



Eliminating Overstitching

in Art and Stitch™

by

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About the Author: Karen Hogan

Hi Creators,

I must say Covid has given us all a swift kick in the guts, and I hope you all are fairing well and safe. It certainly has put my travels on hold to teach Art and Stitch.

I am very fond of this brilliant program and the capabilities of creating are endless. I enjoy using Art and Stitch in many ways from quilting pattern design to drawing house plans and designs for my husband's business and even recently to re-design my front garden.

Pre Covid, I was better known for developing techniques to quilt an entire digital wholecloth design as large as 80" square, that has tightly set design to design all drawn in Art and Stitch, taken to the longarm machine as one design and successfully quilted. My greatest accomplishment "Trip to America" photo below. I had started a private Facebook group called Karen Hogan Digital Wholecloth Academy which teaches how to accomplish digital wholecloth quilting.

I am a great believer "where there is a will, there is a way". I enjoy finding clever ways to eliminate problems and create when quilting. I have provided here a taster of my classes, a simple technique to help you to eliminate overstitching when applying fills.

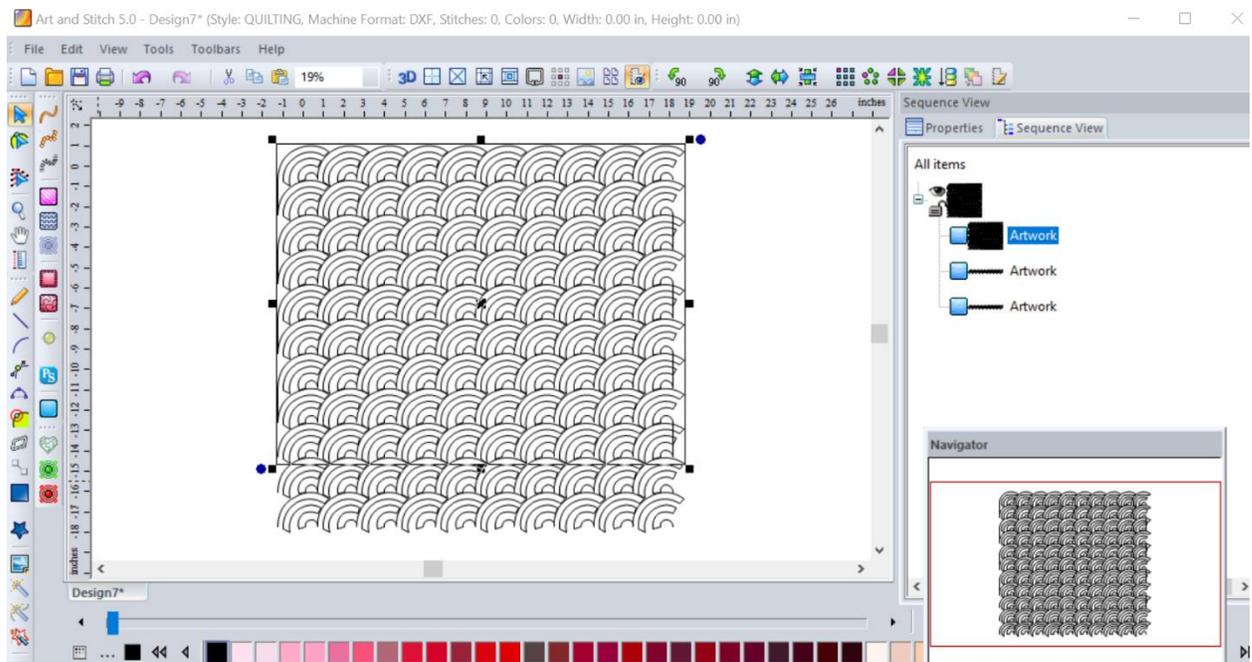




Creating Fills

We will start with creating your own fill using an edge to edge design.

1. Open the Baptist fan from the Art and Stitch library. In this example I have reduced the size to approx. 2.5"x2".
2. Using the **repeat** button to repeat it to approx. a 20" square. Use **snap together** to connect the repeats. You will need to close the **vertical distance**. Click Apply OK.
3. Once on your design page, holding down the **control key**, select the first two rows and **connect objects**. Select the connected rows and the third row and **connect objects**.



Continue until you have all rows connected. You can choose to reshape the ends but as we are using this for a fill therefore it is not necessary. Your edge to edge is now ready to become a fill design.

