



Addendum 16

Auditioning Quilting Designs

Using the backdrop tool in Art and Stitch to see how designs will work on quilt blocks and quilts

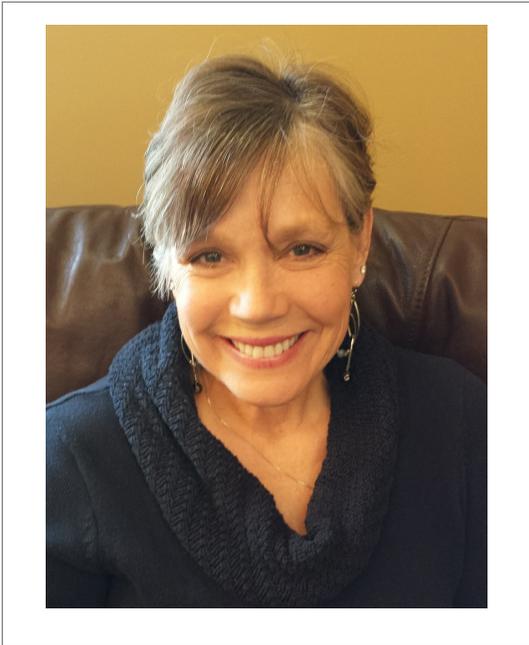
by

Brenda DeCook





About the Author, Brenda DeCook



I've always enjoyed sewing and embroidery but it wasn't until after I had children that I started doing it all by machine. Once the industry included computerized systems I was completely hooked. I've been doing machine embroidery and quilting for many years. The evolution of these wonderful machines has been fascinating to me and I believe that the best is yet to come.

I love using A&S as a tool for creating quilting designs but see it as so much more; I modify purchased designs, audition designs, test compositions of designs and I really like creating projects that can be stitched on my Statler quilting machine. I've made aprons, placemats, notebook covers, mug cozies, a computer case and a passport cover.

I'm looking forward to creating more and now with the embroidery side of A&S I've got ideas perking in my head for in-the-hoop designs with my Berninas.

My teaching experience has been with young people, newbies and small groups. I like to tailor each class to the person or group I'm teaching. I enjoy teaching topics that they want to learn rather than overwhelming them with everything.

I live in SE MN but travel to AZ and IL often to see family. I would consider traveling to teach at retreats almost anywhere.

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Introduction

Auditioning quilting designs is just one of the useful functions of Art andStitch. Importing a quilt block or an entire quilt and overlaying designs is a great time saver and a wonderful way to show how designs will enhance a quilt.

You can find or create quilt blocks from a variety of sources.

- Photos or hand-drawn
- Books & Magazines
- Electric Quilt 7 or other software
- Internet or apps
- Art and Stitch Backdrops folder

Before you do anything, you'll need a folder for your backgrounds. For ease of use put them in with the existing backdrops in Art and Stitch. You'll find the background images folder under Documents > Art and Stitch Backdrops.

Use the New Folder option to create a folder for your quilt layouts within the folder Art and Stitch Backdrops.

