



Addendum 7

*Introduction to longarm appliqué
with Art and Stitch*

by

Susan Smith





About the Author, Susan Smith



I love quilting, embroidery, tatting, sewing, needlework and plan someday to learn how to knit! For over thirty years, I have been fortunate to have an interesting career in education that I enjoy and that continues to challenge me.

After college, I served as an officer in the United States Navy in the areas of education, training, management and organization development. When I left the Navy, I worked as a school librarian and elementary teacher in California. As a state technology mentor and mentor teacher, I found I enjoyed helping others develop their technology skills!

Later my family and I moved to Michigan where I was a reference librarian in the public library. While in Michigan, I opened my quilting and embroidery business, Pine Creek Quilting, LLC. I began to teach Statler longarm classes after becoming a certified trainer.

I became interested in Art and Stitch as I wanted to design patterns for my classes. We now live on the beautiful Bainbridge Island, in Washington and I am fortunate to be able to quilt and teach quilting related classes full time! For more information, please visit my website: www.pinecreekquilting.com





Introduction

"Machine Appliqué" is a fun and fast way to complete appliqué projects. Most people think of "machine appliqué" as a technique that is done on a domestic sewing machine. Using a straight, satin, or blanket stitch, a line of stitching is applied to the edge of an appliqué shape to attach it to the background material. Some may use one or more of the variety of stitches available on their domestic sewing machine to apply their appliqué shape.

Those familiar with embroidery units on a domestic sewing machines or commercial embroidery machines know the process to sew out a cloth and thread appliqué design. In three layer steps, the appliqué cloth design is outlined and cut out, an outline is stitched on the background fabric to show the appliqué cloth placement, and the final step is applying the stitches around the edge of the appliqué cloth design to secure the shape to the background fabric. As our longarm machines are as versatile as our domestic sewing machines, they are increasingly being used in machine appliqué. Art and stitch allows us to adapt appliqué designs or design new appliqué projects to be completed on our longarm machines.

The basics of creating an appliqué design in Art and Stitch

To understand the basics of a digitized appliqué design, we can look to the machine embroidery world. A multitude of embroidery appliqué projects are digitized and applied by machine. The Art and Stitch User Guide, Chapter 1.12.7 "Fill Type: Appliqué" explains the three layers that Art and Stitch will create when a shape is turned into an appliqué. It also offers a simple (and easy to understand) exercise in adapting a design to an embroidery appliqué design.

Chapter 6.10 "Appliqué exercise (Library, reshape, slice, appliqué, details)" shows how to take an apple shape and turn it into appliqué for the embroidery machine. Art and Stitch automatically converts the design into the three layers to stitch out on your embroidery machine.

In a similar process, you can adapt or create appliqué designs to be used on your longarm system and the size of the appliqué designs can be much larger. When the "Style of Design" is set to "Quilting" in starting a new file, the final layer of stitching used to secure the appliqué has a low density. Quilting details and the background quilting can also be designed around the appliqué project and quilted with the appliqué. There are endless appliqué possibilities with Art and Stitch and the longarm!

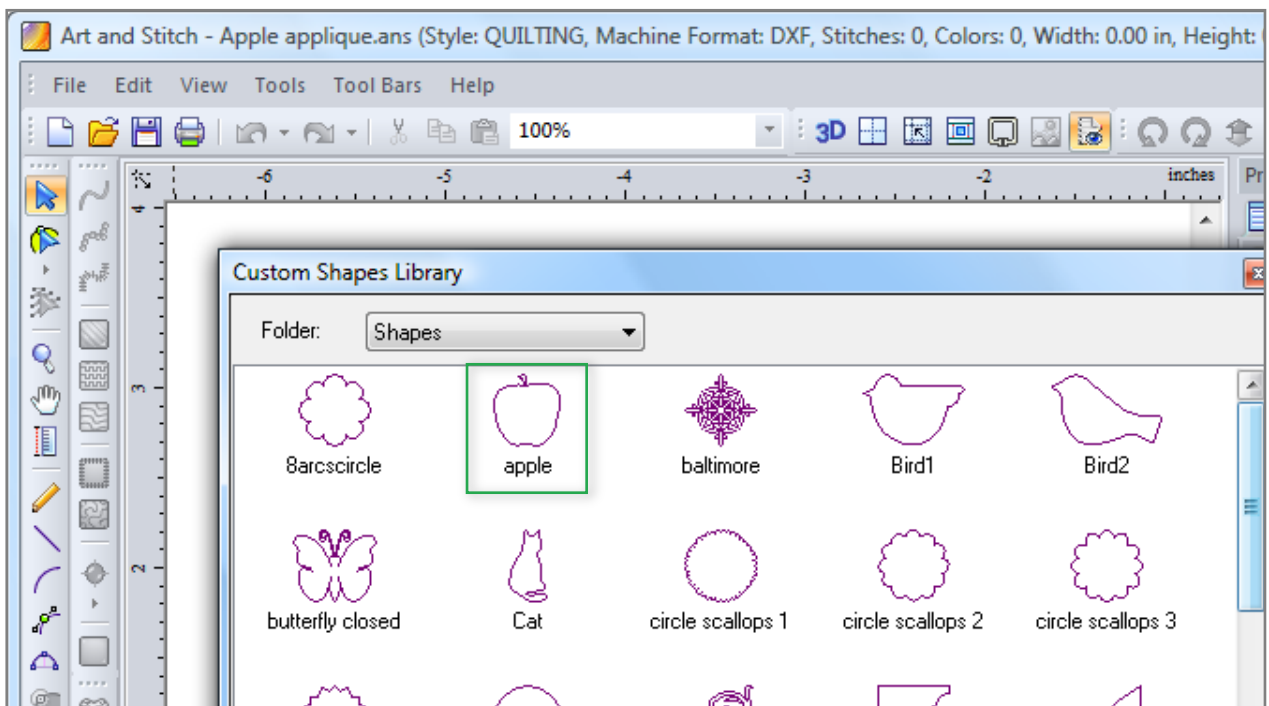


Method 1 - Blanket Stitch, Raw Edge Appliqué with a hatch fill on top

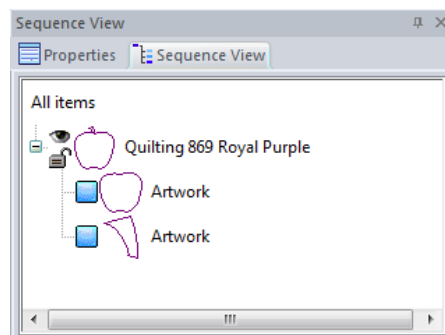
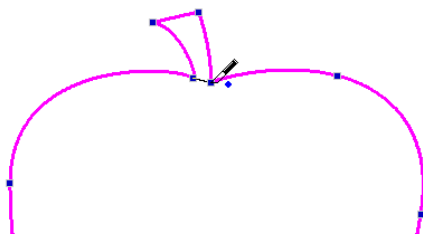
The Art and Stitch User Guide Part 6 - Embroidery Digitizing, 6.10 "Appliqué exercise" shows how to take an apple shape from the library and turn it into an embroidery appliqué. The same exercise can be adapted to show the process of appliqué with the longarm.



- Open a new design page in Art and Stitch (default style "Quilting"). Save the project as "Apple applique.ans".
- From the "Shapes" folder in the Library, select the apple.



- With the apple selected, click the small triangle under the "Reshape" button and select the "Slice" tool.
- Click the two points between the stem and the apple and right-click to separate the design into 2 parts. Check the Sequence View!

