will often be a number or alphanumeric format for easy cataloging. |
| Title | Defaults to filename. Add a more descriptive name for easy searching. This name appears on the approval sheet or worksheet. |
| Auto fabric | Predefined fabric settings used in current design. |
| Required stabilizer | Indicates recommended stabilizer(s) for selected fabric type. |
| Design area | Total area covered by design – used for estimating hoop sizes, fabric requirements, 3D foam, or whether design will fit target location. |
| Total thread | Indicates total meterage of top thread required to stitch out the design. |
| Total bobbin | Indicates total meterage of bottom (bobbin) thread required to stitch out the design. These figures may be required for inventory control depending on business practices. |
| Length calculation | Allows you to revise thread usage estimates according to target fabric thickness. |
| Left / right / up / down | Depending on where the design start/end point has been set, these figures indicate the distance from that point. |
| Max/min stitch / jump length | The maximum and minimum stitch lengths, and maximum jump stitch length in the design. |

## Thread usage estimates

In order to obtain more precise thread usage estimates, you can adjust fabric thickness to suit the target fabric. This may be necessary if you are planning a large production run. Settings are generally fine-tuned on a case-by-case basis. However, adjusted settings can also be saved to the current template. To estimate total thread usage...

- Select Design > Design Properties > Stitching tab.
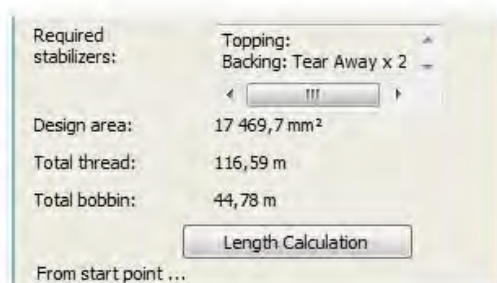


- Click Length Calculation.
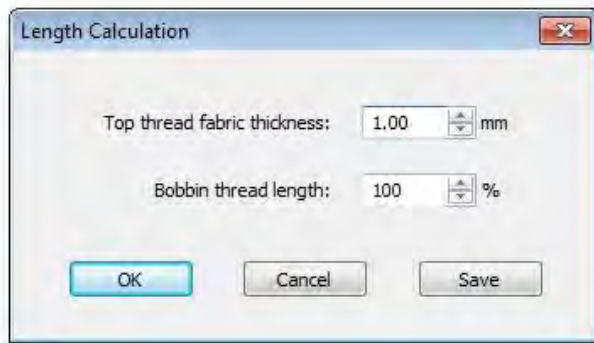
- Enter the thickness of the target fabric.

- Adjust the bobbin thread length according to the mixture of thread types in the design. This factor provides a simple mechanism for a more accurate bobbin thread length estimate. The default value (100%) is suitable for a design with a mixture of stitch types. If the design is all Run stitches or all Tatami, more bobbin thread will be used and the factor can be increased say to 125%. If the design is all Satin stitch, the factor can be reduced to say 65%.

- Click OK. The Total Thread and Total Bobbin values are adjusted to take into account fabric thickness on total thread requirement.

- Optionally, click Save to save revised settings to the current template.

# VIEW DESIGNS

Your embroidery software provides many viewing features to make it easier to work with your design. Zoom in on an area to see more detail or view the design at actual size. Show or hide various design elements with the available display settings. You can show or hide needle penetration points, connectors and the stitches themselves.

## Viewing functions

Keyboard shortcuts are available for most viewing functions:

| To | | Press |
|---|---|---|
| Show/hide images | | <D> |
| Show/hide vectors | | <Shift + D> |
| Show/hide shapes | | <L> |
| Show/hide rulers | | <Ctrl + R> |
| Measure a distance on screen | ^ | <M> |
| Show/hide hoop | | <Shift + H> |
| Show/hide whole hoop | | </> |
| Show/hide whole design | | <0> (zero)0 |
| Show selected | | <Shift + 0> (zero) |
| Turn on/off TrueView | | <T> |
| Show/hide stitches | | <S> |
| Show/hide needle points | | <.> (period) |
| Show/hide connectors | | <Shift + C> |
| Show/hide functions | | <Shift + F> |
| Refresh screen display | | <R> or <F4> |
| Center Current Stitch | | <C> |
| Show/hide Stitch Player | | <Shift + R> |

Press <Esc> to close.
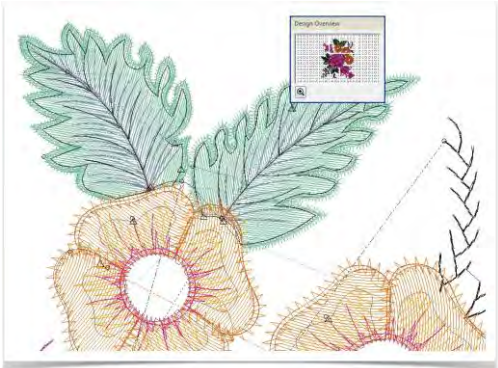
## Zoom functions

Keyboard shortcuts are available for most zoom functions:

| To | Press |
|---|---|
| Zoom | <B> |
| Zoom 1:1 | <1> |

| To | Press |
|---|---|
| Zoom In 1.25x | <+> |
| Zoom Out 1.25x | <-> |
| Zoom In 2x | <Shift + Z> |
| Zoom to Fit | <0> (zero) |
| Zoom Factor | <F> |
| Pan | <P> |
| Previous | <V> |

## Viewing methods

Your design software provides many viewing techniques to make it easier to work with your designs. Turn on or off design artwork. View selected parts of a design. Zoom in on an area to see more detail or view the design at actual size. The View toolbar and menu provide access to most of the viewing options you will need.

## Display backdrops

Use View > Show Design to show or hide design elements. Click to open droplist of view settings.

In addition to embroidery designs, artwork can be inserted, pasted or scanned into the software for use as digitizing 'backdrops'. You can turn on or off embroidery, vector and/or bitmap artwork selectively. Depending on view options set in the Options dialog, bitmap images display in full color or dimmed. Use the Display Images and Display Vectors icons to selectively turn on or off backdrops. Alternatively, use the shortcut keys, <D> and <Shift + D>. See also Import images.



So you don't accidentally move or delete the backdrop, select it and press <K> on the keyboard to lock it down.

## Zoom & pan

| | |
|---|---|
| 🖐 | Use Zoom > Pan to pan across a design at high zoom factors. |
| ①🔍 | Use Zoom > Zoom 1:1 to display design at actual size. |
| ⊕🔍 | Click Zoom > Zoom In to view design in greater detail. |
| ⊖🔍 | Click Zoom > Zoom Out to display design at half its current size. |
| 🔍 | Use Zoom > Zoom to Fit to display whole design in the design window. |
| 🔍 | Use Zoom > Zoom to draw a marquee around the area you want to view in detail. |
| 100 ▼ | Click Zoom > Zoom Scale to display design at a specified scale. |

Magnify your view of the design by zooming in on individual stitches or details, or zoom out to display more of the design in the window. In addition to the scroll bars, panning provides a quick way to view parts of a design which are not currently visible in the design window. Panning is typically used after zooming in on an area.

• Activate the Zoom toolbar via the Window > Toolbars menu.
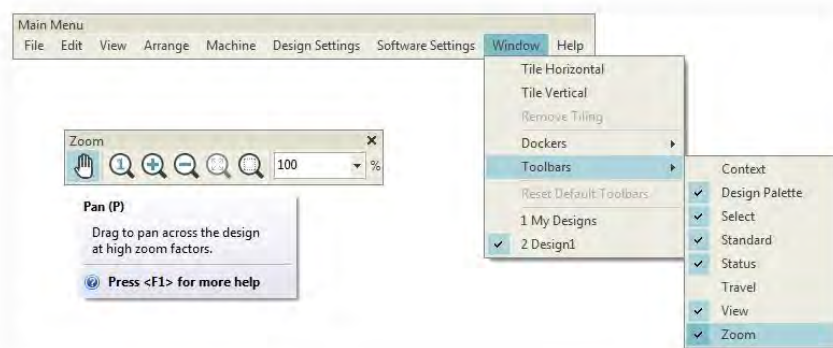


• Because you will use these tools frequently, it's a good idea to memorize the shortcut keys indicated in brackets after the tool name.