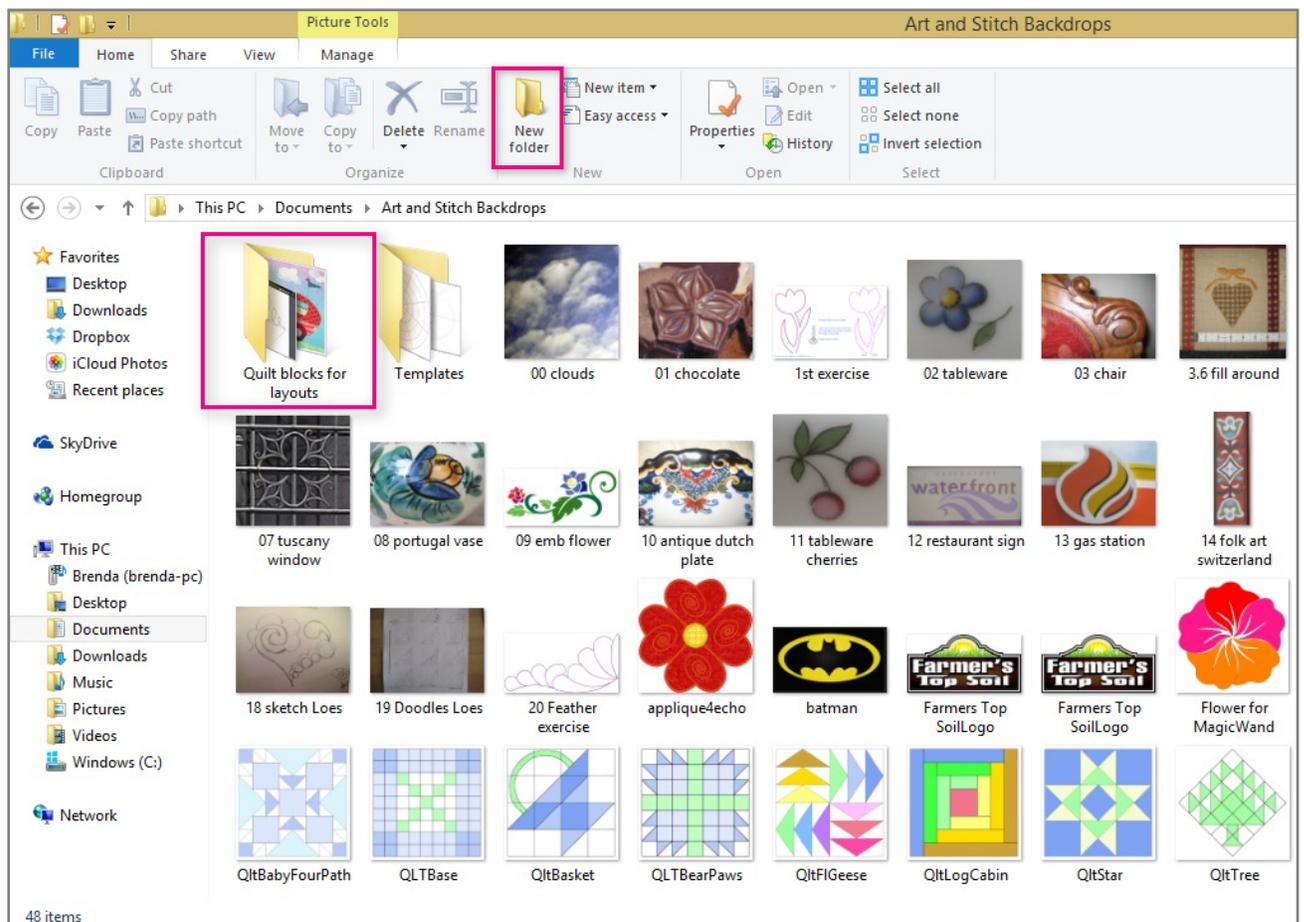


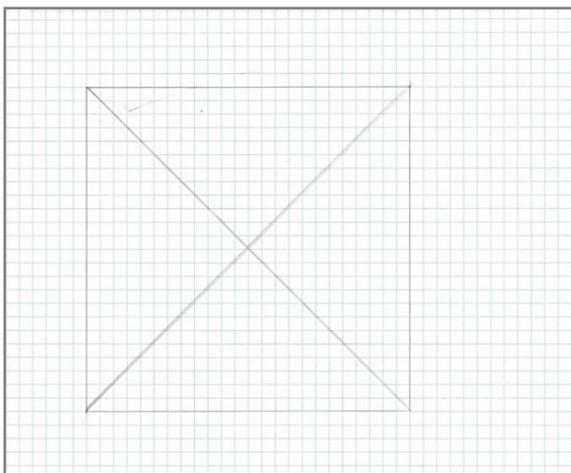


Image sources: Making a photo or scan of your quilt or block

You can hang your quilt or just fold it as squarely as possible. Smooth the fabric, hold your camera directly in front of the block and take the picture. It doesn't have to be perfectly straight. Remember that you're just trying to get an idea of how the design will work.



Sketch your block on graph paper and scan your image into your computer.



You can scan a block from a book, magazine or pattern.

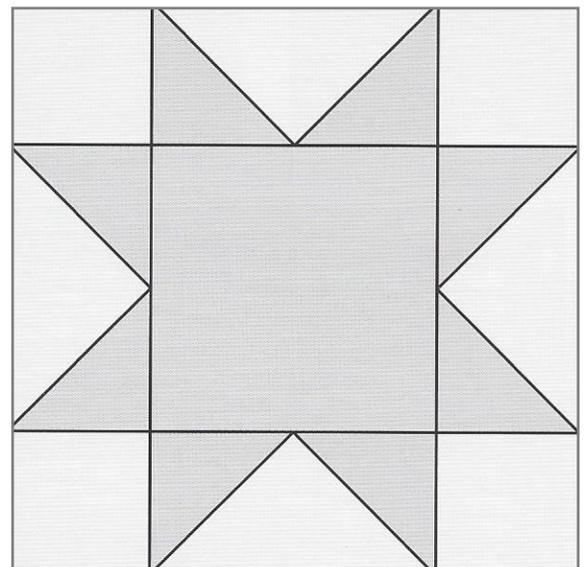
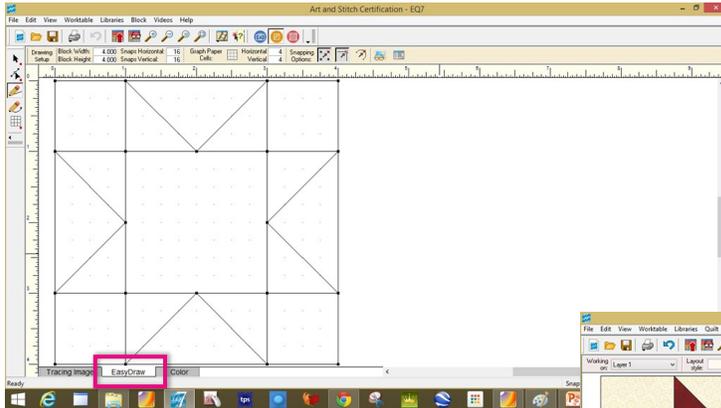