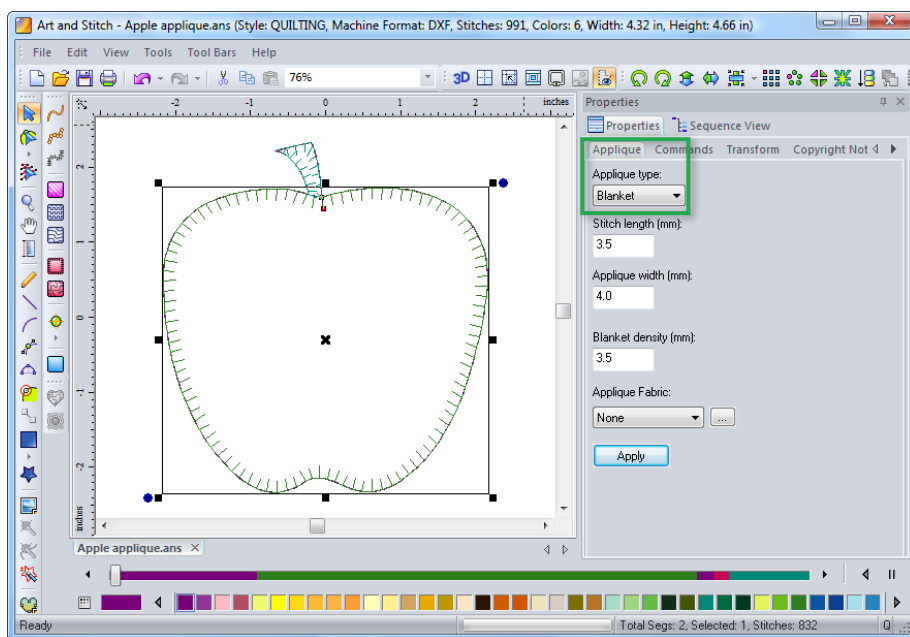




Method 1 - Blanket Stitch, Raw Edge Appliqué with a hatch fill on top - cont'd



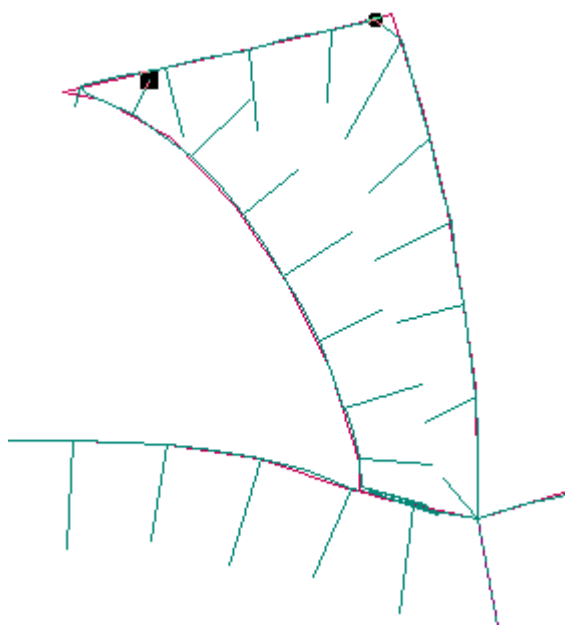
- Select just the stem section, click on the “Appliqué” button in the Stitch toolbar to turn it into an appliqué with the 3 layers.
 - In Properties Panel, tab Applique, change the Appliqué type to “Blanket”, change Applique width as well as Applique Density to 3 and click on Apply.
- Select just the apple section, click on the “Appliqué” button to turn it into an appliqué with the 3 layers.
 - In Properties Panel, tab Applique, change the Appliqué type to “Blanket”, click on Apply.



Stitch Edit

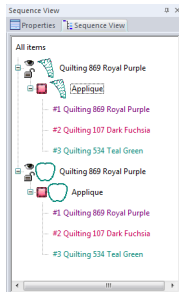
The "Stitch Edit Tool" will allow you to move individual stitches to tidy up the overlap between the stem and apple or the stitches in the top of the stem. You may also add or delete points by right-clicking on a point.

Important: the Stitch Edit function should be the last thing you do on a design. If you would change the stitch type later, then your editing work is gone.





Method 1 - Blanket Stitch, Raw Edge Appliqué with a hatch fill on top - cont'd

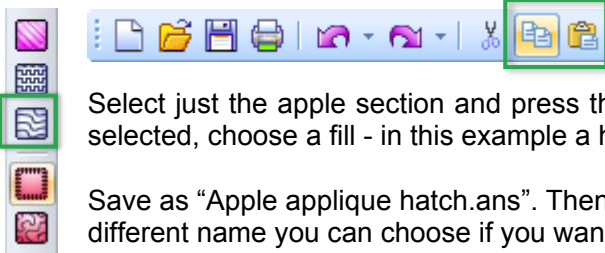


Check the "Sequence View". The stem will be sewn first and the apple will cover the bottom of the stem.

Save "Apple applique" as .ANS file. Choose menu File > Save as and save in the format of your longarm system.

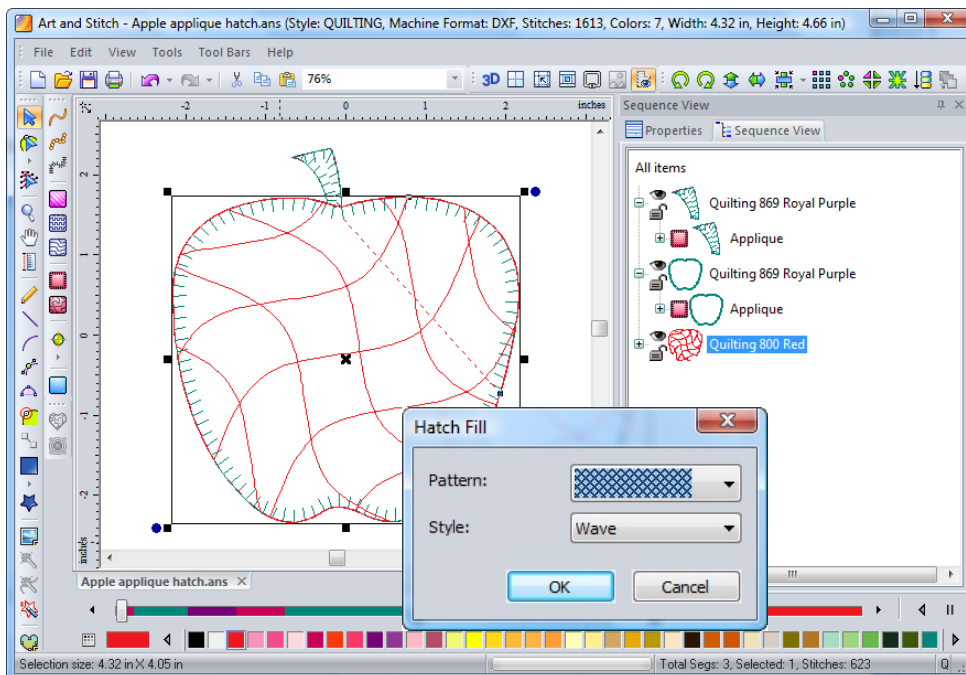
Method 1 - Extra: add a hatch fill on top of the apple

If you would like to add a motif inside the apple, then don't close the design yet. Follow these steps to add a hatch fill on top:



Select just the apple section and press the Copy and then the Paste button. While this copy is still selected, choose a fill - in this example a hatch fill : cross hatch pattern "wave" style and click on OK.

Save as "Apple applique hatch.ans". Then save in the format of your longarm system. By saving under a different name you can choose if you want to sew the applique with or without the hatch on top.



