



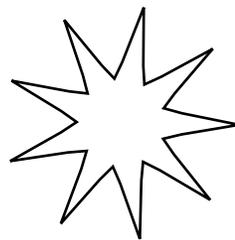
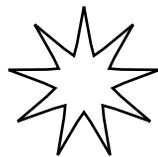
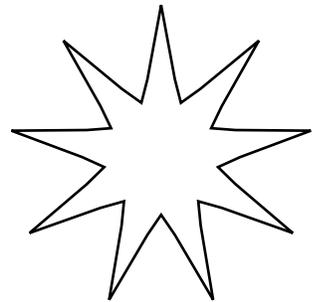
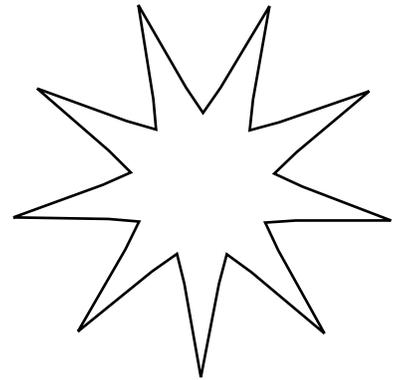
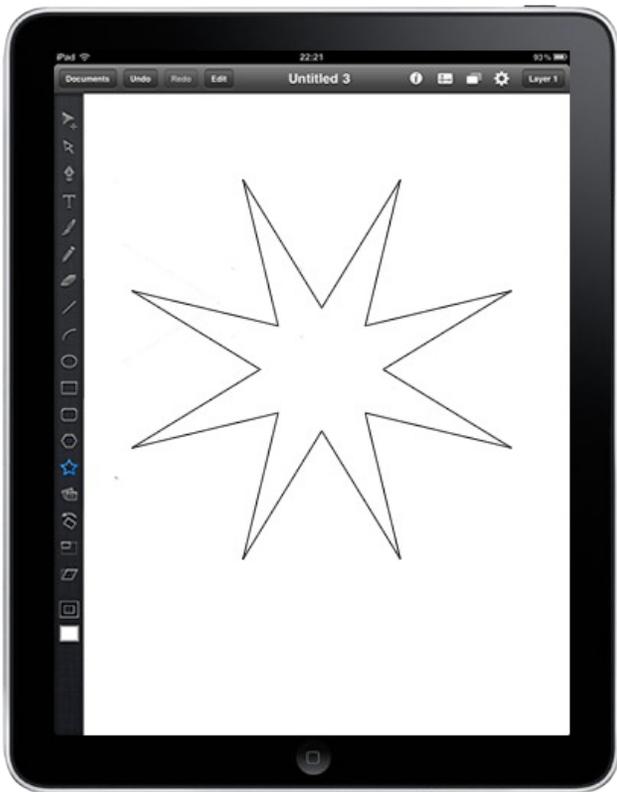
Addendum 15

Beyond the Mouse

Drawing on a tablet for Art and Stitch

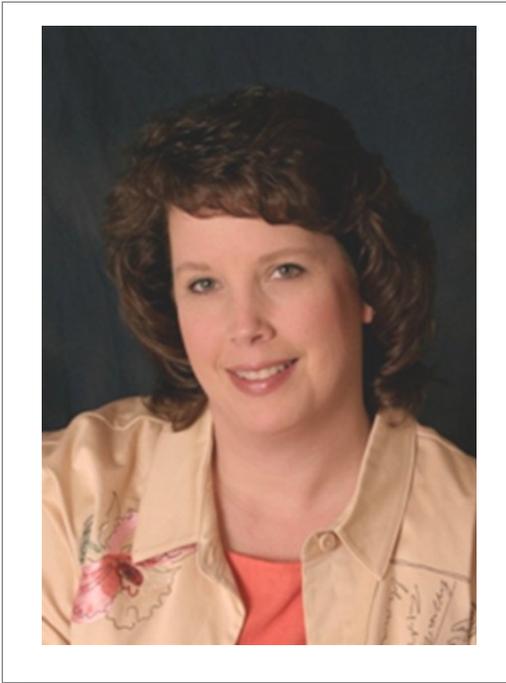
by

Carol Best





About the Author, Carol Best



Carol has been quilting for 19 years and has been sharing her passion through teaching since 1999. Carol's first love is piecing and has won many awards throughout the years. She started long arm quilting in 2008 and has had her quilts displayed in many shows, taking several awards along the way.