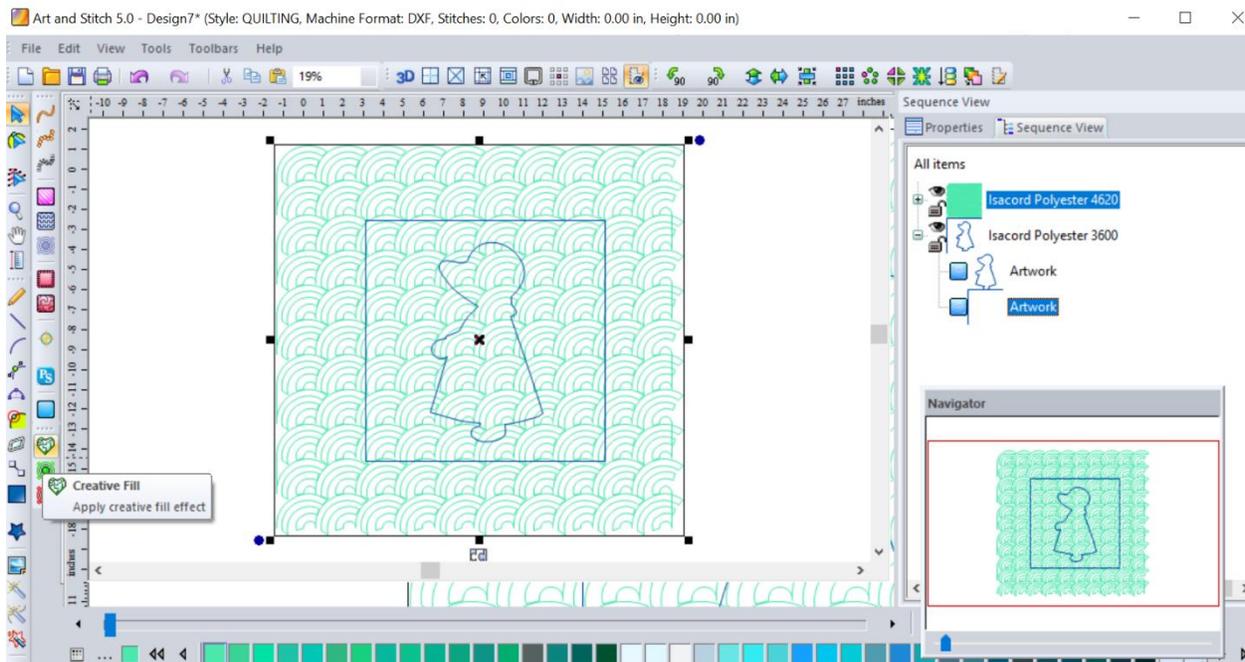
4. You can choose to save your fill into the library by selecting the fill, go to **tools** in the top bar, **save into library**, name your design and it will be in **my shapes** for future use.



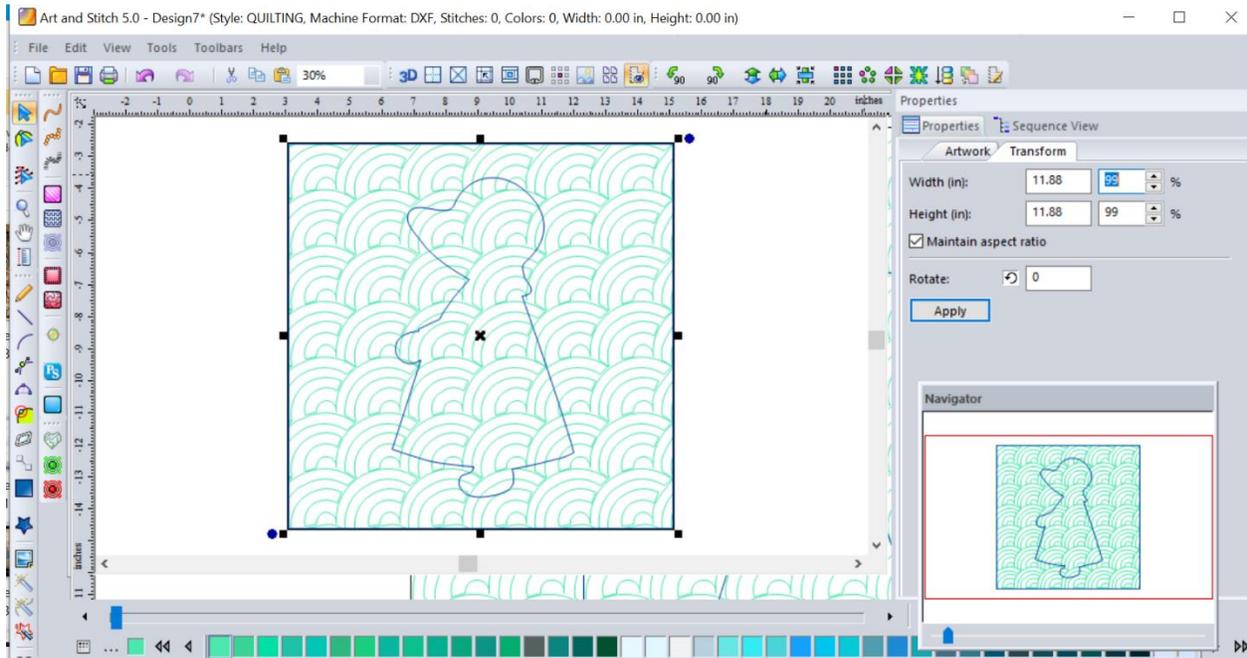
The following instructions shows you how to eliminate excess overstitching using your creative fill.