• For instance, to zoom in on a section of the design, press the <B> key on your keyboard, then drag a bounding box around the zoom area.

- To pan across a design in the design window, use Pan or press <P>. The cursor changes to a grabbing hand symbol. Click and drag to pan the design.

- The same zoom options are available via the View menu. Alternatively, right-click the design window to open the popup menu.
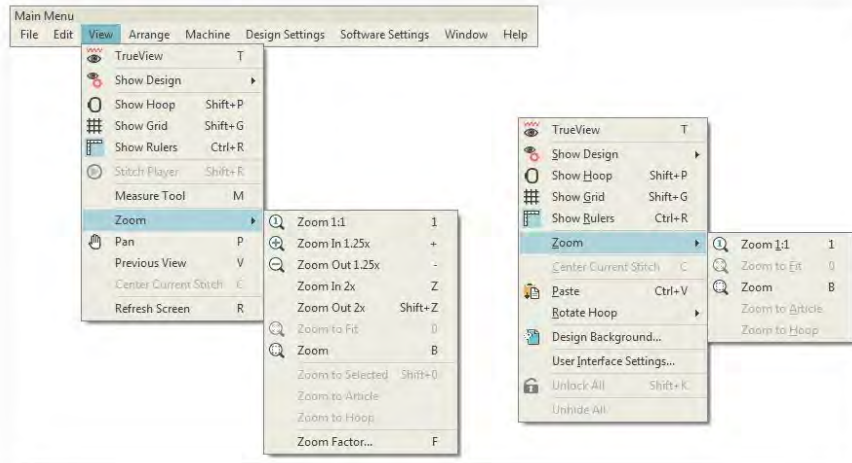


- Press <Esc> to cancel tool selection.

## View selected parts of a design

You can set your system to display all embroidery objects in a design, or hide all but the selected objects.

- To display selected objects, select View > Zoom > Zoom to Selected or press <Shift + 0>.

- To fit the whole design in the design window, select View > Zoom > Zoom to Fit or press <0>.

- To view the design at actual size, select View > Zoom > Zoom 1:1 or press <1>. See also Monitor calibration.
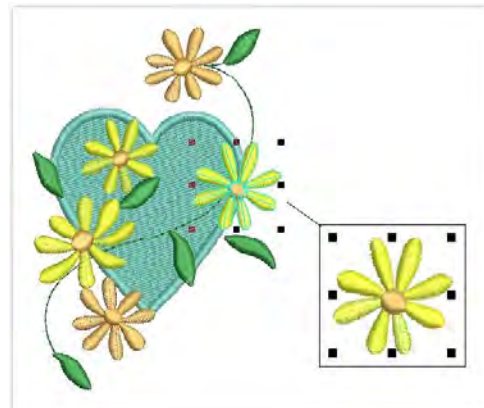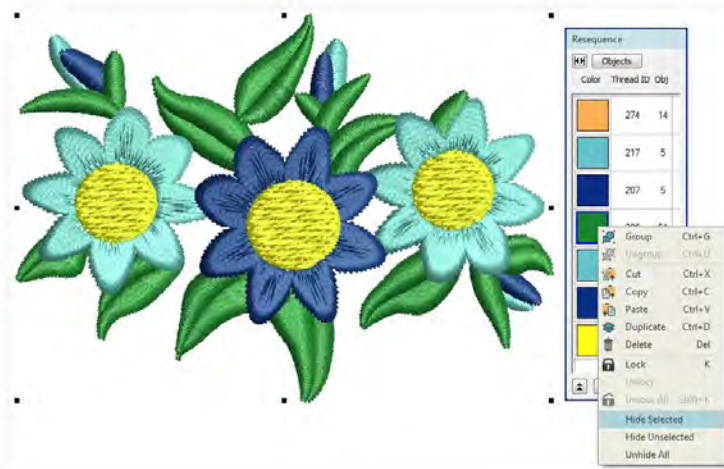


## Hide or isolate objects

Use Edit Objects > Resequence Manually to show or hide Resequence docker. Use it to resequence objects and color blocks in a design.

It is often helpful to hide selected objects in order to focus attention. Use the popup menu in the Resequence docker to hide objects.

Use the same menu to 'hide unselected' which has the effect of hiding all other objects apart from the one you have currently selected. To reveal all hidden objects, select 'Unhide All'.
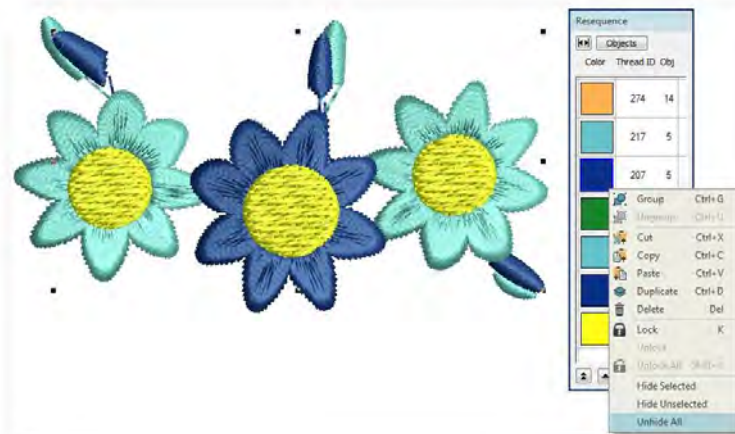


## Design overview

Use the Design Overview docker to navigate designs at high zoom factors via a design thumbnail. The docker updates whenever you make a change and can be used to zoom in or pan across the design window.

- Toggle the docker on or off via the Window menu.
- Click the docker to make it active.

- Click the Zoom button at the bottom and drag a bounding box around the area to view.
- Click and drag the bounding box to pan across the design.

## View embroidery elements

The software provides a number of viewing modes to selectively display design details. Show or hide needle penetration points and connectors. Show or hide selected colors. The View toolbar and menu provide access to most of the viewing options you will need.

## View in TrueView

Click View > TrueView to show or hide simulation of stitched embroidery.

TrueView offers a graphical representation of what the final embroidery will look like. Use TrueView together with a background fabric to see how your design will look when stitched out.



## View stitches

Use View > Show Design to show or hide design elements. Click to open droplist of view settings.

The software lets you show or hide stitches in your design. This is useful when viewing stitches for editing.



Stitches OFF          Stitches ON

## View needle points

👁 Use View > Show Design to show or hide design elements. Click to open droplist of view settings.

The software lets you show or hide needle points in your design. This is useful when you want to select stitches for editing. To view needle points, click the Display Needle Points icon or select View > Display Needle Points.
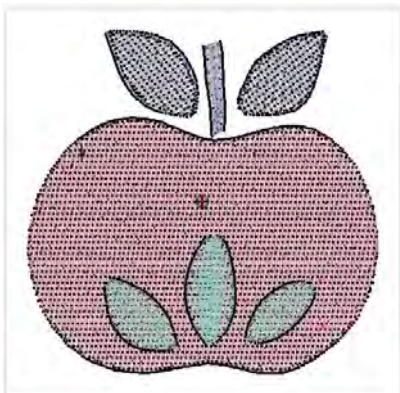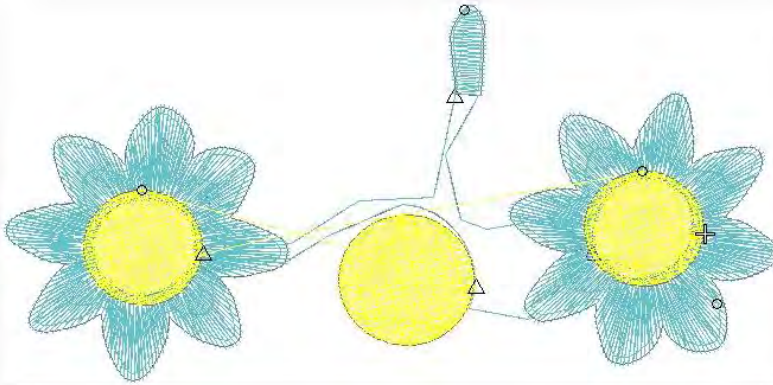


## View connectors

👁 Use View > Show Design to show or hide design elements. Click to open droplist of view settings.