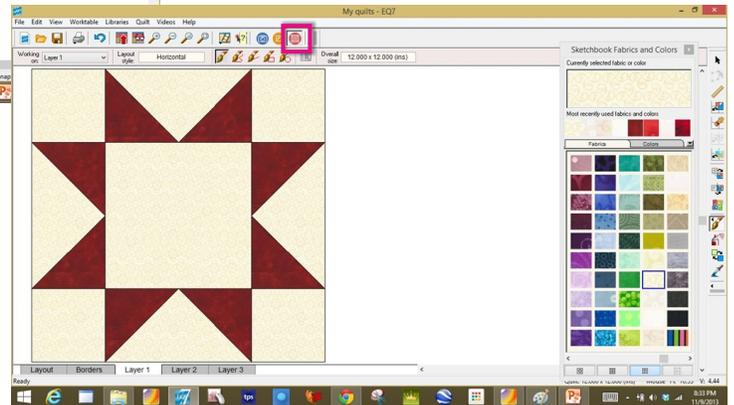


Image sources: Exporting images from EQ 7

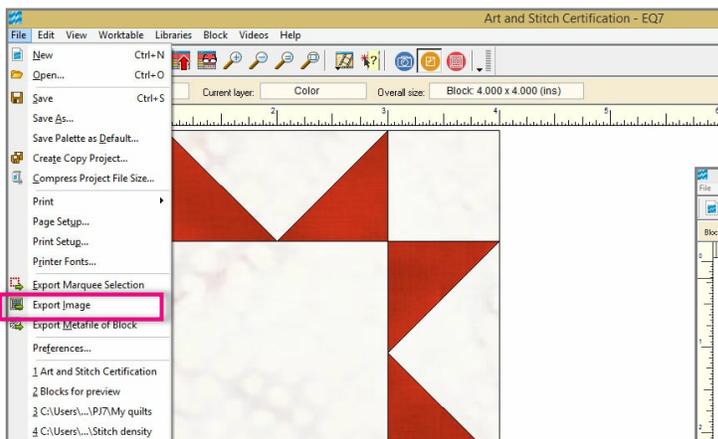
Draw your block using the EQ Tools



Add the colors or fabrics of your choice.



Choose menu File and click on Export Image. Name your block and save as a jpeg.



Set your block size to 8 x 8 inch, Resolution 150 dpi, JPEG quality 80.

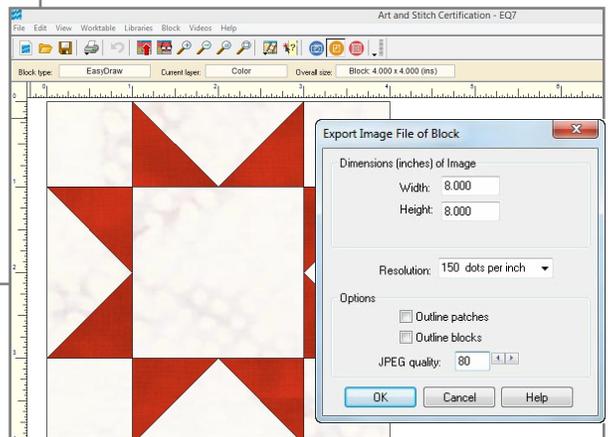




Image sources: Using Apps, websites etc.

Nowadays more and more quilting related apps are available for the iPad. Below is a list of useful apps where you can create blocks to use to audition your designs.

Disclaimer: We (Loes and myself) are in no way affiliated with the mentioned companies or websites. We just love to use new technology. Trying to find new apps is one of our many addictions :)

Apps available for the iPad via App Store or iTunes



Quiltography: Less than \$15
Tutorial videos on the developer's website: <http://quiltography.co.uk/videos/>



Quilt Wizard: Free for the lite version. Approx. \$5 with access to library of quilt blocks and fabrics.
Support website: <http://blog.wattlebird.com.au/>



Quilters App: Less than \$15.
Developer's website: <http://www.quiltersapp.com/>



Block Fab – HD: Free. Developer's website: <http://blockfab.blogspot.com>



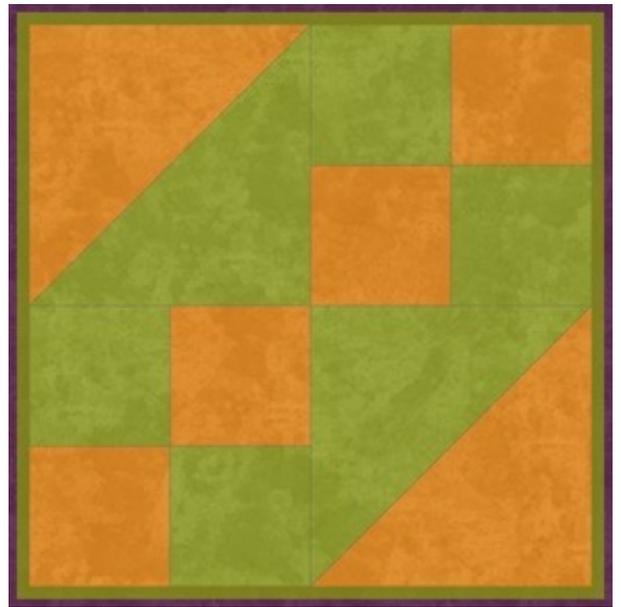
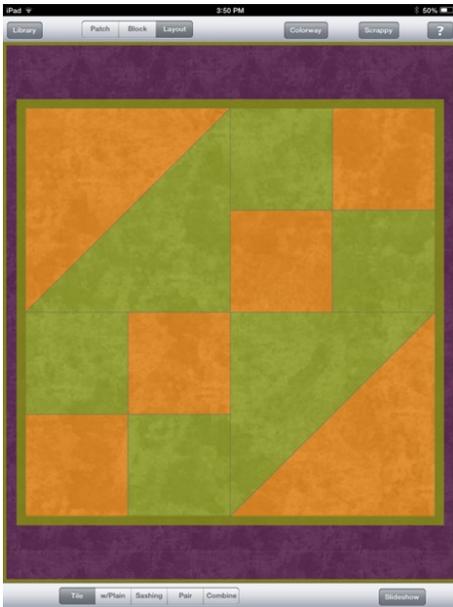
Quilt Studio: Free for one quilt, Basic: less than \$13, Unlimited: less than \$30.
Developer's website: http://www.subtractiveart.com/Subtractive_Art/QuiltStudio.html

If you use any of these apps on your iPad, you'll need to take screenshots: Press and hold the "Home" button, at the same time press and release the "Sleep/Awake" button. You'll hear a click and the iPad saves it to your Photos. Email it to yourself and save it to your computer to use as a backdrop.