In 2010, Carol bought her first iPad and has used it in her everyday life ever since. Seeing how useful it was in her professional world, she knew that it would be useful in her quilting world. Using it as a drawing platform and to maintain her longarm design catalog has proven to be very valuable.

Carol enjoys teaching all levels of quilters and really enjoys seeing her students get excited while learning the techniques taught in her classes!

Carol teaches nation-wide and can be contacted at simplythebestquilting@yahoo.com or visit her website at <http://www.simplythebestquilting.com>



Introduction

Drawing with a mouse can prove to be difficult for many people since you usually draw with a pencil or a pen, not a mouse. Using a stylus, a rubber tipped “pen” used on tablets, provides an alternative, natural and more comfortable method of drawing. In this addendum you will be shown two methods to draw using this technology. The first method is using a graphic tablet (Wacom) with a pressure sensitive pen, the second method is using a stylus with an iPad or Android-based tablet, to draw your designs.

Pros of using graphic tablet (Wacom):

- Provides a natural drawing environment.
- Works directly with computer, no importing/exporting necessary.
- Using a pressure sensitive pen is more ergonomic than a mouse.
- Easy to access right-click options in Art and Stitch with right-click toggle on pen.

Cons of using graphic tablet (Wacom):

- Initial investment, if you don't already own a device.
- No built in camera to take backdrop photos.
- Many users tend to use too many points when drawing on a graphic tablet.
- In theory you can put a photo under the drawing sheet of the tablet to trace, but for that to be useful you need the largest tablet there is.

The pros of using an iPad/Android tablet:

- Provides a natural drawing environment.
- The smoothing feature in some apps will make you look like an artist. It cleans up your strokes and curves in varying degrees.
- It is a portable way to doodle, enabling you to hone your drawing skills anywhere.
- Take a picture with your device and use it as a backdrop for your drawing.

Cons of using an iPad/Android tablet:

- Initial investment, if you don't already own a device.
- Need to import/export design between device and computer with Art and Stitch.



How to use a Graphic tablet

A graphics tablet is a piece of hardware that you attach to your computer via the USB port. Wacom, the largest manufacture of graphic tablets, also has wireless options. There are some models that have pen and touch capabilities; this allows you to switch between using the pen and your finger as your mouse. Being able to switch between using the pen and your finger, as a mouse, will reduce hand fatigue if you digitize for long periods. The other helpful feature is the right click toggle available on the pen and another set of hot-keys on the tablet, this comes in handy when editing in Art and Stitch.



Software:

After you install your graphic tablet, be sure to visit the manufactures website to ensure the driver is up to date. No other software is needed to use the graphic tablet with Art and Stitch.

Pen:

The pressure sensitive pen that comes with the graphic tablet is specific to that tablet and cannot be used on anything else. Familiarize yourself with the features of your pen. You will find that the pen will have the same functions that a mouse does (ie: right-click, left-click).

Tablet:

There are a wide variety of tablet sizes, function and price ranges. To digitize in Art and Stitch, the basic model will work wonderfully, but if you want to do more complex drawings outside of Art and Stitch you may want a tablet with more functions.

How to Draw:

Once the tablet is connected to your computer, use the pressure sensitive pen just as you would a standard mouse to draw and edit your designs.



Apps for iPad or Android Users

Any iPad or Android tablet will work for this technique. You will need to connect to the internet to be able to import/export your drawings. There are many drawing apps out there; you need to find one that can save your drawings in the .SVG format. SVG stands for Scalable Vector Graphics, a format that can be imported as artwork in Art and Stitch.

The following are a few options that will work.