The software automatically adds connectors between objects in a design. When connectors become long enough to trim, the software adds tie-in and trim functions. These are indicated by the symbols shown below - circle for tie-in, triangle for trim and tie-off.

Some machines will, by default, tie-off and trim at the specified positions. This behavior is alternately known as 'Trim By Jumps', 'Jump Stitch Cutting' or 'Jump Thread Trimming'. Some machines also allow you to switch to automatic machine trimming. This means that, while the machine will tie off whenever it encounters a tie-off function, it will only trim connectors longer than the length specified on the machine itself, regardless of whether there is a trim function in the stitch file. Other machines only have the automatic machine trim function. These machines ignore any trim data in the stitch file.

Old designs which have different connector settings do not display trim symbols at all in some cases where the machine actually trims. You can overcome this by inserting the old design into a new blank design. The old design will inherit the new connector settings.

## User interface view settings

Note that view settings can also be access via the View tab of the User Interface Settings dialog.
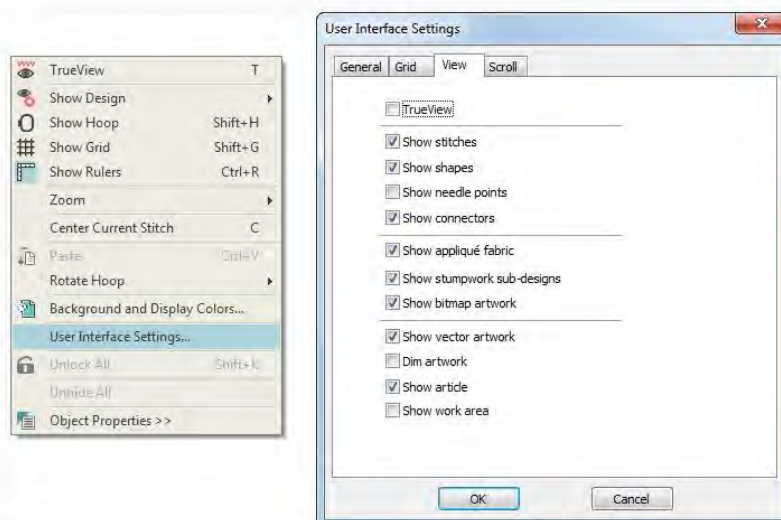
## Travel through designs

When working with embroidery designs, you need to understand the stitching sequence. You can view a design's stitching sequence by 'traveling' through it by colors or objects. The software simulates stitching out by changing stitches from black to their allocated thread color as they are 'stitched'. You can also travel by stitches, to the start or end of a design or travel by color, as well as edit stitches. The Travel toolbar and menu provide access to most of the travel options you will need.

| | |
|---|---|
| | Use Travel > Jump By Color in conjunction with Forward and Backward icons to travel to the previous or next color change. |
| | Use Travel > Jump By Object in conjunction with Forward and Back icons to travel to the previous or next objects. |
| | Use Travel> in conjunction with Forward and Backward icons to travel to the start or end of a design. |
| | Use Travel > Travel Backward to travel backwards through a design. |
| | Use Travel > Travel Forward to travel forwards through a design. |

## Travel through designs

These tools allow you to:

- Jump to the start or end of a design
- Jump from object to object
- Jump from color block to color block
- Simply choose an option and click the forward and back buttons.
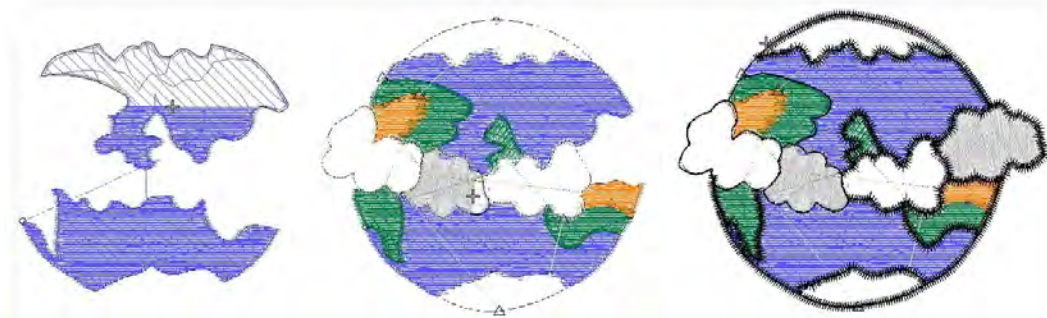


## Simulate design stitchout

Use View > Stitch Player to simulate embroidery design stitchout onscreen in either stitch or TrueView.

The Stitch Player lets you simulate a design stitchout on screen. Use it to view stitching and color sequence in slow motion. Simulation can be started from any stitch. With larger designs, scroll automatically so that the area being stitched remains on screen.

Because the Stitch Player emulates the movements of the embroidery machine, you are able to make decisions about how to optimize your design and lessen load on the machine. This is important if you intend to make multiple stitchouts of the same design. It is always good practice to run the Stitch Player on completed designs. Stitch Player controls allow you to:

- Move through the design stitch by stitch.
- Set the stitch you want to run from.
- Move through the design color block by color block.
- Select the color block you want to run from.
- With larger designs, use the Auto Scroll toggle to scroll automatically so that the area being stitched remains on-screen.

# BACKGROUNDS

The software lets you set the color inside the hoop to match the fabric you intend to stitch out on. You can also set a background color outside the hoop by way of contrast. Alternatively, you can add background fabrics based on samples packaged with the software.
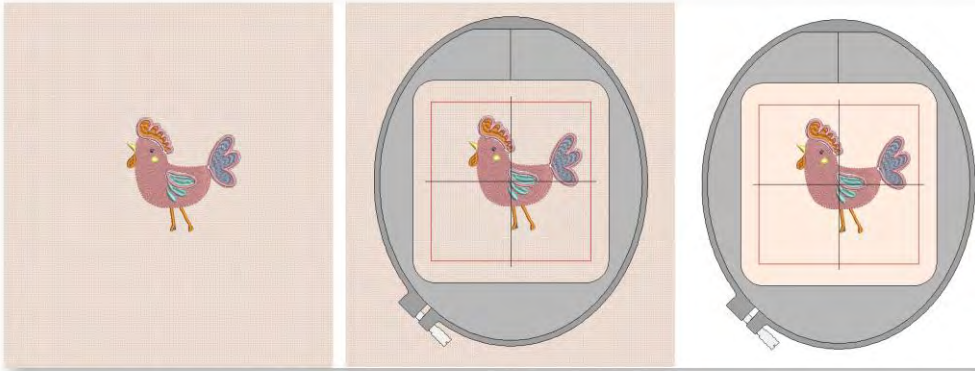