Image sources: Using Apps, websites etc. - Cont'd

Here I selected a block in the database of Quiltography and chose the colors I liked. I emailed the block to myself and imported it into Paint where I cleaned up the image and it's ready to audition quilt designs.



Made with Quiltography

Made with Block Fab-HD



Quiltography for iPad © 2013 SlideSwipe





Image sources: Using Apps, websites etc. - Cont'd

One free internet option is <http://pixlr.com/express/>

On this website click on the button “Collage” and in the next browser window click on the “plus” in one of the empty squares to upload your image or photo. Play with the layout and spacing settings at the bottom and upload the same or other images to fill the squares and create your quilt image. When you’re done click on “Finished” and save the result in the Art and Stitch Backdrops folder. Open the backdrop in Art and Stitch, place designs on top, “snip” images of the various results and send them to your customer.

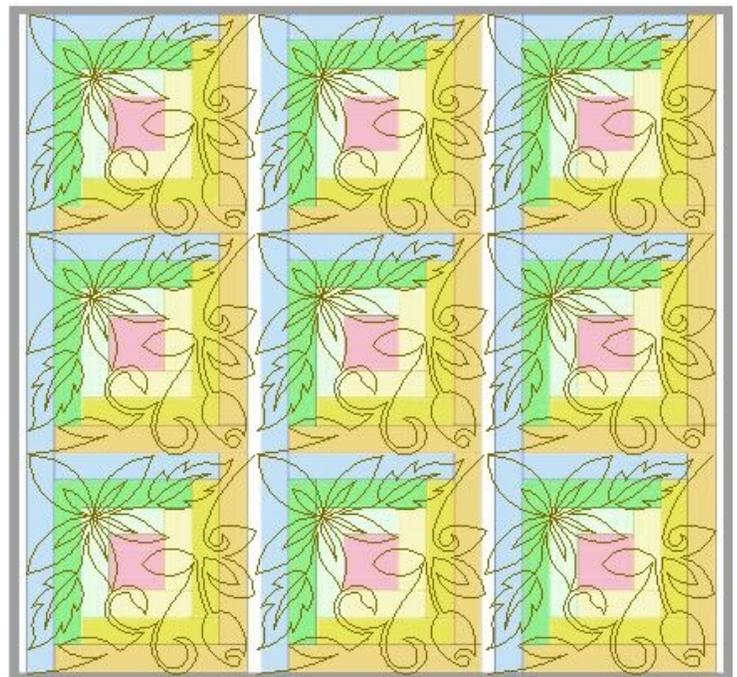
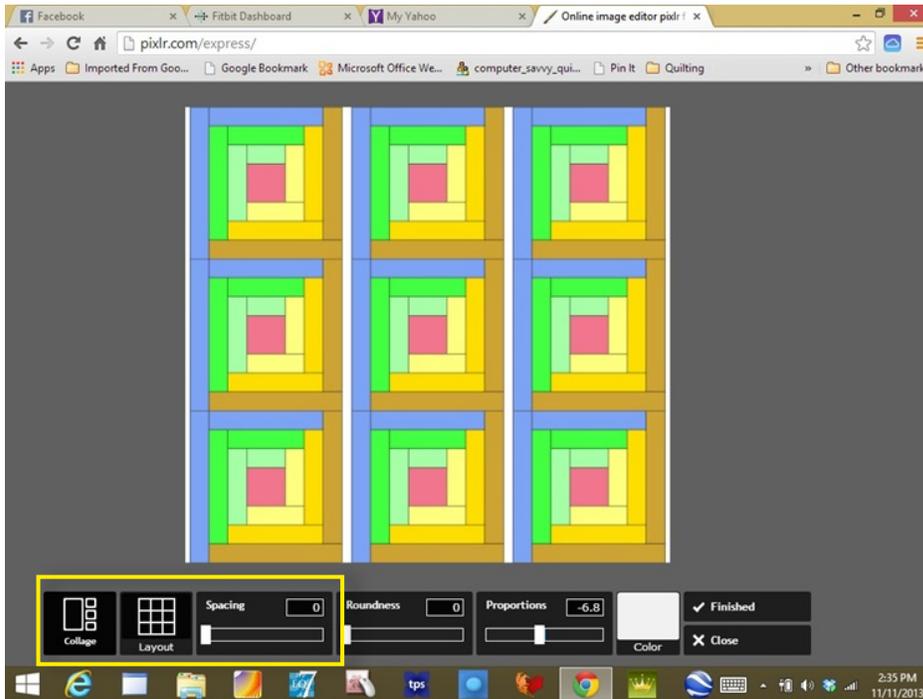
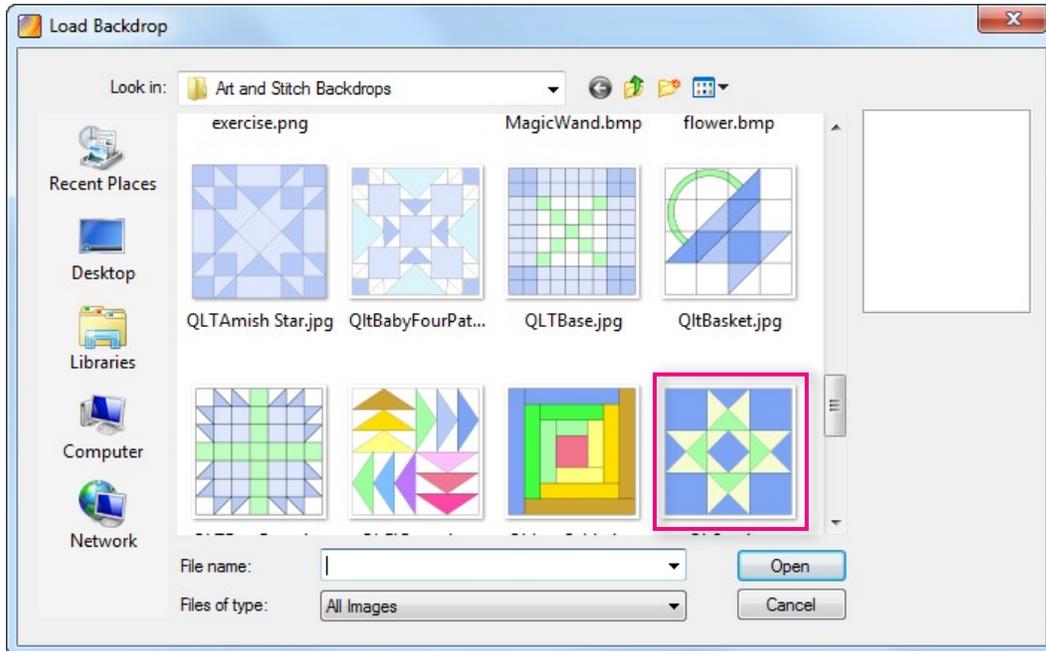