Note: Instead of a motif or a hatch, you may choose or create a fill for inside the apple! The Art and Stitch User Guide, Chapter 3, 3.7.1 "Creative Fills - Apply Creative Fill Effect" and 3.7.3 "Creative fills - Make your own Creative Fills" explains the steps.



Method 1 - Sewing the appliqué on the longarm

- Prepare the fabric for the apple and stem appliqué by ironing a lightweight stabilizer appropriate for machine quilting to the appliqué fabric. As the apple is 4.32" wide and 4.06" high, you will need approximately a 5.5" square. The stem is .62" wide and .74" high, so a 1.5" square should be fine.
- Load the top, batting, and backing for this project on your longarm system.
- Open the "Apple appliqué" pattern on your longarm system.
- As this project will be using a raw edge technique, we will sew out the 3 layers using the "Apple appliqué" pattern.

Important note about stopping between the separate applique layers

The various applique layers have different colors. Not all quilt systems are capable of recognizing the separate colors as separate layers. A Statler Creative Studio system will stop between the various colors, but other quilt systems might sew all three layers without stopping!

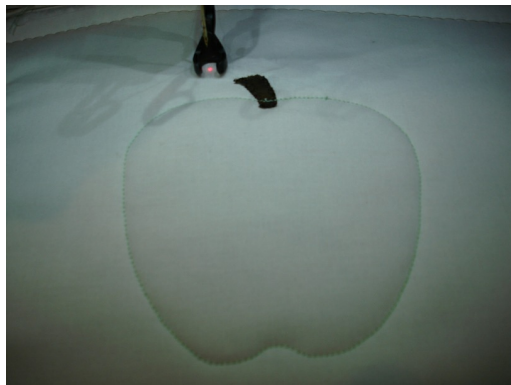
Look at the sew simulator in Art and Stitch and memorize the "stops" between the layers, so that you can hit the pause button on your quilt system at the end of each layer.

Sewing the three Stem layers

- Sew out the first layer of the stem appliqué as the placement outline for the stem shape.
- The second layer will be used to secure the appliqué fabric, so center the stem appliqué fabric over the placement outline and stitch carefully. Make sure the pattern will sew on the fabric! You should be able to hold the fabric in place with a stylus or you may baste the shape in place as it is very small!
- Carefully trim the edges of the stem with small sharp scissors.
- The third layer will sew the blanket stitch around the stem appliqué shape.

Sewing the three Apple layers

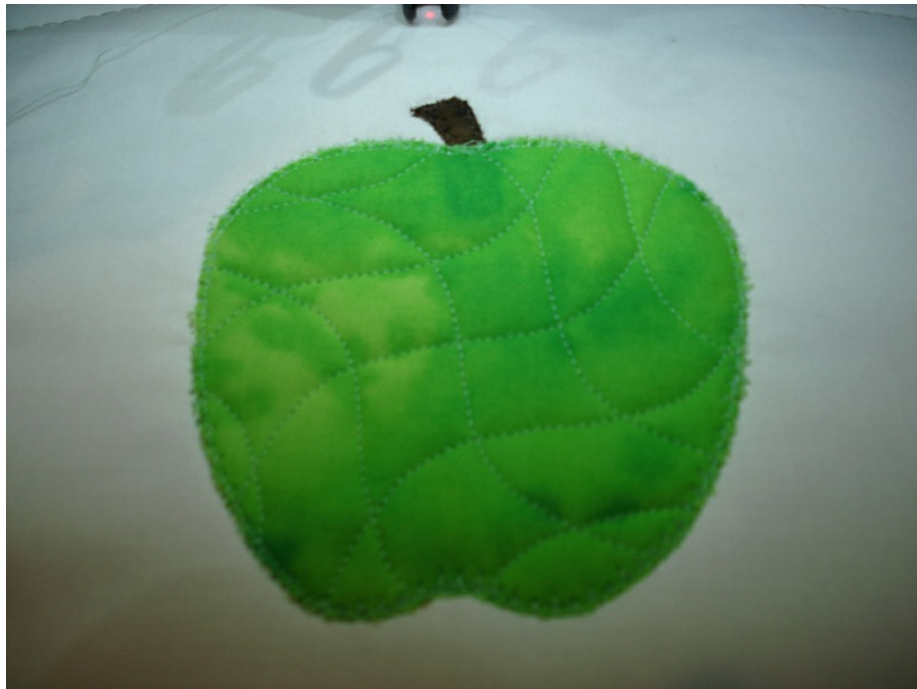
- Continue to the apple shape and sew the first layer as a placement guide.





Method 1 - Sewing the appliqué on the longarm - cont'd

- Place the apple appliqué fabric over the placement outline and let the second applique line stitch carefully. Hit the pause button if your machine doesn't stop automatically between the layers (see important note on previous page).
- Carefully trim around the edges of the apple with small sharp scissors.
- Sew the third applique line, the blanket stitch, around the apple appliqué shape.
- The final step will be to sew out the apple motif - the waved cross hatch in this example.
- Add the background quilting as desired and enjoy your project!





Method 2 - Uniting designs, Raw Edge Appliqué with Fill Background Quilting

Instead of turning our artwork into an appliqué by using the appliqué button, we will have more flexibility if we add stitches to patterns that we layer ourselves! A straight stitch around the raw edges of the appliqué shape can give great detail. It also lets us skip some steps in the traditional appliqué process.

Once you have decided on the designs you wish to use for the appliqué, open Art and Stitch with default style “Quilting” to use an existing pattern or create a new pattern.

We will use the letter “F” and a flower shape to create an elegant wall hanging.

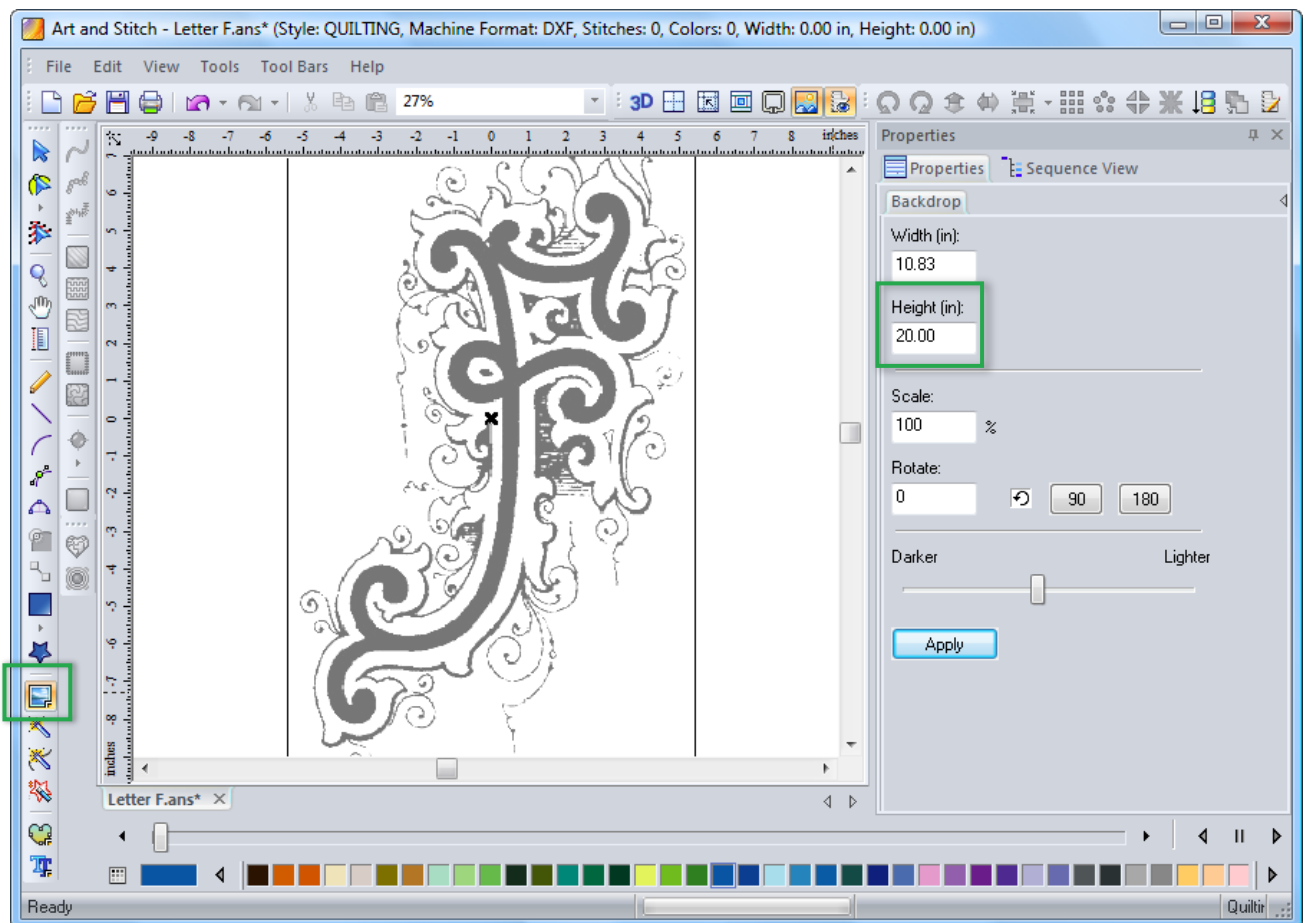
For this project, the appliqué design for the letter “F” will be traced from an existing (royalty-free) image².