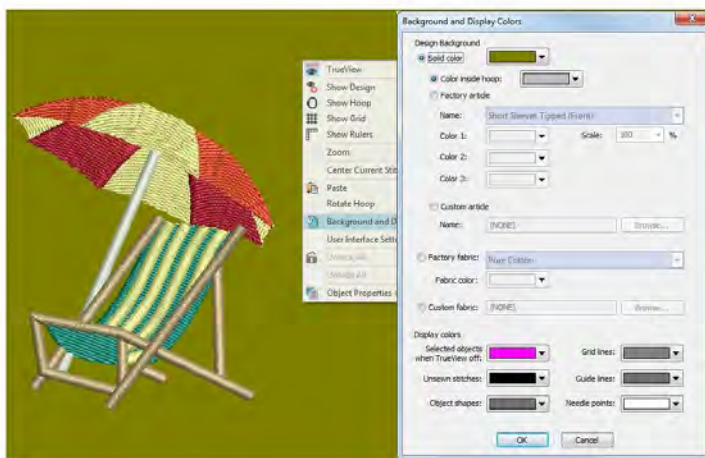Backgrounds are treated as design details and are included when saving.
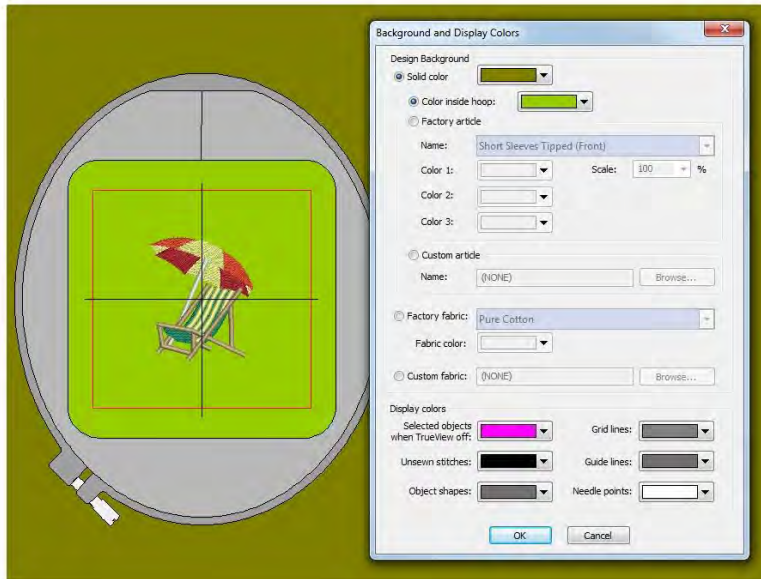
## Background colors

Use Customize Design / Context > Background and Display Colors to set colors, fabrics, or articles as design backgrounds.

Set the background color of the design window to match the fabric you intend to stitch out on.

- Select Customize Design > Background and Display Colors or right-click the design window with nothing selected and select from the popup menu.

- To select a color inside the hoop, choose the Solid Color option. This allows you to set separate colors inside and outside the hoop. Select a color from the palette or mix your own.

- You can also set a background color outside the hoop by way of contrast. Set the color inside the hoop to match the color of the fabric you intend to stitch out on.
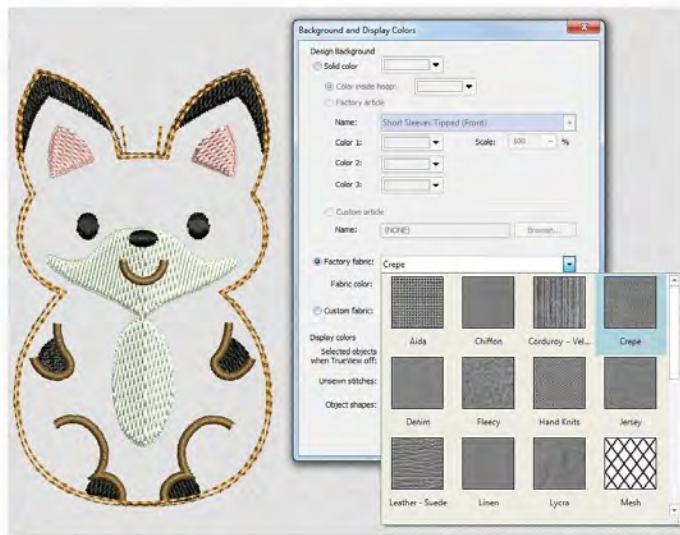


## Background articles

 Use Customize Design / Context > Background and Display Colors to set colors, fabrics, or articles as design backgrounds.

The same Background and Display Colors dialog also lets you choose a garment on which to position your designs. Use it to visualize location, size and overall appearance. The software provides a library of articles to choose from, including multi-color garments. You can also load your own product images via the Custom Article option. The background is saved with the design.



Note that some articles allow you to set up to three colors.

Use Customize Design / Context > Background and Display Colors to set colors, fabrics, or articles as design backgrounds.

## Background fabrics

In addition to setting background colors, you can also set textures to further imitate the fabric you intend to stitch out on.

- Select Customize Design > Background and Display Colors or right-click the design window with nothing selected and select from the popup menu.

- To use one of the preset fabric types, select the Factory Fabric option and select from the droplist and apply a color.



You can add your own fabric samples to the Fabrics folder in any of the supported file formats. You can also browse to another folder on your PC and select a file in any of these formats using the Custom Fabric option.

## Adjust display colors

Use Customize Design / Context > Background and Display Colors to set colors, fabrics, or articles as design backgrounds.

In addition to background color or fabric, display colors for borer holes, unsewn and selected stitches, object outlines and grid are part of the colorway definition. Change them if the default display color is not visible against the current colorway. The Background & Display Colors dialog includes a Display Colors panel.
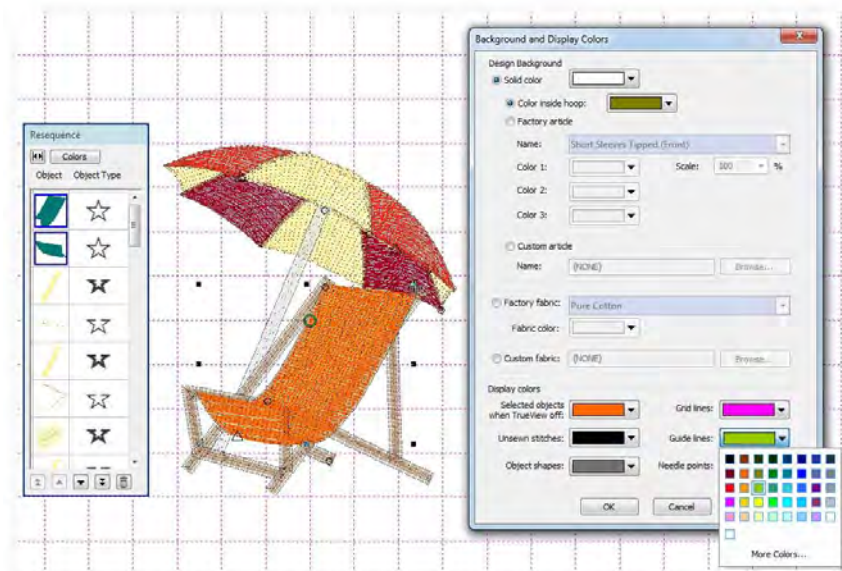


Adjust colors as required for:

| Element | Notes |
|---|---|
| Selected | Selected objects or stitches. |
| Unsewn | Unsewn stitches as they appear when traveling through the design. |
| Object shapes | Object outlines as they appear when Show Shapes is activated. |
| Grid lines | Depending on the colorway, you may need to adjust grid display colors in order to view them against the background color. |
| Guidelines | Depending on the colorway, you may need to adjust guide display colors in order to view them against the background color. |
| Needle points | Needle points as they appear when Show Needle Points is activated. |