Image sources: Using an image from the Art and Stitch Backdrops folder



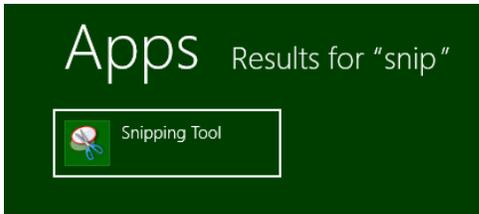
Click on the Backdrop tool in the Artwork Toolbar and navigate to Documents > Art and Stitch Backdrops. Find and select your block.





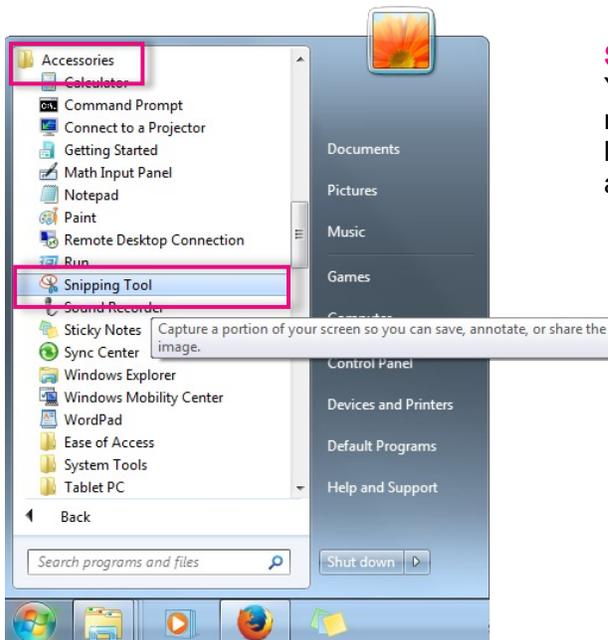
Making screenshots with the Windows Snipping Tool

In Art and Stitch you can export images of your designs via menu File > Export Image. But that does not include the background image. And that is where the “Snipping Tool” comes in handy. With the Snipping Tool you can make screenshots of anything on your computer.



Snipping tool in Windows 8

On the Windows 8 start screen (with all the metro style icons), just start typing “Snipping tool”. A box will popup with the search result. Right-click on it and choose “Pin to taskbar”. Then click and it will take you to the desktop environment of Windows 8.



Snipping tool in Windows 7 and Windows Vista

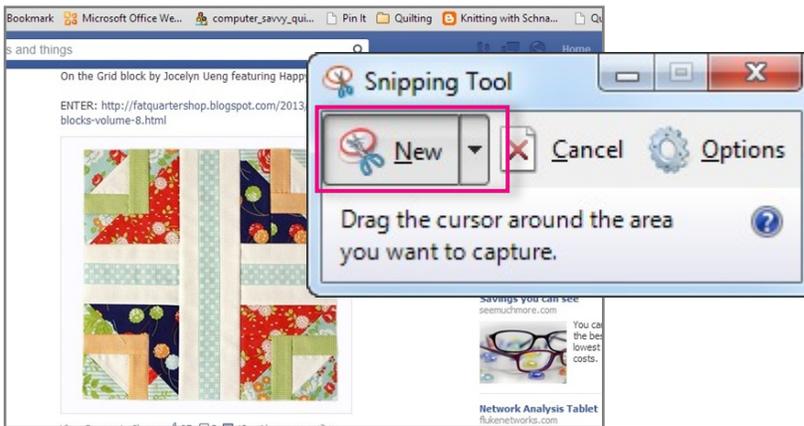
You can find the Snipping Tool via the Windows Start menu > All Programs > Accessories. Right-click on the line “Snipping Tool” and choose “Pin to Taskbar” for easy access.