- Using the Backdrop Tool, open the image to trace.



- While this image is still selected, go to Properties panel on the right, tab Backdrop and change the height to 20”. Move the slider bar a bit to the right, to “Lighter”. Click on Apply.
- Save the project as “Letter F.ans”.

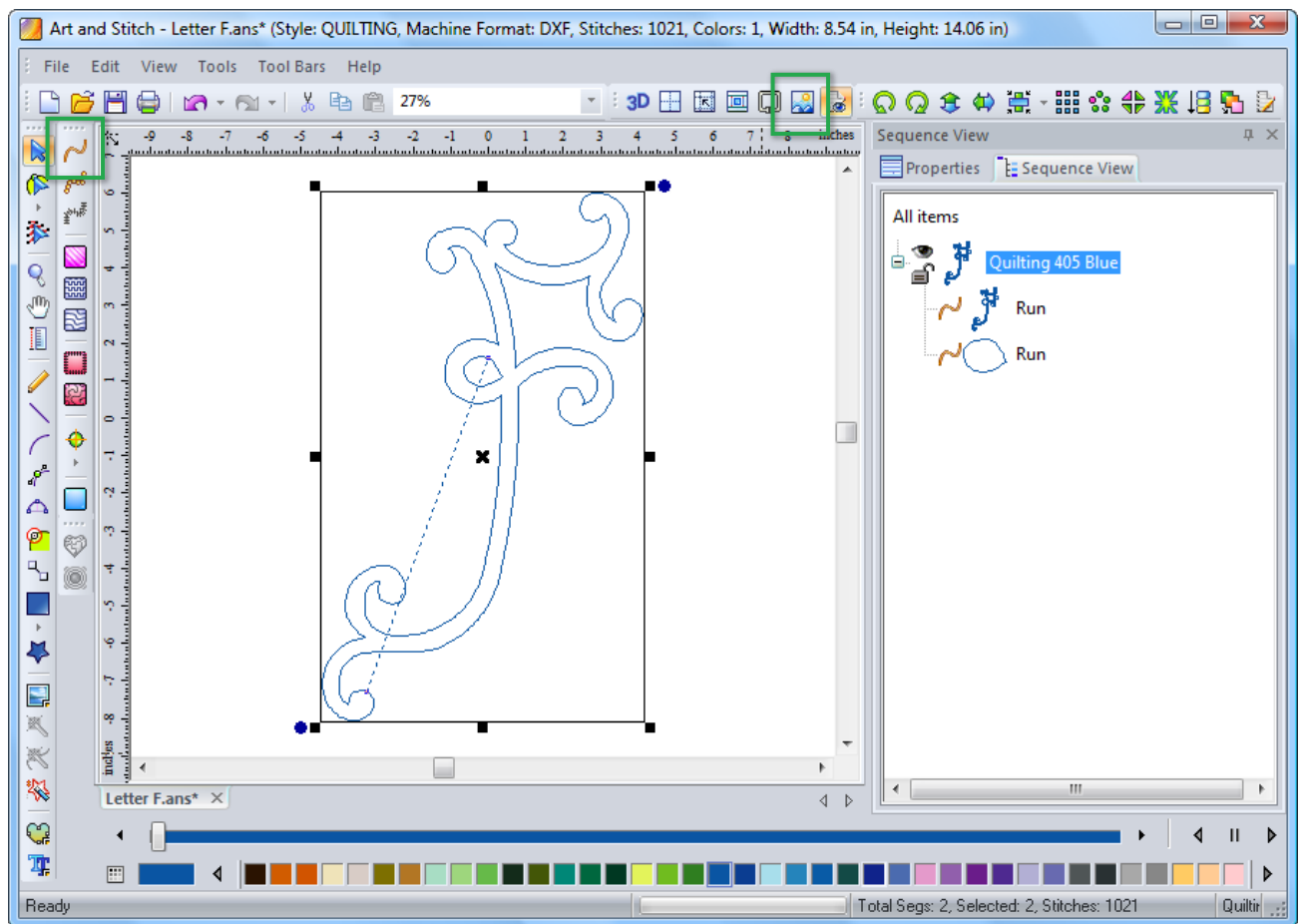
² Decorative initials and Alphabets, Dover Publications, INC. Mineola, New York 2010





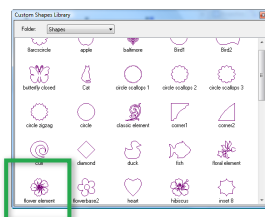
Method 2 - Uniting designs, Raw Edge Appliqué with Fill Background Quilting cont'd

- Draw the letter with your choice of drawing tool, using as few points as necessary to make the shape.
- Click the last point, select the “Close Shape” button and right-click to finish.
- Using the icon in the general tool bar, hide the backdrop.
- In the stitch toolbar, apply running stitches to the pattern. Save the pattern as .ANS and save in the format of your longarm system. (Note the jump stitch!) You now have your appliqué “F” pattern.



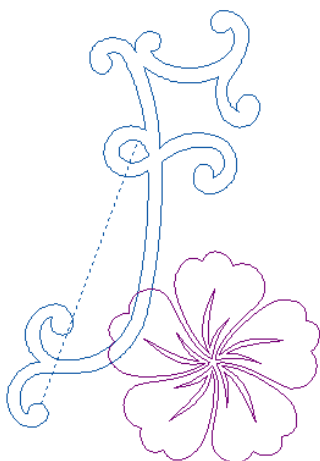
Method 2 - Adding another design element

- Copy and paste the pattern into a new design page. Save as “Letter F and Flower.ans”.
- From the Shapes folder in the Library, select the flower element for this project.