# AUTO FABRICS & DENSITIES

Embroidery stitches pull fabric inward where the needle penetrates. This can cause fabric to pucker, and gaps to appear. For an object to sew out correctly, it must have correct stitch spacing, sufficient pull compensation together with a suitable underlay for the combination of cover stitch type, object type, object shape and fabric. The software provides a set of optimized auto fabric settings so that it will take into account the type of fabric you are stitching on.
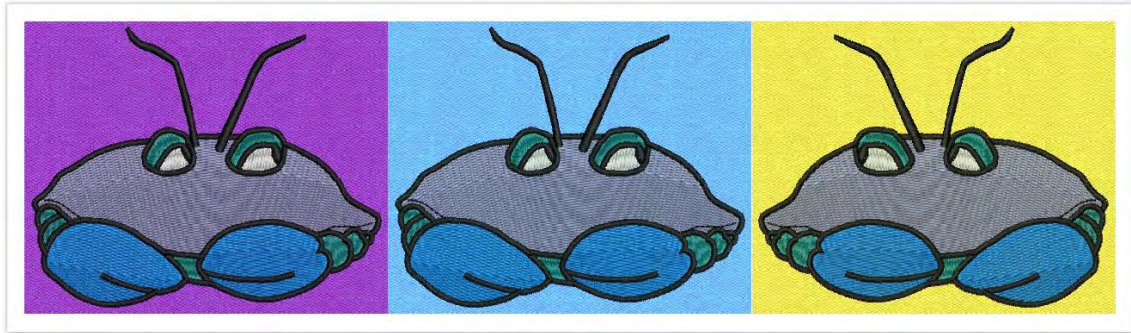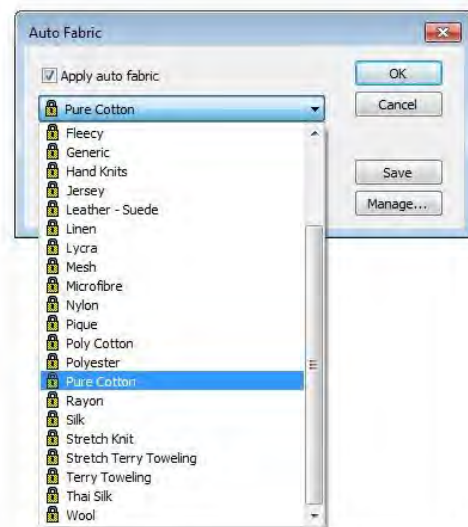


## Choose auto fabrics

Use Customize Design > Auto Fabric to change the properties of the design for stitching on a different fabric.

Choose from a set of pre-defined auto fabrics aimed at minimizing stitching defects when designs are sewn out. These make the necessary changes to the system settings – e.g. 'pull compensation'. The new settings can be applied to all applicable objects. Normally you choose an auto fabric when you first set up a design although you can change it at any stage. Go to the Customize Design toolbox and choose Auto Fabric...

Notice that the Auto Fabric dialog also provides recommended stabilizers according to the selected auto fabric. Stabilizer backings are woven or non-woven materials placed beneath the item or fabric being embroidered for stability and support. The more stitches a design has, the heavier the backing required. Backings are available in various weights and types such as cut-away, tear-away and wash-away (soluble). Professional embroiderers use tear-away stabilizers for woven fabrics and cut-away stabilizers for knits.

The auto fabric you choose here does not have a direct effect upon the design background nor vice versa. It's up to you to set the background fabric to match your chosen auto fabric.

## Manage fabrics

In addition to the pre-defined auto fabric settings, you can create custom fabric settings to suit particular needs. You can also modify, rename or delete any custom fabrics you create.

- Select Software Settings > Manage Auto Fabrics. Most of the time, you will come to this dialog in order to edit auto fabric settings or create fabric variants.
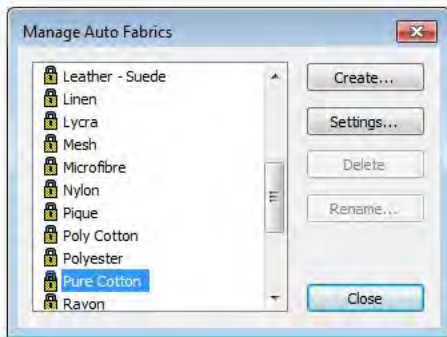


- To create a variant, select the base fabric and click Create.
- Enter a descriptive name.
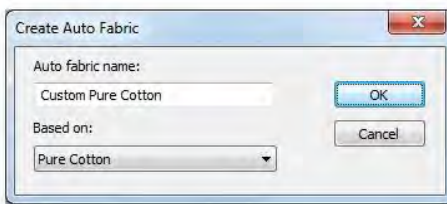


- Click OK. The Fabric Settings dialog opens. This dialog lets you set auto fabric values for four object groups – Tatami/Embossed Fill, Wide Satin, Narrow Satin, and Lettering – as well as details of any recommended stabilizers.
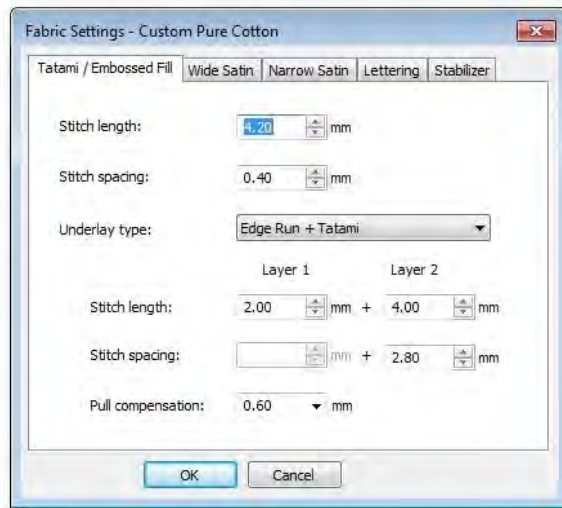
## Adjust stitch densities

**%** Use Customize Design / Edit Objects > Adjust Stitch Spacing to manually override stitch densities of selected objects or entire designs.

You may need to change stitch density in order to stitch on a different fabric or with a different thread. Or you may want to do a test design and reduce the overall stitch count for efficient stitchout. The software lets you change the density of most stitch types across the whole or selected parts of a design.



To override current settings for the entire design, press <Ctrl + A> to select everything. Open the dialog and set a percentage adjustment - e.g. 200% to increase stitch spacing and thereby reduce overall density. Check the revised stitch count in the Status Bar.

# START & END DESIGN

Before stitching, some embroidery machines require you to position the hoop precisely in relation to the needle. The Auto Start and End feature is available to connect first and last stitches in a design. This makes it easy to position the needle before stitching, and reduces the chance of the needle hitting the side of the frame.

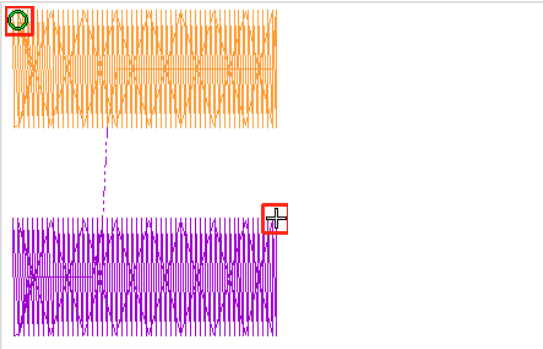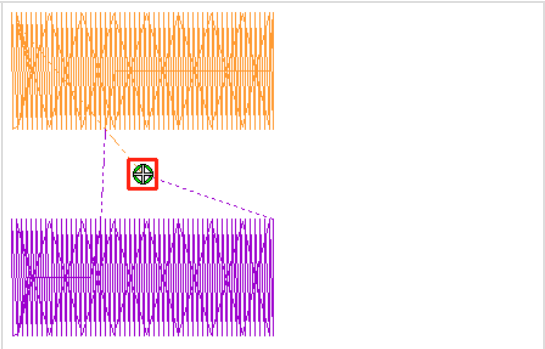Use Customize Design > Auto Start and End to preset auto start and end points for entire design.