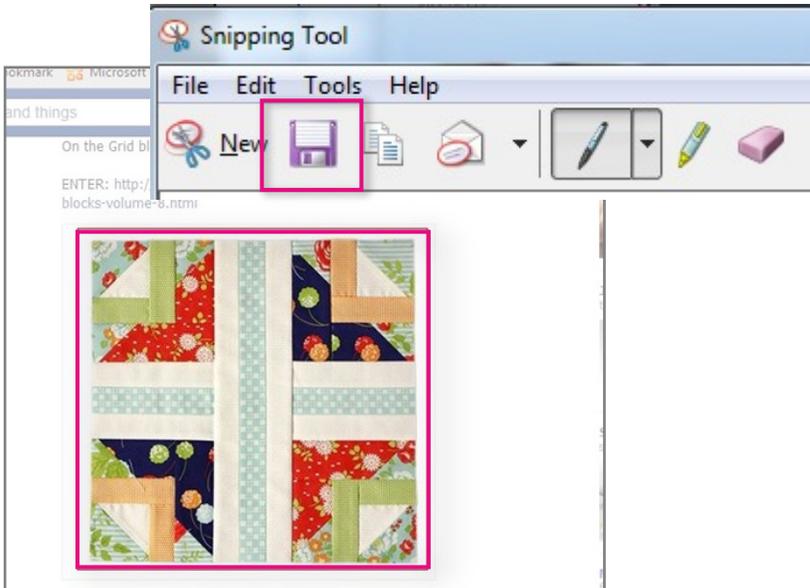
From Snip to Backdrop

To capture a photo on your computer - in this example an image seen on a website - be sure that the area you want to capture is completely visible on your screen, then click on the Snipping tool icon on the taskbar and choose "New" from the option in the small box. Your screen will fade. Drag a box around the block of your choice. Everything inside will be highlighted. Release the mouse and click on the Save button. Save this image in the special quilts folder you made in the Art and Stitch Backdrops folder,

Take the Snipping tool in the taskbar and click on "New". The screen will fade.



Drag a box around the desired area (it will be highlighted) and click on the Save button in the Snipping Tool..



Ready to be used as backdrop



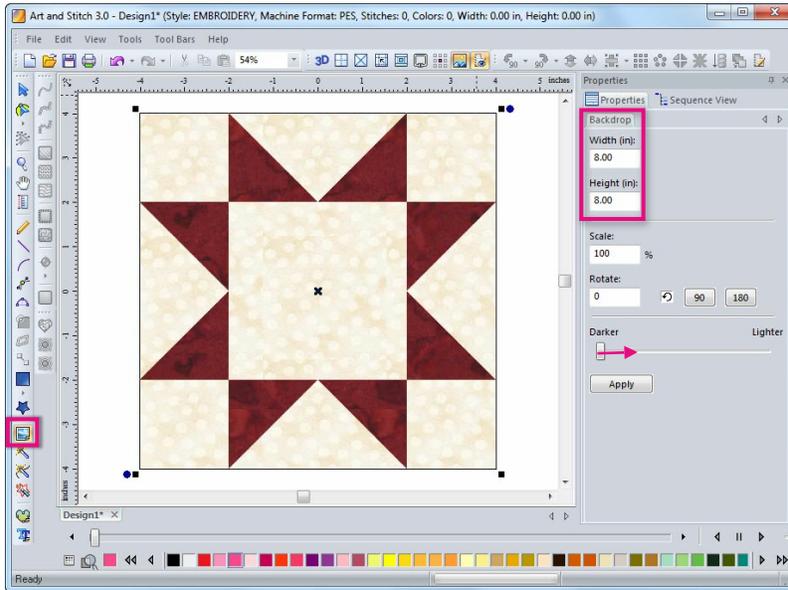


Using your images in Art and Stitch to audition designs

When everything is organized, images of the blocks and quilts in your own special folder, you can start putting designs on top of the desired image.



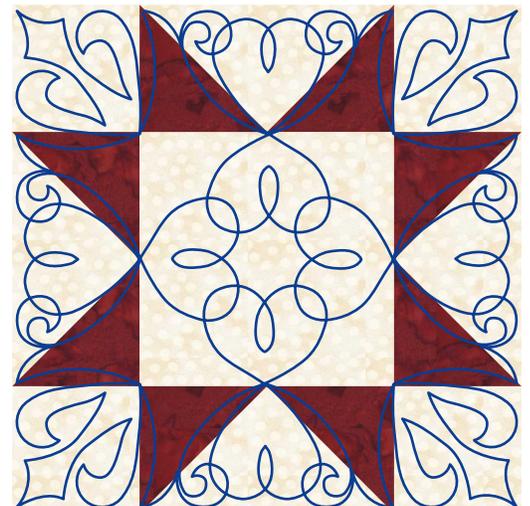
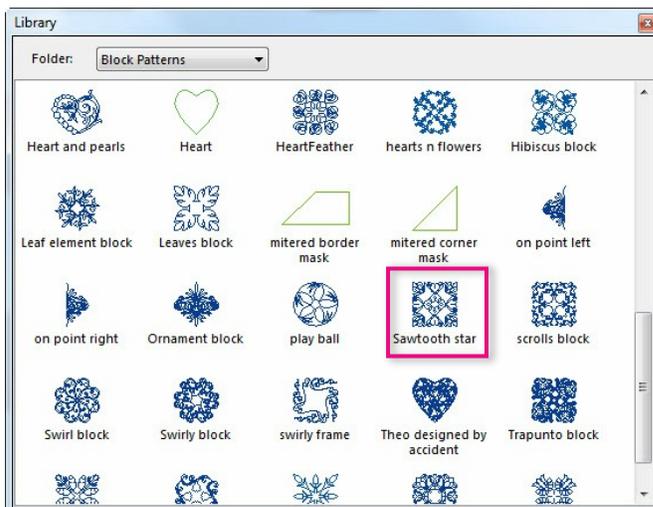
Start Art and Stitch and click on the Backdrop tool in the Artwork toolbar on the left. Navigate to your folder and open the desired block as a background. While it is still selected, go to the Properties panel, tab Backdrop and check the size of the bloc: 8x8 inch is a comfortable size for your purpose. Lighten the image if necessary to make the designs that you are going to place on top of this background easier to see.