Apps for iPad users:



Inkpad

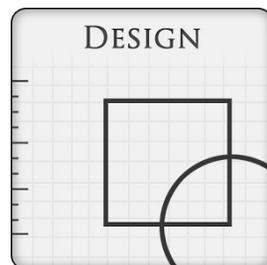


neu.Draw



iDraw

Apps for Android-based tablets:



Infinite Design



ScribMaster

Stylus:

You can choose to draw with your finger or a stylus in any of these apps. You may find that drawing with a stylus will result in cleaner drawings. Not all styluses are created equal.

While a standard stylus, found anywhere e-accessories are sold, will work just fine, I have found that the Andonit Jot Pro stylus is my preferred stylus. It has a fine point that provides the accuracy that the standard rubber tipped stylus doesn't. The clear disc on the tip allows you to see exactly where your mark is being made, a great feature for grabbing nodes.

The magnetic barrel lets you store it directly on the iPad, no more searching for your stylus!



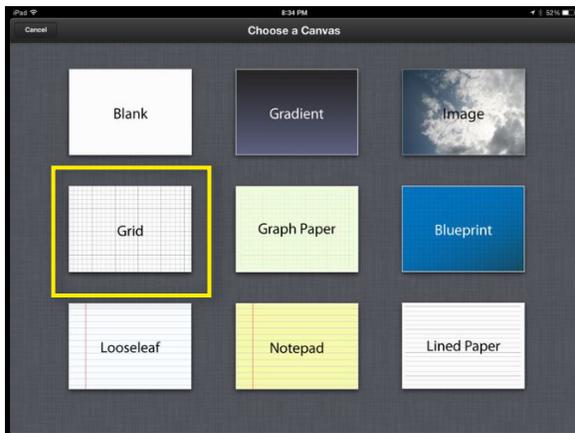


How to Draw (example: iDraw on iPad)

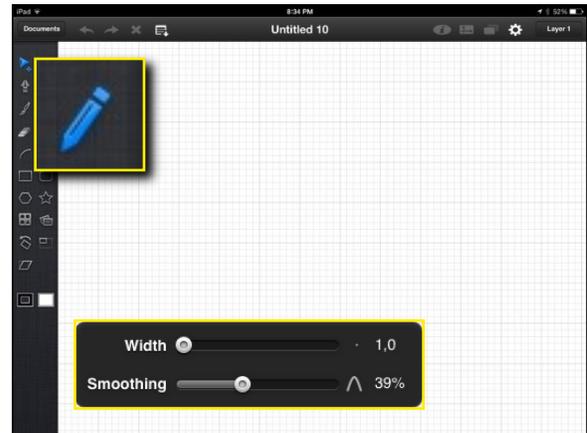
The following are the steps on how to draw in iDraw, but similar steps can be done in other apps. I have found that iDraw is the most like Art and Stitch in editing, so it will be more intuitive.

The basics steps: (see also images below):

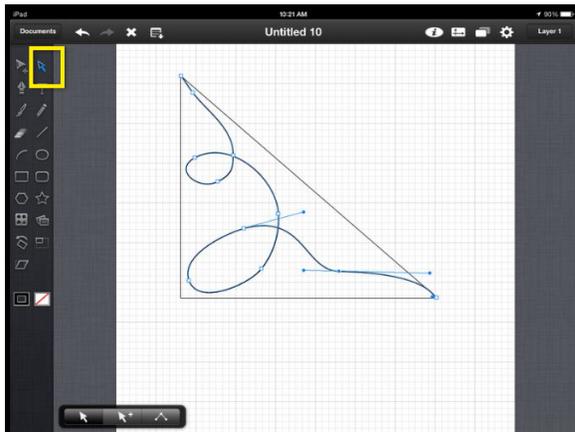
1. Launch the app on your tablet, touch “New Document”.
2. Select “Grid” canvas.
3. Touch the new gridded canvas you just created to open it.
-  4. Take the Pencil tool, set Width to 1.0, smoothing to 39% and draw freehand. The lower the Smoothing percentage is, the more nodes you will have. Play with the Smoothing Tool to find what works best for you.
-  5. To edit: take the Path Selection tool and adjust nodes as desired.
6. Touch the button “Documents” in the upper left corner of the iDraw app.
7. Save your design.