## To set automatic start and end points

- Right-click Auto Start and End.
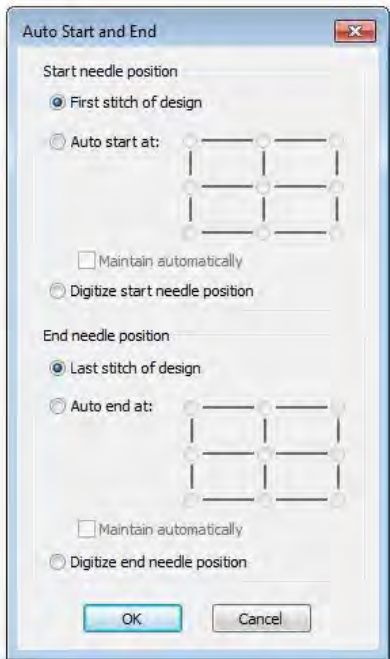


- Select a centering method for start and end needle positions...

| Method | Description |
|---|---|
| First / last stitch | Start and end the design at the first and last stitches wherever they may occur in the design. |
| Auto start / end | Select one of the nine preset start and end points. Connecting stitches are added to first and last stitches of the design. |
| Digitize start / end | Digitize your own start and end points. Used where you want to strictly define the start/end point of the embroidery usually to align with some other component. If you select this option, |

| Method | Description |
|--------|-------------|
|  | you are prompted to click the point after clicking closing the dialog. |

- If you choose to digitize start and end points, you will be prompted once you close the dialog.

| | |
|---|---|
| Start Point: First Stitch<br>End Point: Last Stitch of the design | Start Point: Auto Start<br>End Point: Auto End, Center of the design |

- Select the 'Maintain Automatically' checkbox (the default) to automatically maintain start and/or end needle positions. This ensures that start/end points are maintained during editing operations.

- Turn off 'Maintain Automatically' if you want to position the design anywhere in the hoop. You might do this to set up continuous designs or special placements such as on pockets. Use this technique with machines which always start in the center of the hoop. Make sure automatic centering is set to start needle position
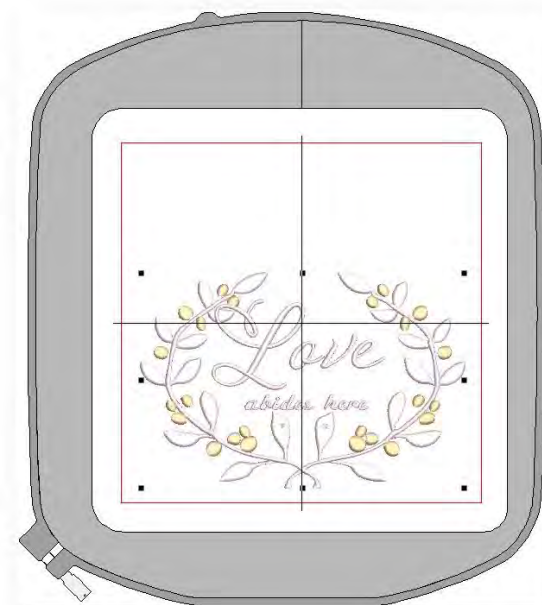
- Click OK. Connecting stitches will be inserted as required before the first and after the last stitches of the design.
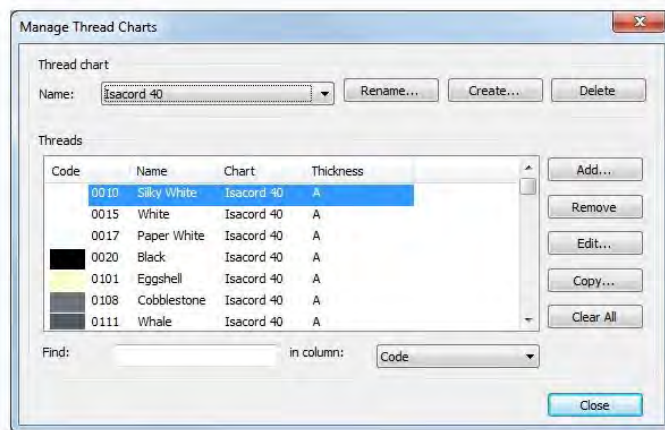
# MANAGE THREAD CHARTS

The thread charts contained in the software represent the many different brands and colors of thread available. Change thread charts to reflect the chart or charts you are currently using. Update thread charts by modifying thread details or removing threads. You can also rename or delete thread charts. Change code, brand or description for an existing thread. Create your own charts to represent the palette of threads you have available.
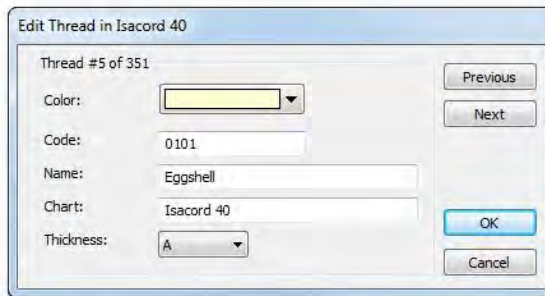
## Modify existing thread charts

☑——
☐—— Use Customize Design > Change Thread Chart to manage thread charts or define your own.
☑——

Thread charts may not always be accurate because thread manufacturers sometimes change, delete, and add new colors to their lines. For this reason, you can modify charts to update your own personal palette of threads.

- Click the Change Thread Chart button in the Customize Design toolbox.



- Select a thread chart from the droplist. You have the option of deleting or renaming the chart.

- In the Threads panel, select a thread to modify. Use the Search field to search on a specific thread code or name.

- To change thread details, click Edit.
  Here you can edit the color, code, brand, and description details of the selected thread. Code is the identification number of a thread color in a brand.
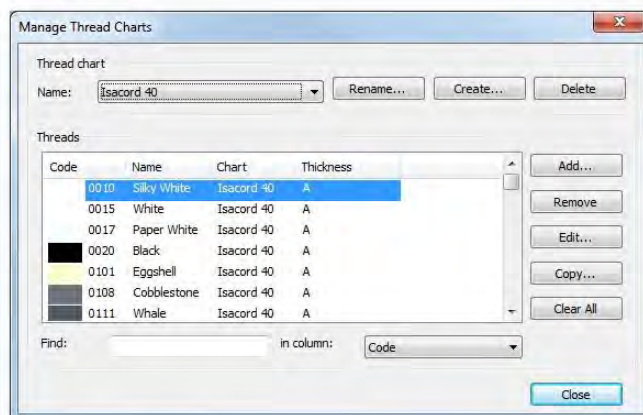
## Create a new thread chart

☑—
☐— Use Customize Design > Change Thread Chart to manage thread charts or define your own.
☑—

Sometimes, rather than modify an existing thread chart, it may be simpler to define your own. When you create a thread chart, you are creating a store of colors for future use. Select names that will help you remember the charts or help you sort frequently-used charts to the top of the list. You can copy colors from other charts or mix them yourself. You can also set the code, description, brand, and thickness of existing threads. Remove obsolete thread colors for good housekeeping.

- Click the link in the Customize Design toolbox.
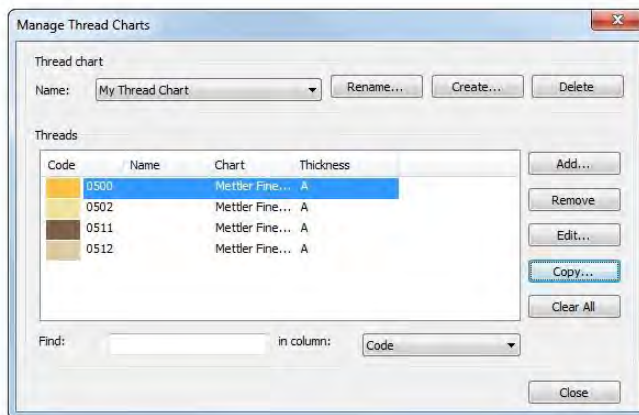


- Click Create.
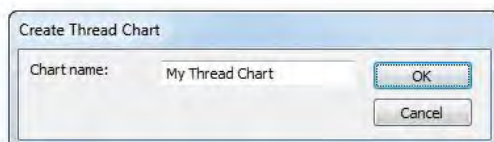


- Enter a name for the chart and click OK.

You have the option of adding threads singly or copying existing thread and editing them.

- If you choose to copy, choose the source thread chart from the droplist.