Example 1: Using designs from the library



Click on the Library button in the Artwork toolbar. Find a design you think might work. In this example I am using Sawtooth Star. It will fit the 8x8 inch backdrop.

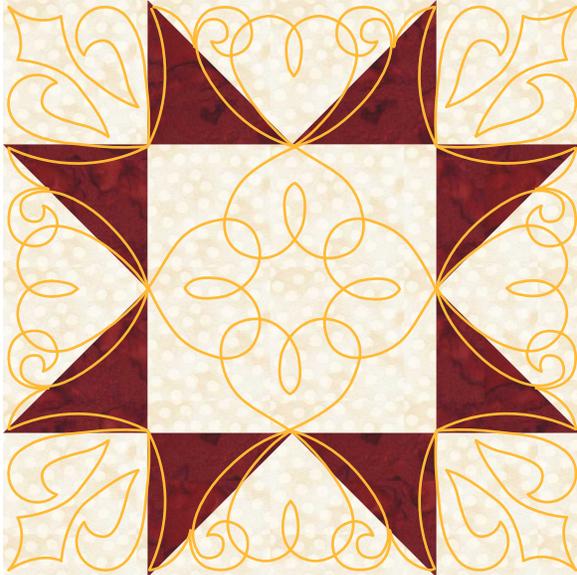




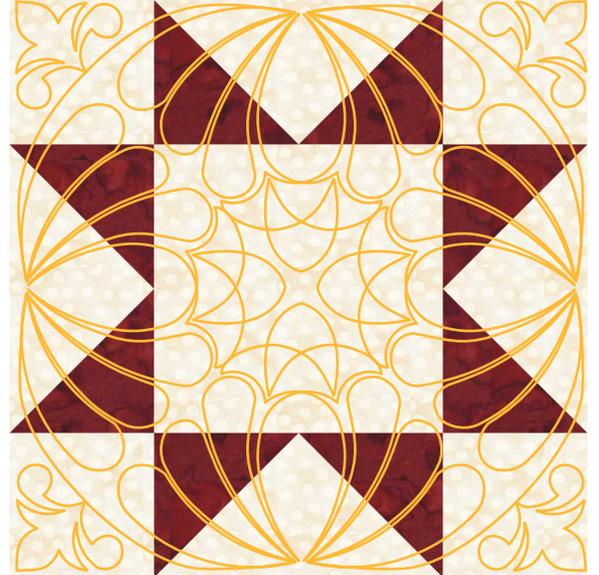
Using your images in Art and Stitch to audition designs - Cont'd

Select the design and go to Properties panel on the right, tab Transform: depending on the size of your backdrop and size of the design, adjust size. In the color palette at the bottom of the Art and Stitch screen choose a thread color.

Try several designs as you'll never know if they'll work or not.



Sawtooth Star



Featherblock Square



HeartFeather



12 Inch Block (resized to 8 inch)

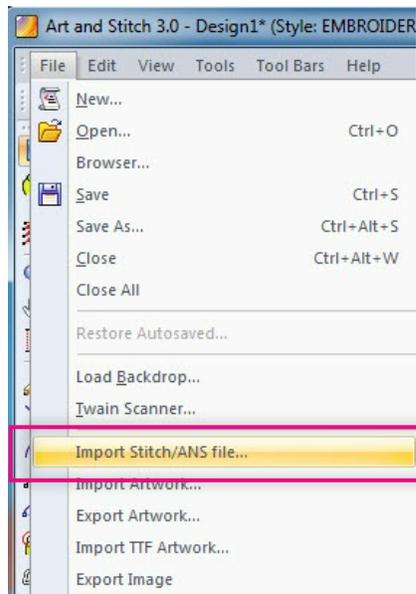
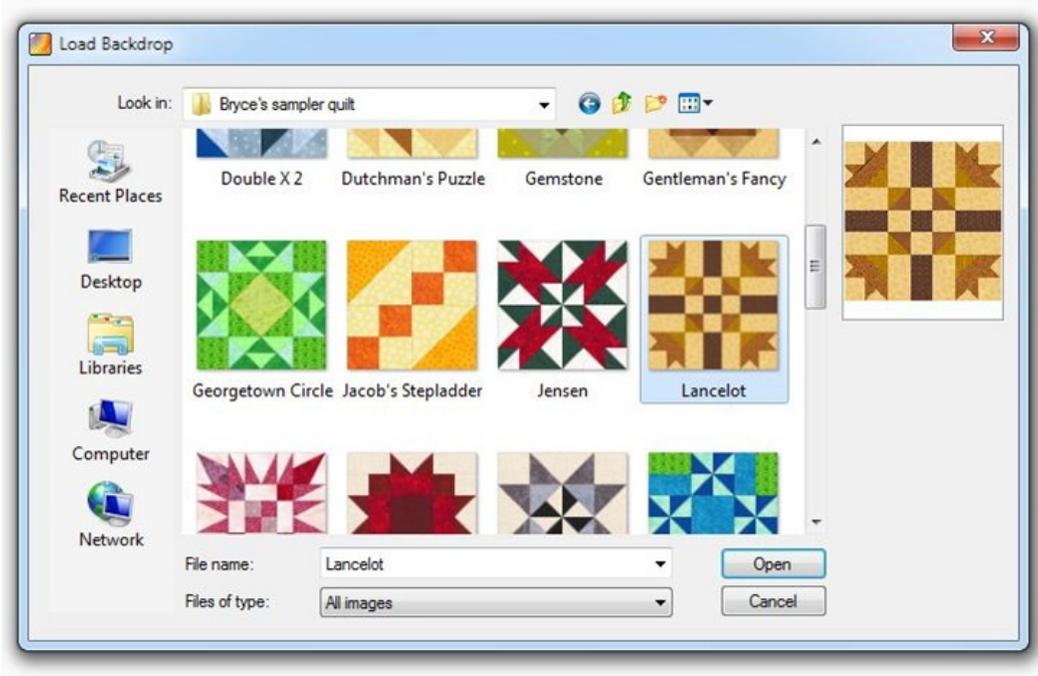