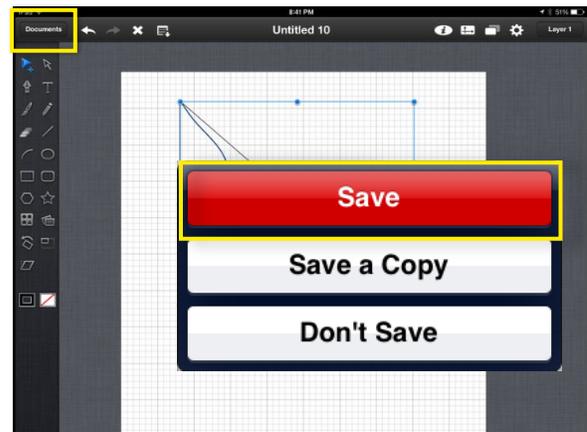
Step 2: select Grid



Step 4: take Pencil tool, width 1.0, smoothing 39%



Step 6: Take the Path Selection tool to edit the nodes



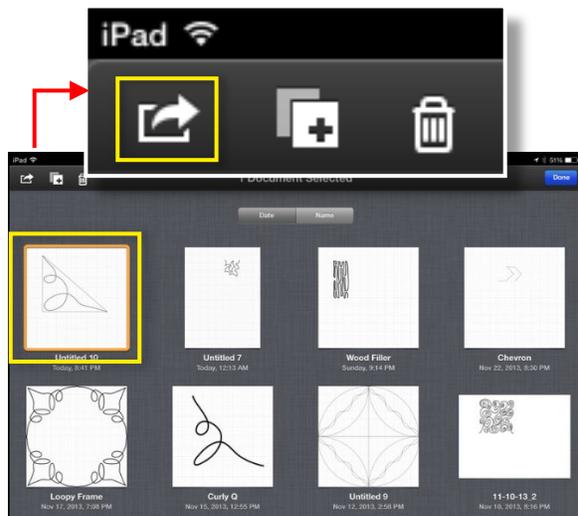
Step 6 and 7: Save your design



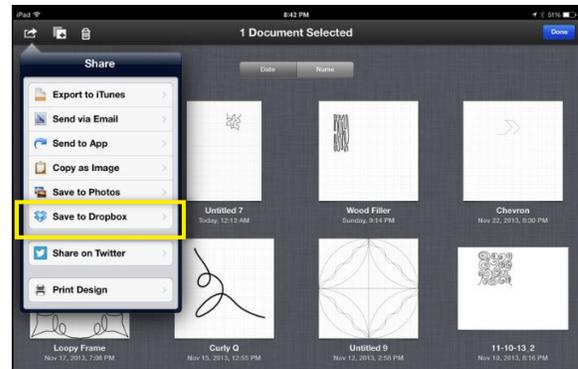
How to Draw (example: iDraw on iPad)

8. Touch the button “Edit” in the upper right corner of the iDraw app
9. Touch the image you want to export
10. Select “Share” button
11. Select “Save to Dropbox” . Save to Dropbox in SVG format; make sure you deselect the “Include Background” option and “Save”
12. Navigate to the folder in Dropbox you want to save your design in.

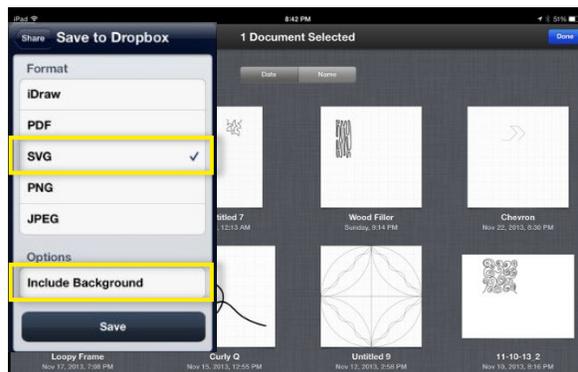
NOTE: Dropbox (www.dropbox.com) is a free cloud storage service that lets you import and export your photos, documents and videos from anywhere. You can access your files on your tablet or on your computer. Dropbox is integrated in many apps, making it easier to import and export between device and computer.