Typically, with an applique or embroidery block there is more space to fill on the sides than at the top or bottom. This can cause a lot of overstitching as the fill stitches from the left to the right across the block. Through experience I have found the following method eliminates excessive overstitching. This method is ideal for non-directional fills.

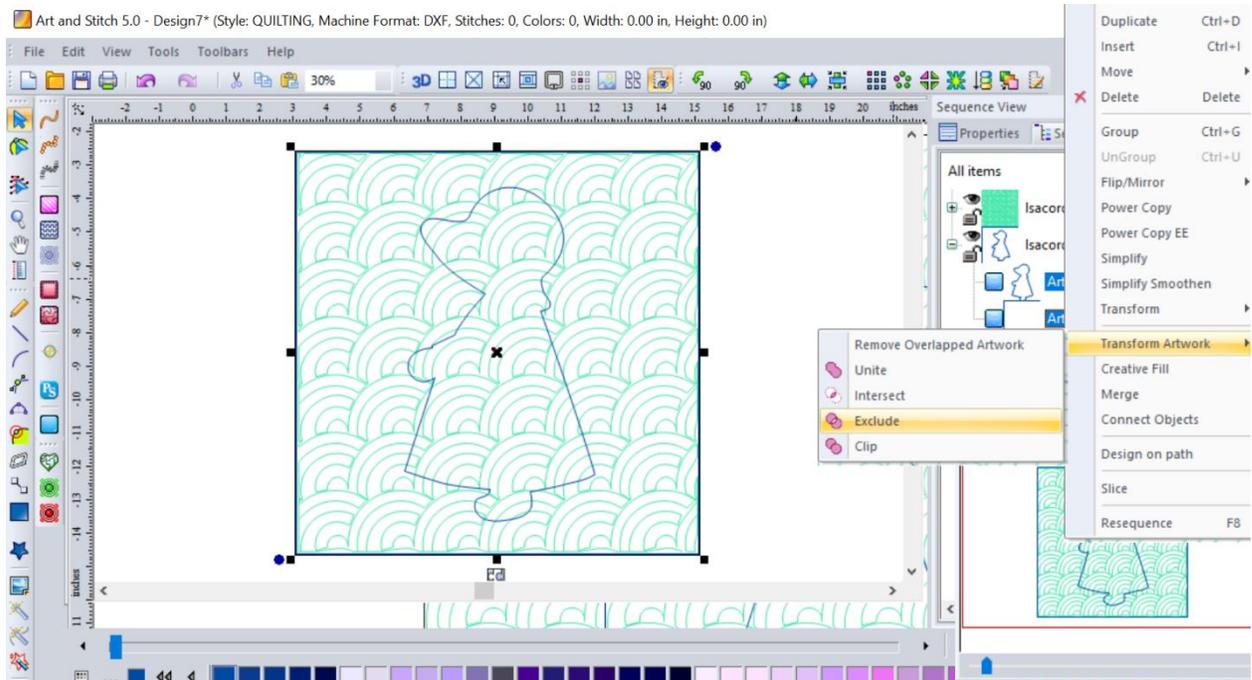
1. Using the **boundary tool** create a boundary around your applique shape or embroidery.
2. Select the boundary – right click to **simply smoothen** reducing the nodes.
3. Create your block boundary using **shapes** around your inner boundary, the inner boundary needs to be an empty shape.
4. Open the Baptist fan fill you have just created from the library my shapes.