Method 2 - Adding another design element - cont'd



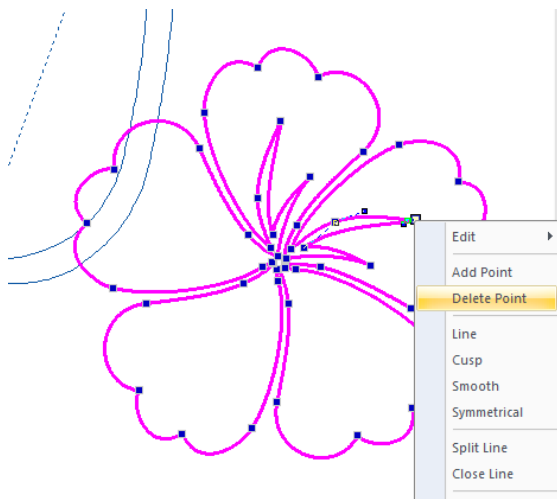
- Resize and rotate the flower element and move it to the desired place. In this example we will let the flower overlap the letter F, so that in a later step we can “unite” the shapes (this is described on the next page).



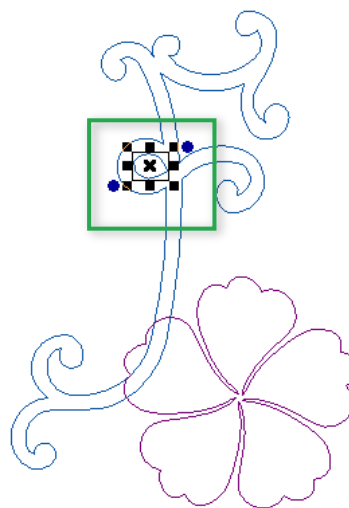
- In the stitch toolbar, apply running stitches to the flower pattern. Save the pattern “Letter F and flower.ans”. Save again in the format of your longarm system by choosing menu File > Save as.

Method 2 - Fill Outside the Appliqué

You may use a pattern to fill around the appliqué shapes for the background quilting. The Art and Stitch User Guide explains the process clearly in Part 3 – “Special Functions, 3.4 Fill outside a shape (leaving the shape open)”. To fill outside the letter and flower, we need to create a simple outline by uniting both designs.



Reshape and simplify the flower design into an outline by a right-click on the inner spiky points and select “Delete Point”.



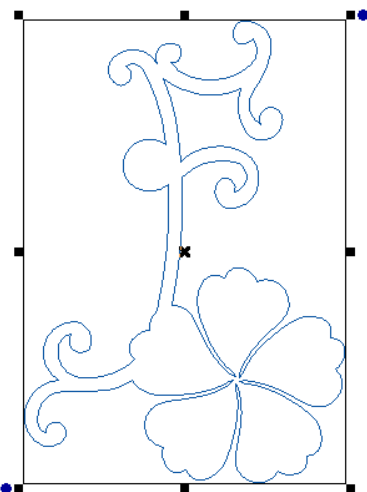
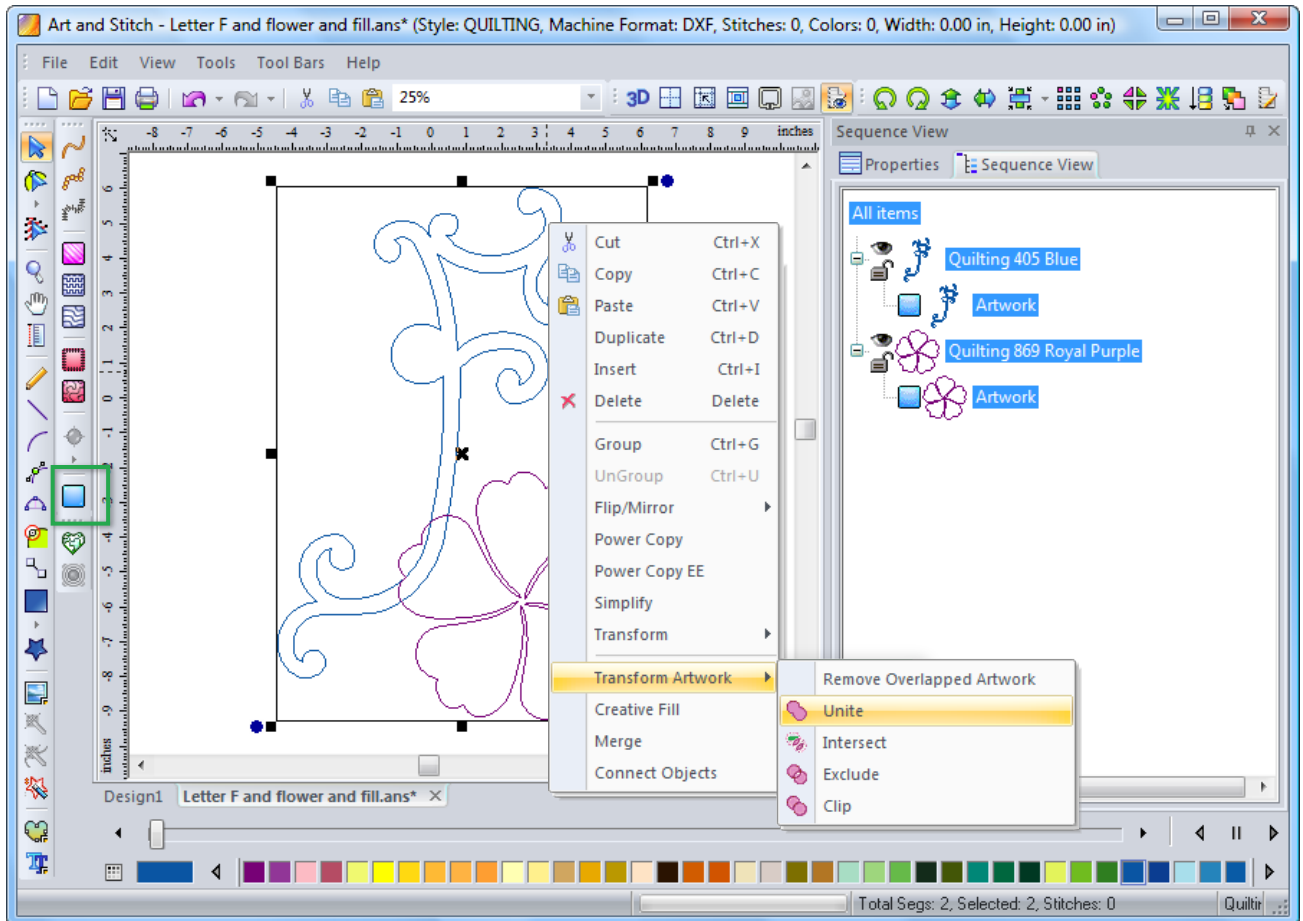
Reshape and simplify the letter F by deleting the inner circle. Tip: the easiest way to select the inner circle is by clicking on it in the Sequence Tab.