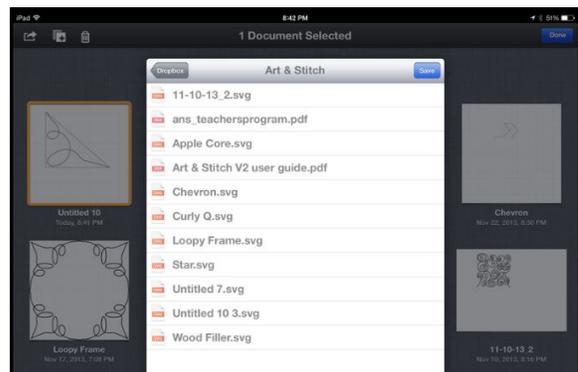
Steps 9 and 10: Touch image, touch Share



Step 11: Select Save to Dropbox



Select SVG format and deselect “Include Background”



Step 12: Navigate to desired Dropbox folder



How to Draw (example: iDraw on iPad)



Open the design in Art and Stitch

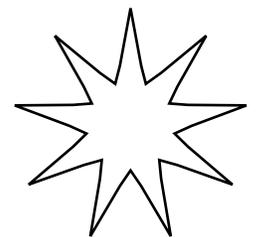
- Open Art and Stitch on your computer.
- Choose menu File -> Import Artwork or click on the Import Vector Art icon in the Artwork toolbar.
- Navigate to your Dropbox files and open the folder in which you saved the design.
- Select the design. It is vector-based, so you won't have to redraw or retrace it :-). You can edit as you wish using the Reshape tool. You will find that using the Pencil width of 1.0 and smoothing of 39% in iDraw the design will show the same nodes in Art and Stitch Reshape mode.
- Apply Stitches.
- Save as .ans and save again in the format of your quilt system or embroidery machine.

It's as easy as that! iDraw is a very powerful app that you can do many fun things in and further instruction will be taught during classes.

A few cool features for you to play with in iDraw:

Shapes (Line, Arc, Rectangle, Oval, Polygon, or Star):

- Oval, Polygon and Star options all have option panes that can adjust the image. Example: for the Star autoshape you can adjust the number of points and the edge length and create perfect stars, ready to use in Art and Stitch.



Shape Library in iDraw:

- You can add pre-made shapes to designs and save the shapes to be easily reused, similar to the shape library in Art and Stitch. For example: draw a right triangle for a template to use with the Magic Square.

Photo Library:

- Import photos from your Camera Roll or Photo Stream to use them like the back drop tool in Art and Stitch.



Creating an e-Catalog

Have you ever wanted ALL of your designs at your fingertips? In this exercise, you will be shown how to create an organized catalog, how to save and view the e-Catalog and then how search for designs by keyword – all on your iPad/Android-based tablet!

Organize designs:

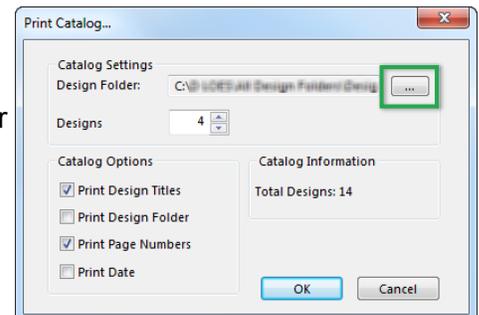
The key to make this work is putting all your designs in one folder. Use the tips in organizing your designs found in 2.5.4 in the Art and Stitch User Guide (open via menu Help).

NOTE: You will need a PDF printer on your computer. You can find many free ones available on the internet (i.e.: CutePDF and BullZip) if you do not have one.

Now that you have all your designs organized and in one spot and your PDF printer installed, you can chose to print a physical copy of all your designs or create a .PDF of them to view on your tablet.