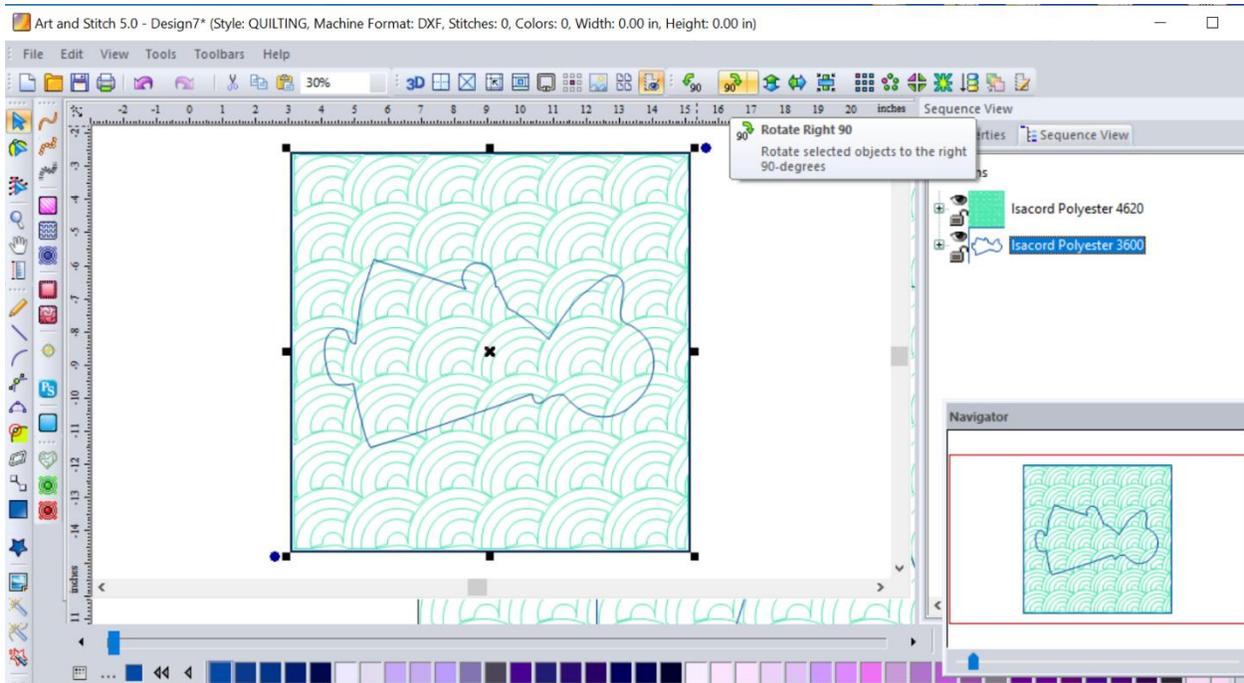
5. Place the fill above the boundaries in **sequence view**.
6. Select outer boundary, hold down the **control key** and select the fill. Use the **creative fill** button.