Method 2 - Fill Outside the Appliqué - cont'd



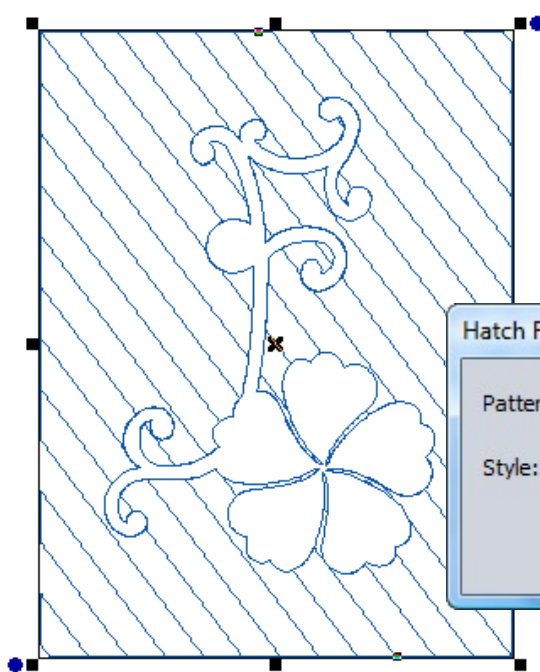
- For the next step, uniting the two patterns, select both patterns and turn them back from stitches into Artwork by clicking on the blue “Back to Artwork” button under the stitch toolbar.
- Select both overlapping, closed patterns together, right-click and choose Transform Artwork > Unite.



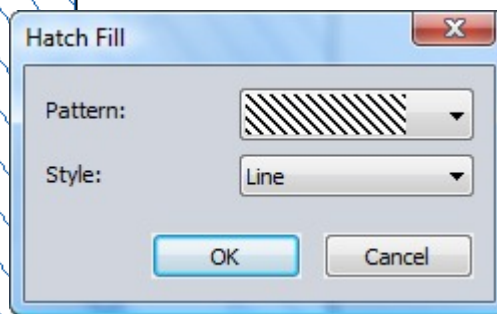
- Click on the AutoShapes button, draw a 20” high rectangle around the letter and flower design. You may check the height in the Properties panel, tab Transform.
- Select the Flower and F design and the surrounding box together. Right-click on the designs and choose “Merge”.
- Choose File > Save as and save the pattern as “Letter F and Flower and Fill.ans”



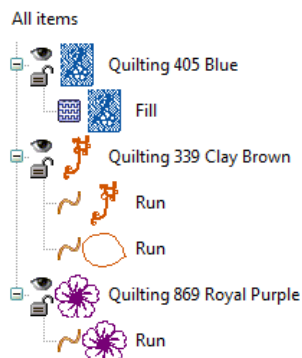
Method 2 - Fill Outside the Appliqué - cont'd



- You may now add your choice of fill or motif for the background quilting around the appliqué. For a complex pattern like in this example your best choice is a Hatch fill. Use "Hatch Fill" > the diagonal pattern 2 and "line" style for this project and select "OK". Because you chose "Merge" in the previous step, the hatch fill will be around the applique, leaving the inner shape open.



- Open pattern "Letter F and flower.ans": Select All, right-click and choose Copy.
- Click on the tab under the design page to go back to the "Letter F and Flower and Fill" pattern and paste the letter and flower appliqué design onto the hatch fill of the previous step. This hatch fill will now be the first item in the "Sequence View":
- If we sew the fill pattern first, the fill can be used as the traditional second appliqué layer as a placement guide for the appliqué F and Flower.
- Change the colors so that each layer has a different color.
- Save the pattern ("Letter F and Flower and Fill.ans") and save again via menu File > Save as in the format of your longarm system.
- You now have the following "layers":



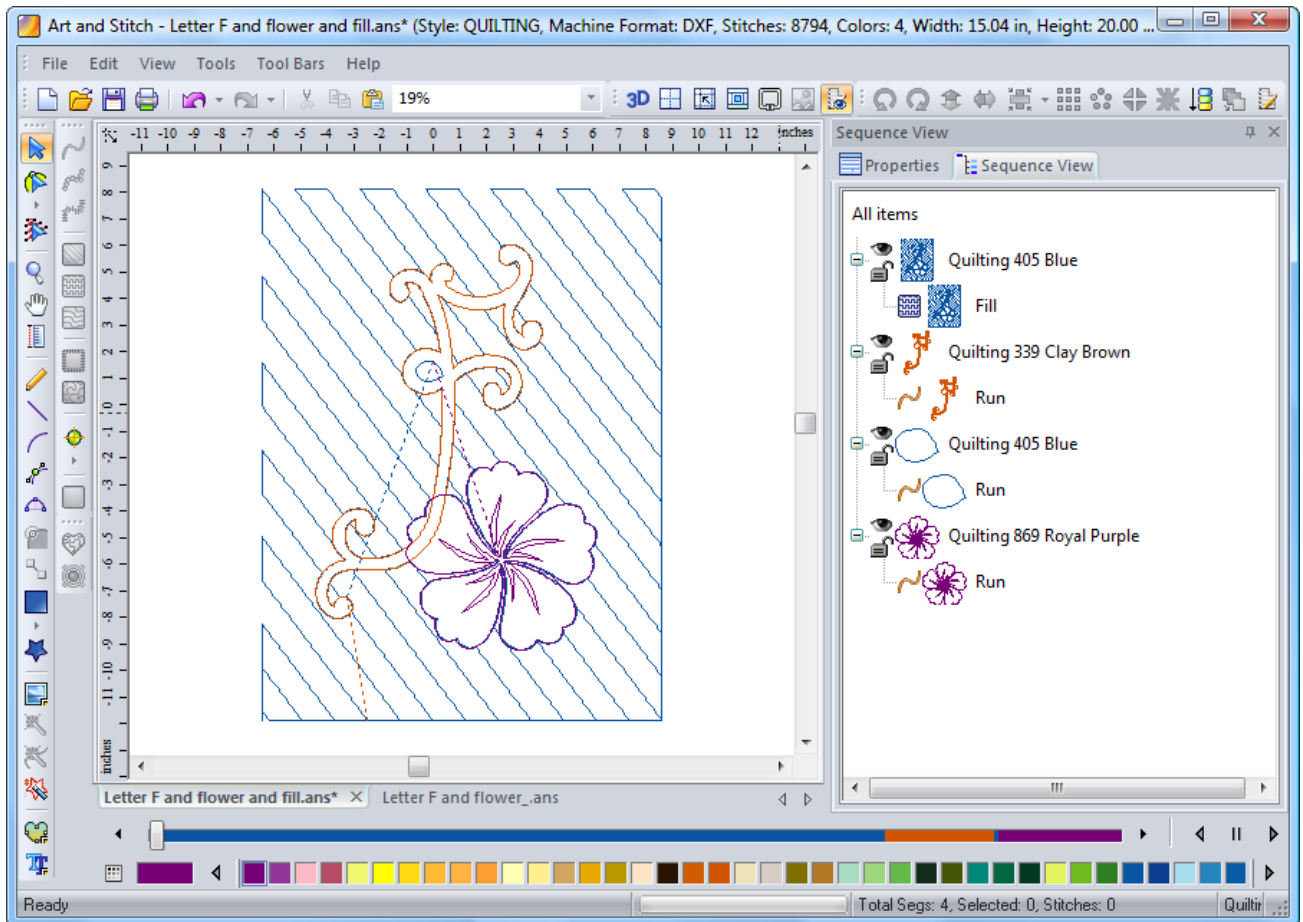
Layer 1 is the hatch fill around the merged rectangle plus united letter F and flower.

Layer 2 is the applique line of the letter F

Layer 3 is the applique line of the flower



Method 2 - Fill Outside the Appliqué - cont'd



Method 2 - Sewing the appliqué on the longarm

- Load and stabilize the background fabric, batting, and backing as you would normally prepare to quilt a wall hanging.
- Sew the hatch fill pattern. If your quilt system does not recognize separate colors as stops, then manually stop the system at the proper moment. See Important Note on page 7 of this Addendum.