---
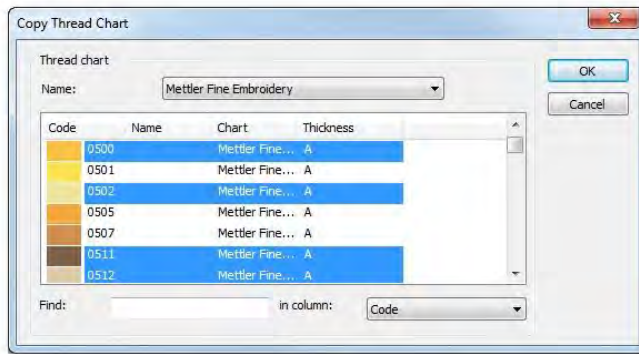
- Select the thread or threads you want to copy. Hold down the <Ctrl> key to make multiple selections.



- Use the Edit thread option to change thread details as preferred.

# DESIGN COLORS

You change thread colors for embroidery objects from the Design Palette.This is the simplest way to customize a design. The Design Palette you set is saved with the current design. Various techniques are available:

- Recoloring object-by-object
- Recoloring entire color blocks
- Picking and applying colors from the design
- Recycling colors within the existing design palette
- Choosing new base colors and cycling the rest

## Select thread colors

Use Design Palette > Pick Color to pick up a color from a design object and make it current.

Use Design Palette > Apply Current Color to apply the current color to selected embroidery objects.
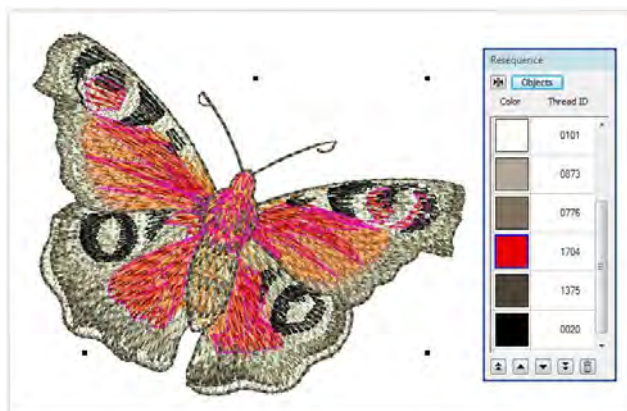
Use Design Palette > Current Color to view the current color selection.

The Design Palette has up to 128 color slots. Used colors are tagged with a blue dot.

- Resize and click-and-drag the palette anywhere within the design window.
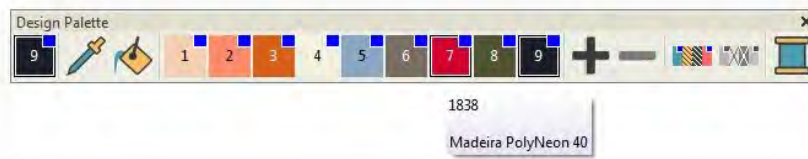


- Hover the mouse pointer over a color to view its brand, code and description in a tooltip.
- Click individual objects or use the Design Sequence docker to select objects or entire color blocks.

- To change colors, simply select an object and click a slot in the Design Palette. This becomes the current color.
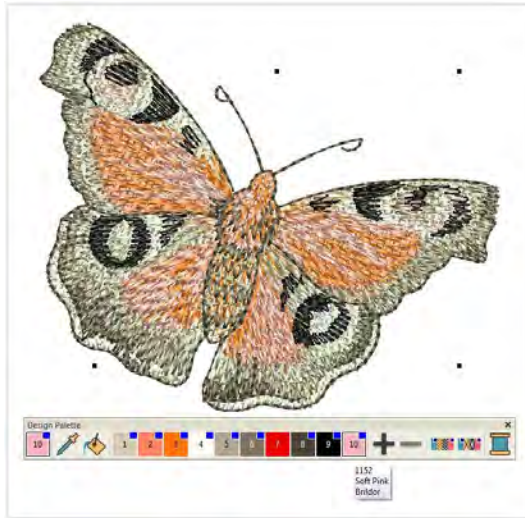


- Alternatively, pick colors from existing objects with the Color Picker tool and transfer to other objects with the Apply Current Color tool.
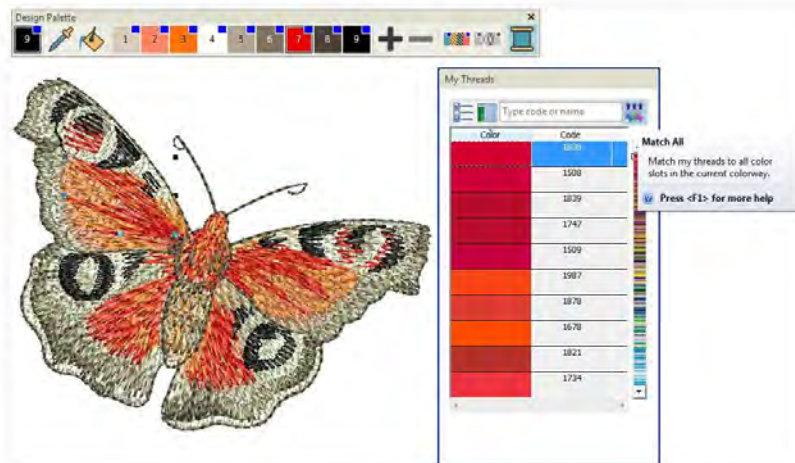
## Assign thread charts

Use Design Palette > Change Design Color to show or hide the My Threads docker to find threads from different charts and change design colors.

Sometimes you will want to assign a thread chart to a Design Palette. For instance:

- When you convert vector graphics in Graphics mode, colors are appended to the color palette as RGB values. These can be matched to an actual thread chart.

- If you read a stitch file, color information will be appended to the Design Palette. Again, you can match these colors to an actual thread chart.

- If you receive a design which uses colors from a thread chart you don't have, you can match them to a preferred thread chart.

To assign a thread chart...

- Open the source design and click Change Design Color.

- Choose the preferred thread chart from the My Thread Charts dialog.

- Click the Match All button. All threads in the current Design Palette will be substituted automatically to the nearest matching thread color in the current thread chart. All colors currently assigned to the design will substituted for the new threads.
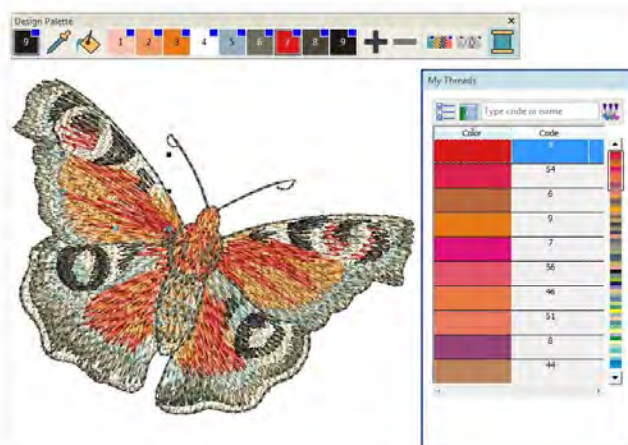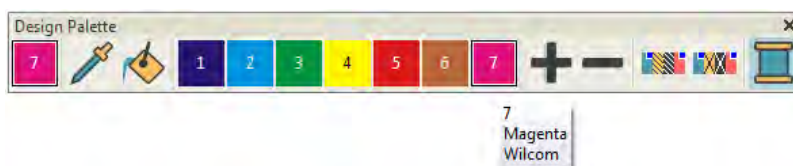


## Preset design colors

Use Customize Design > Change Design Color to show or hide the My Threads docker to find threads from different charts and change design colors.