Creating the PDF:

1. In Art and Stitch choose menu File -> **Print Catalog**
2. In the screen that pops up, navigate to the folder with your designs. Choose desired number of columns.
3. Click on “OK”
4. Your designs will be together and ready to print.
5. Click on “Print”



The Print dialog window opens.

If you want a physical copy of the Catalog, choose your printer from the drop down list of installed printers, but in this example you want a PDF for your iPad or Android tablet:

- Select your PDF printer from the drop down list and click on Print.
- Depending on your PDF printer, you may be prompted to save your PDF and then launch Adobe Reader, or vice versa.

See also Chapter 2.8 in Art and Stitch User Guide “Print Catalog”.



Sending the catalog to your tablet

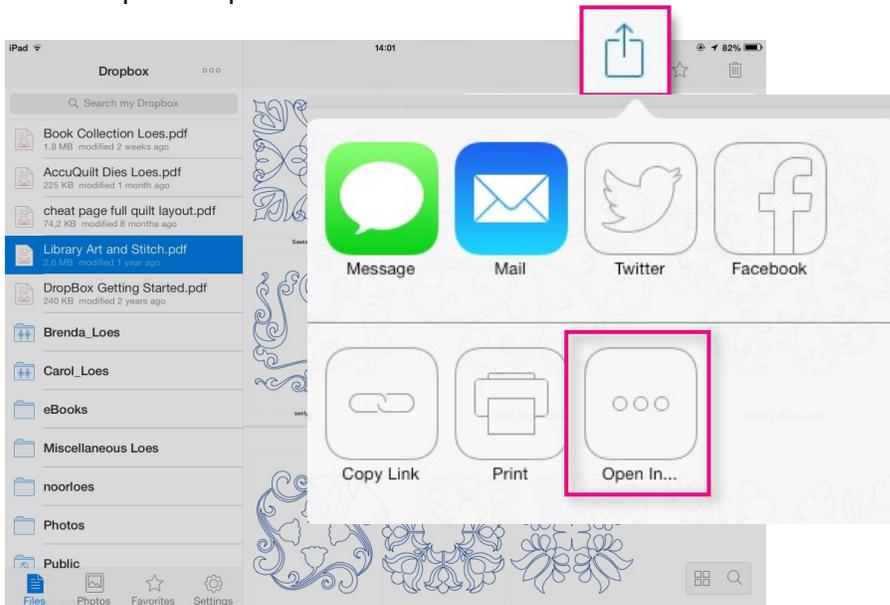
You can get the PDF on your tablet in two different ways; saving the PDF to Dropbox (or another cloud storage), or by emailing it to yourself. As most catalogs will be too large in file size, Dropbox is the best choice.

Dropbox:

1. On your computer navigate to the catalog PDF you just made and copy it to your Dropbox folder.
2. On your tablet launch the Dropbox app - be sure the tablet is connected to a Wifi network.
3. In the Dropbox app select the catalog PDF.

NOTE: You can leave the PDF in the Cloud to view or you can download it to your tablet. If you leave it in the Cloud, you will need wi-fi to access the file. Leaving it in the Cloud will not take up space on your tablet, whereas downloading it will.

4. To download to your iPad, touch the square with the up arrow to it. In the next popup box touch the square "Open in..."



5. A new box opens showing the apps on your tablet that can handle PDF files. Choose your favorite PDF reader app, your app will automatically open with your PDF.