Method 2 - Sewing the appliqué on the longarm - cont'd



- Prepare a 10" X 16" piece of fabric with a lightweight, iron-on stabilizer for the appliqué F as the "letter F" pattern measures approx 8.5" x 14.22".
- Place the appliqué fabric on the background fabric. Check to ensure the pattern will sew on the fabric! Stitch the "letter F" pattern and stop the machine at the proper moment.
- Carefully trim the "F" with small sharp scissors. The inner circle in the F is a challenge and you might have to wait until the fabric is off the system.



- Prepare a 10" square of the flower fabric with the lightweight, iron-on stabilizer. Check to ensure the flower will sew on the fabric. Sew flower and trim edges carefully!



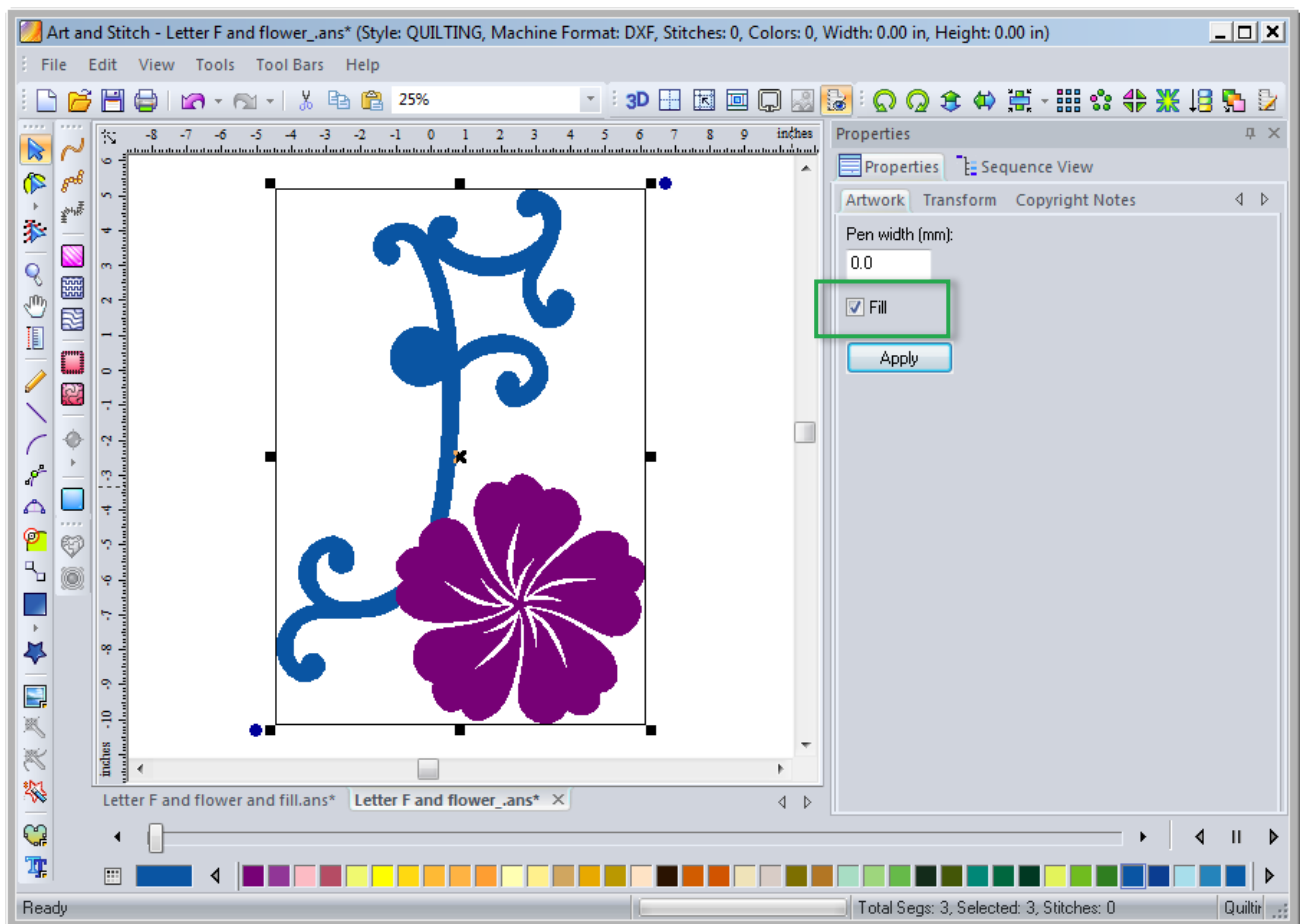
Enjoy your project!



Method 2 - Sewing the appliqué on the longarm - cont'd

Note

In this project, we need to make sure the letter sews out first, so the flower edge lies on top of the letter. As there are only 2 items, it is easy to see if the sew order of the letter and flower is correct in the sequence view. If your project has several pieces of patterns layered in the design, it may be confusing to check the sew order. BEFORE you assign stitches to your artwork, you can easily check the sew order by selecting a different color for each part of the design and checking "Fill" then clicking "apply" in "artwork" under the "properties" tab.



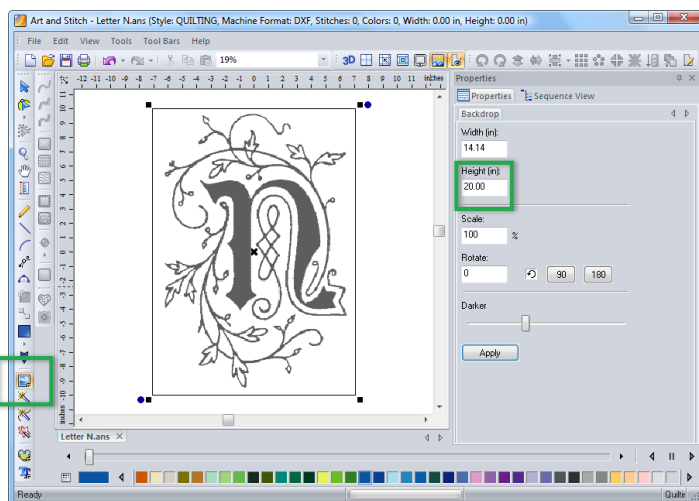


Method 3 - Turned Edge Appliqué with a Motif stitch and Custom Background

Another technique we may use in longarm appliqué involves turning the edges of the appliqué under by sewing the reverse of the pattern to a flexible lightweight stabilizer. A wide variety of motif stitches can also be used to finish the edges in the final layer of the appliqué.

- Once you have decided on the design(s) you wish to use for the appliqué, open Art and Stitch. We will use the letter “N” to create another elegant wall hanging. For this project, the appliqué design pattern for the letter “N” will again be traced from an existing (royalty-free) image².
- Save the project as “letter N.ans”.
- Using the Backdrop Tool, open the image to trace. Change the height to 20”, use the slider bar to make the backdrop a little lighter and click on Apply.

² *Decorative initials and Alphabets*, Dover Publications, INC. Mineola, New York 2010



- Draw the letter with your choice of drawing tool, using as few points as necessary to make the shape.
- Click the last point, select the “Close Shape” button, and right-click to finish.
- With the Reshape tool adjust the N pattern to avoid thin, narrow sections. Grid lines can be used to determine size of sections.