Your design software lets you manage thread colors for each design you create. Select from a wide range of commercial thread charts. Find and sort specific threads by color code. The default Design Palette contains 78 colors. Replace colors with ones from a different thread chart. Add or remove color slots as required.
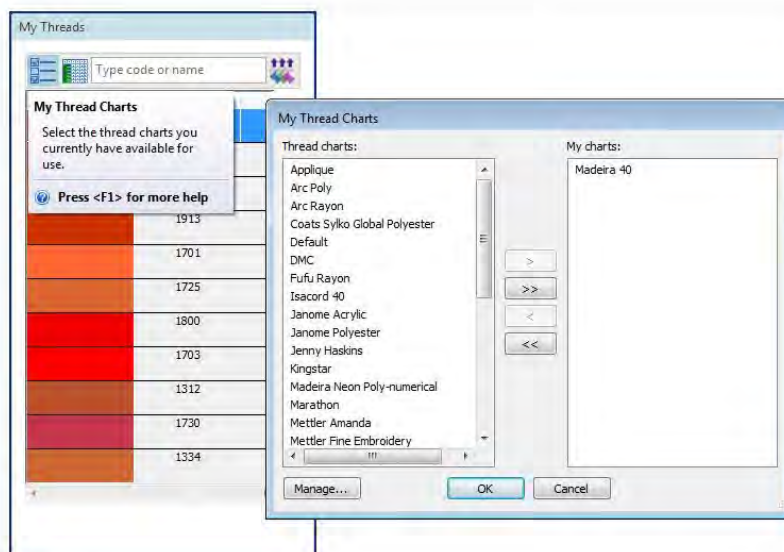
- Use the + and - buttons to set the number of color slots you want.



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Magenta
Wilcom

- Click the Change Design Color button. The My Threads docker opens.



- Click My Thread Charts. Use the dialog to select your current/preferred thread chart/s.



- Select colors in the Design Palette to locate corresponding threads in the My Threads list.
- If you know the exact code you are looking for, key it into the Find Code field.
- Double-click to transfer a selected thread to the current color slot in the Design Palette.
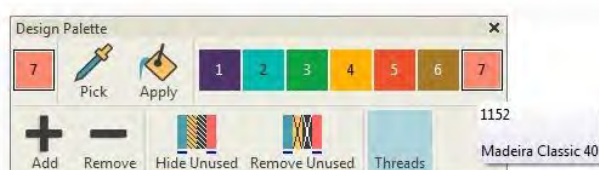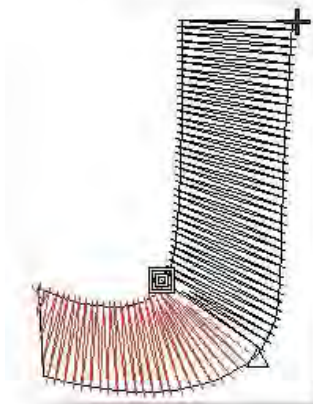
## Insert color changes

The software lets you insert a color change on any stitch at the current cursor position. This is particularly useful when working with monograms or other lettering objects, including individual characters. To insert a manual color change...

• Press Esc to deselect all objects in the design and deactivate the Select While Traveling tool.

• Use any of the available tools to travel through the design. See also Travel through designs.

• Use the arrow keys to locate the point where you want to place the color change.
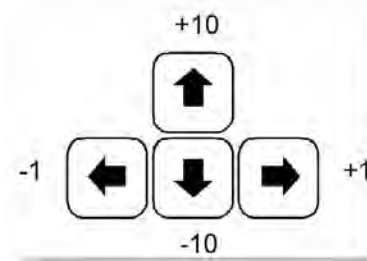


• Select a color from the Design Palette. A color change is inserted at the current stitch cursor location. See also Create lettering.



• If you travel by color or by object only, the stitch cursor will always be at the beginning of an object. Inserting a manual color change at this point will change the entire object.

• Repeat as many times as required.
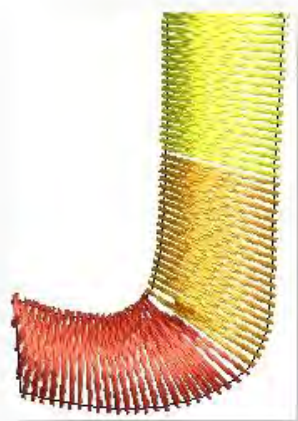
- The Edit > Remove Color Change command is enabled when the stitch cursor is positioned on a stitch carrying a manual color change. Use it to remove the color change. Alternatively, select the entire object and select a color from the Design Palette.
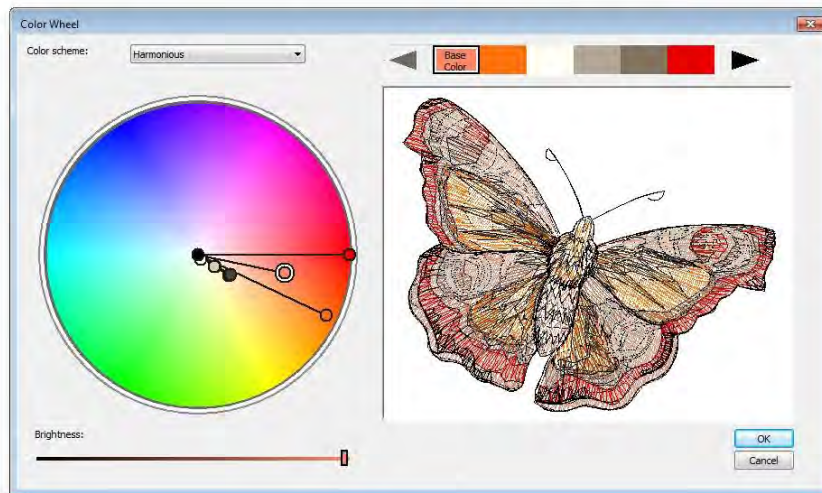
## Change color schemes

 Use Customize Design > Color Wheel to test combinations of related colors.

The Cycle Colors and Color Wheel tools allow you to change entire color schemes. Their main purpose is to create a new 'colorway' quickly and easily in order to 'spice up' old designs or place them on a different fabric. To change color schemes...

- Use the Cycle Used Colors tool to try out different combinations using available threads.



- Alternatively, use the Color Wheel. This allows you to cycle through many color combinations using preset color schemes including Analogous, Complementary, Harmonious, etc.

- Click and drag the larger 'base color' node to try out different combinations within the same colorway. The base color nominally relates to the color of the target fabric and/or the dominant color scheme of the design.

- Click and drag individual color nodes to fine-tune. Use the Brightness control further adjust selected colors.

- To adjust the brightness of the entire design, select the base color node and adjust the Brightness control.

- If you have sufficient colors already defined in the Design Palette, they will be automatically matched. Alternatively, use the Match All function in the My Threads dialog.

# INSERT DESIGNS

The simplest way to create design layouts is to simply combine designs or design elements into a single design layout. The software lets you insert one design into another. The two (or more) designs can then be saved as a combined design. By default, the inserted design will be added to the first in the stitching sequence.
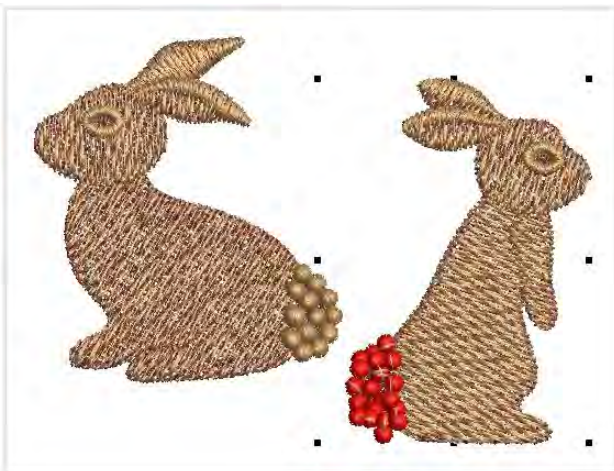


Alternatively, travel to the point in the stitching sequence where you want to insert the second design. You can insert a design between objects in the sequence, or 'nest' the design within an object.

# OPTIMIZE COLOR CHANGES

Use Customize Design > Optimize Color Changes to optimize design by reducing color changes to a minimum, while maintaining color layers.

The 'Optimize Color Changes' feature improves the quality and efficiency of the stitchout by minimizing the number of color changes and trims. All existing overlaps are preserved by the operation. It is good practice to run this command whenever you combine designs. You will be prompted when optimization is complete.