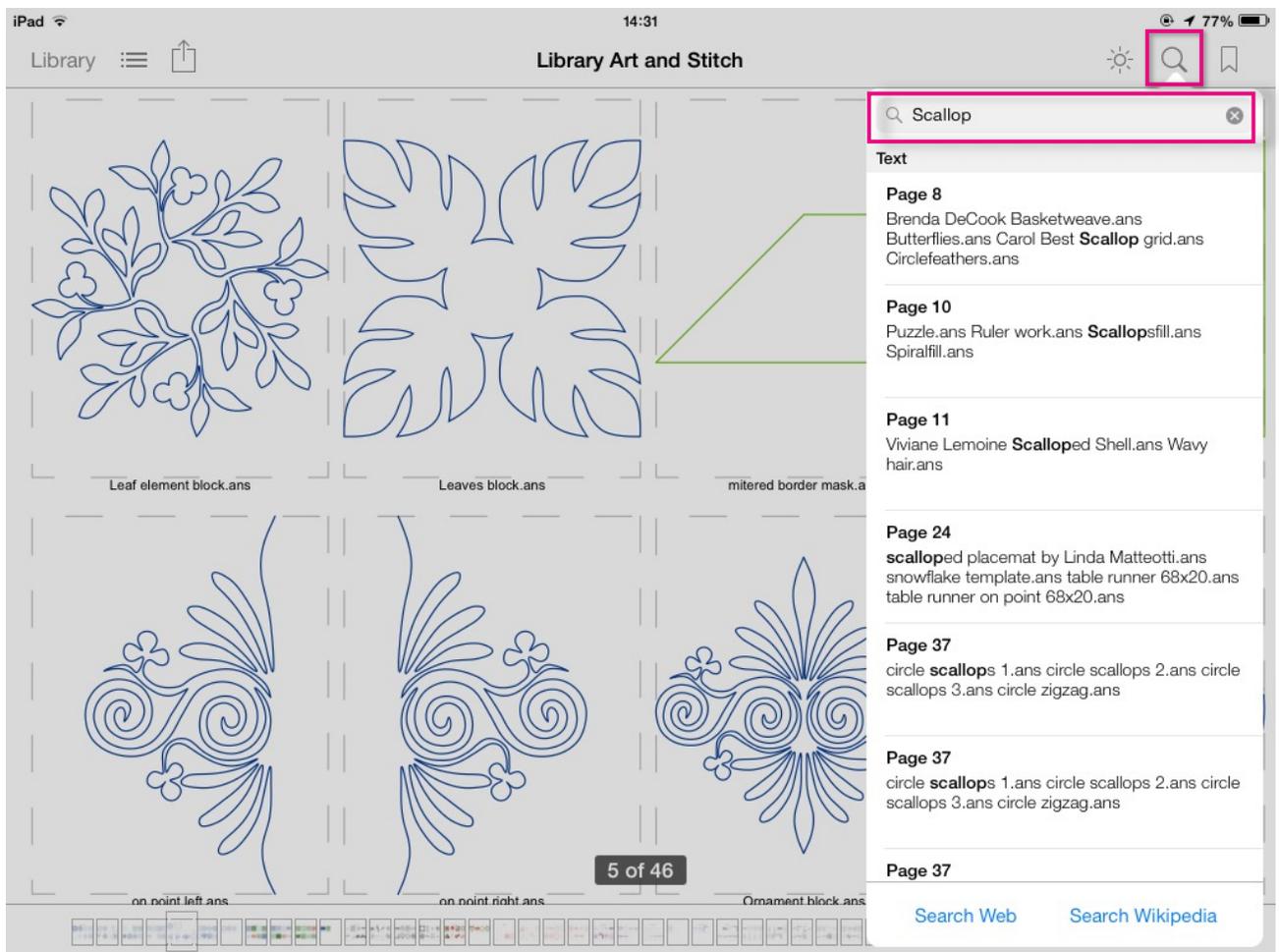




View and Search e-Catalog

Congratulations, you now have your e-Catalog created and open on your iPad/Android tablet, you can now view ALL of your designs anywhere you go! The following steps will let you search your designs by (partial) design names:

1. Select the magnifying glass
2. Type the word you want to search by.
3. Navigate through the designs the search found.





View and Search e-Catalog - Cont'd

In this example we searched for designs by name and even partial design names in the e-Catalog. Use the same steps to copy the Art and Stitch User Guide via Dropbox to your tablet and open in your favorite PDF reader on the tablet. The search function becomes a powerful tool to find anything in the User Guide, or Special Techniques book, or Embroidery Manual, or Embroidery Special. That comes in handy wherever you go!