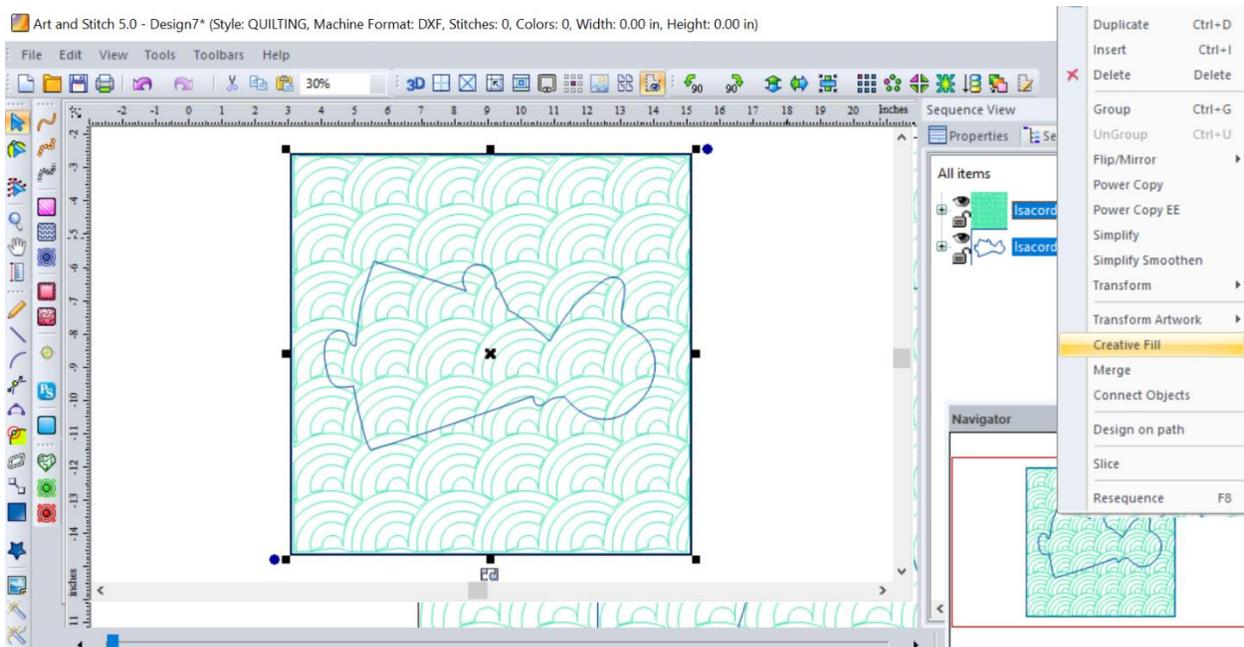
7. Select the fill, in **sequence view** – select **transform** and alter the size to 99%.



8. Select both boundaries and right click to **transform artwork** – and select **exclude**.

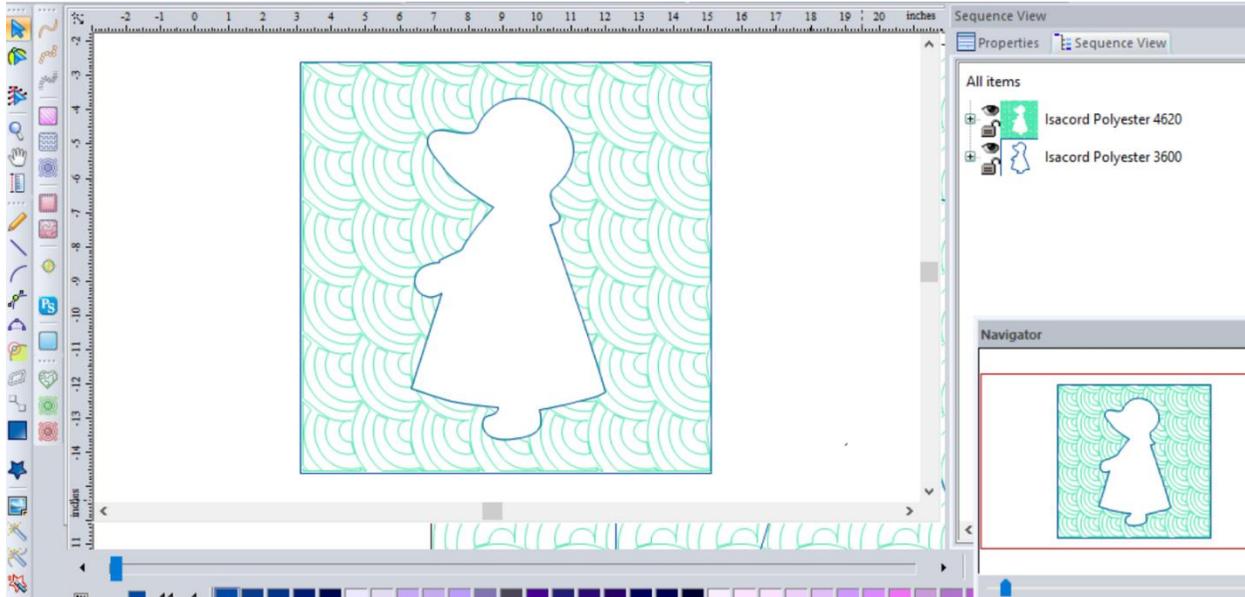


9. Now here is the trick to eliminate the overstitching. Rotate the boundaries 90 degrees in either direction.





10. Select fill and boundaries, right click creative fill.



11. Select all and rotate back to original positions and **Apply stitches**.

I have included a few photos here with my own fill designs, in which I have not quilted the boundary, you can see no overstitching.