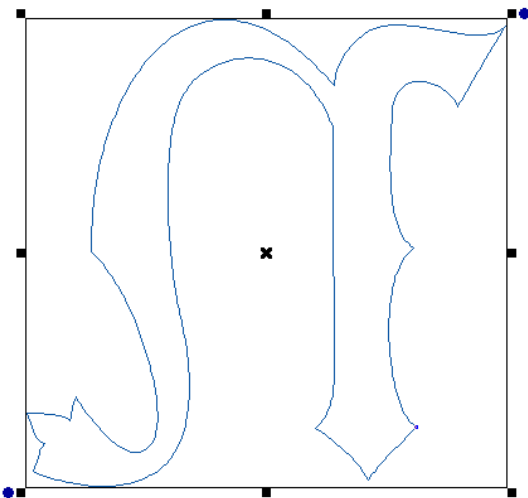
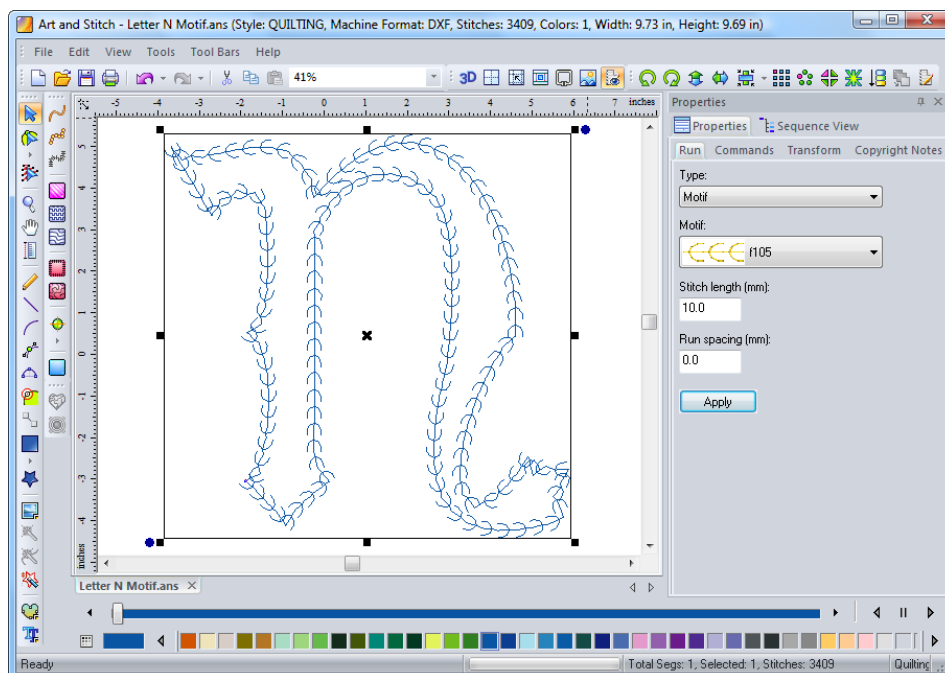


- Using the icons in the general tool bar, hide the grid and the backdrop.
- In the stitch toolbar, apply running stitches to the “N” pattern. Save, and save again as “letter N” in the format of your longarm system.
- **This “Letter N” pattern will be the placement guide - Layer 1.**



Method 3 - Turned Edge Appliqué with a Motif stitch and Custom Background cont'd

- In this example apply motif “F105” stitches to the “letter N” pattern and use this pattern to finish the appliqué edges in the last layer. Change the motif size “Stitch Length” to 10 mm and click on Apply.
- Note: You can also create your own motif stitches as described in the Art and Stitch User Guide, Part 3 – “Special Functions, 3.6 “Create Motif patterns”!
- Save as “letter N Motif.ans” and save again in the format of your longarm system.
- **This “Letter N Motif” pattern will be Layer 2, to finish the edges of the basted, turned appliqué.**

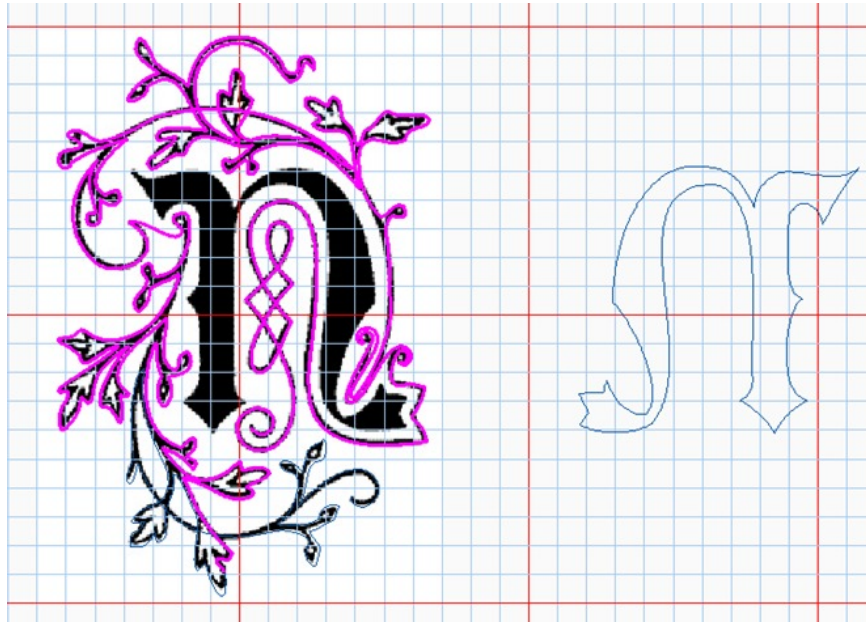


- As the “letter N” will be sewn in reverse to turn the edges of the appliqué, open the original “letter N” pattern, select it, right-click and choose Flip > Horizontal.
- Save as “Flipped Letter N.ans” and save again in the format of your longarm system.
- **This “Flipped Letter N” pattern will be used to create the turned edge appliqué material (lets call this Layer 0 - when sewing your project this is the part you stitch first.)**



Method 3 - Digitizing the background quilting around the appliqué

- Using the icons in the general tool bar, show the backdrop. Move the flipped letter off the backdrop and out of the way.



- Draw the background design of the letter with your choice of drawing tool.
- Apply running stitches to the pattern.
- Save the project as "Letter N Background.ans" and save again in the format of your longarm system.
- **This "Letter N Background" pattern will be the last layer of your project, Layer 3.**

Method 3 - Sewing the turned edge appliqué on the longarm



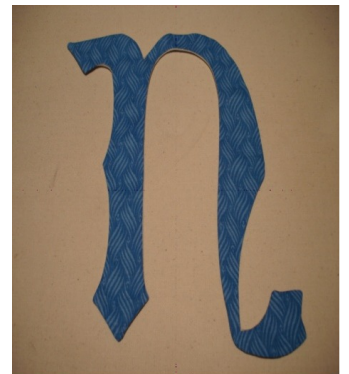
Layer 0

- On your longarm system, load a lightweight flexible stabilizer as the base "fabric" and lay the fabric for the appliqué "N" shape RIGHT side down. Use your longarm to sew the "flipped letter N" pattern.



Method 3 - Sewing the turned edge appliqué on the longarm

- Carefully cut the “N” out leaving a scant quarter inch seam.
- Slit down the middle of the stabilizer layer on the “N” and flip inside out. This will turn the edges of the “N” appliqué.
- If needed, gently press a moderately warm iron on the “N shape” taking care to leave the edges smoothly turned under the appliqué shape. (Check your stabilizer to ensure it is safe to iron it!)



- **Layer 1:** Load and stabilize the background fabric, batting, and backing as you would for a typical quilt or wall hanging. Stitch the original pattern “letter N” to provide an outline to place the appliqué shape.
- **Layer 2:** Hold or baste the appliqué shape in the outline and stitch down the edges with a running stitch or motif- the “letter N motif pattern” for this project.
- **Layer 3:** Sew the “letter N background” pattern
- Add background quilting! I added a ray design.



I hope you explore the many options of appliqué, quilting details, motif stitches, and background quilting with your longarm!