Using your images in Art and Stitch to audition designs - Cont'd

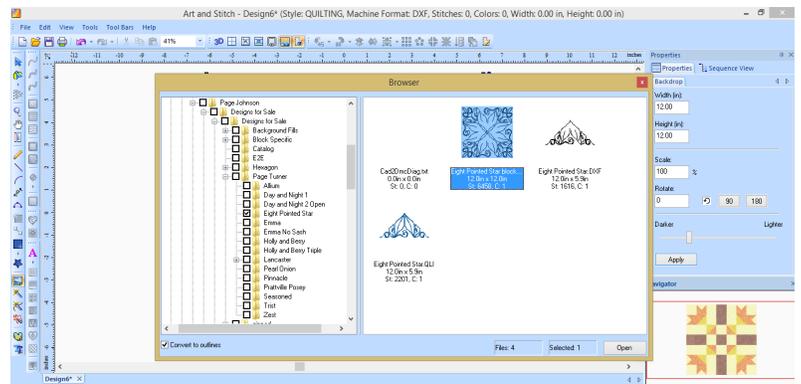
Example 2 - using designs other than those included in Art and Stitch



Start a new design page and click on the Backdrop tool in the Artwork bar. Navigate to your backdrop folder and choose your block. Go to Properties Panel on the right, tab Backdrop and adjust the size of your backdrop. Lighten it if necessary so that your quilting lines will show clearly.



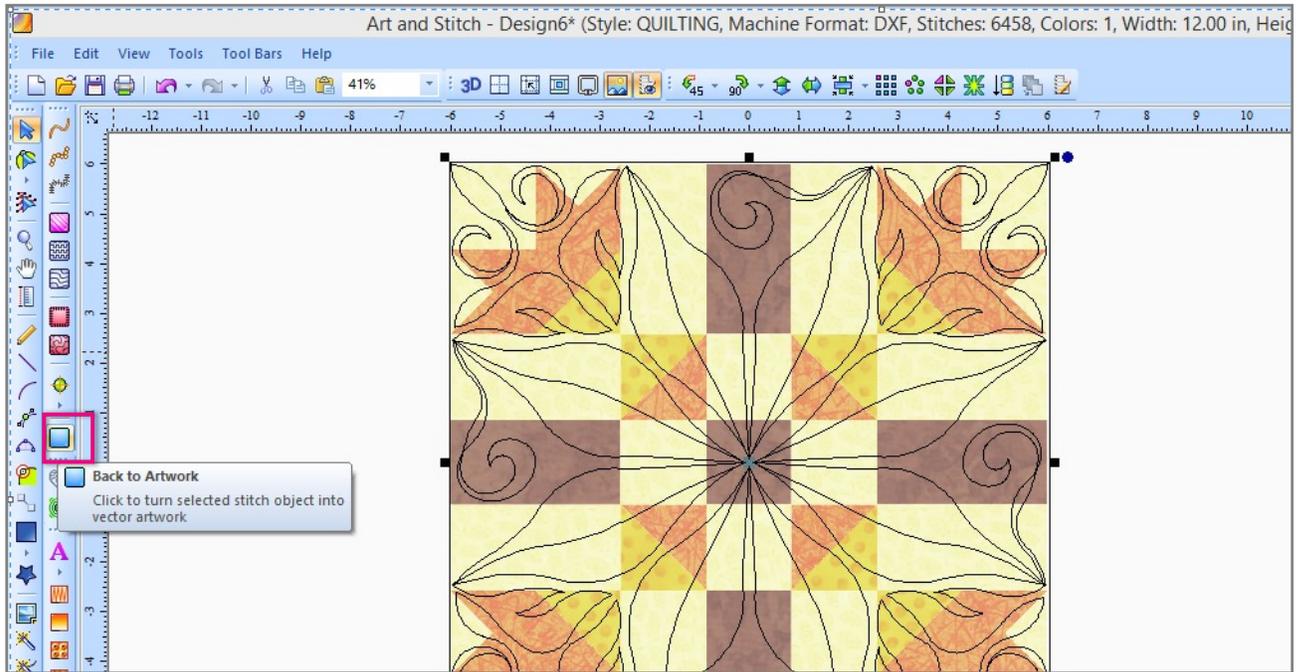
To open your own design to use on this backdrop, choose menu File > Import Stitch/ANS file. Navigate to the folder with your quilting design. Select the design. Be sure to tick the box "Convert to Outlines" in the lower left corner of the Browser dialog window.





Using your images in Art and Stitch to audition designs - Cont'd

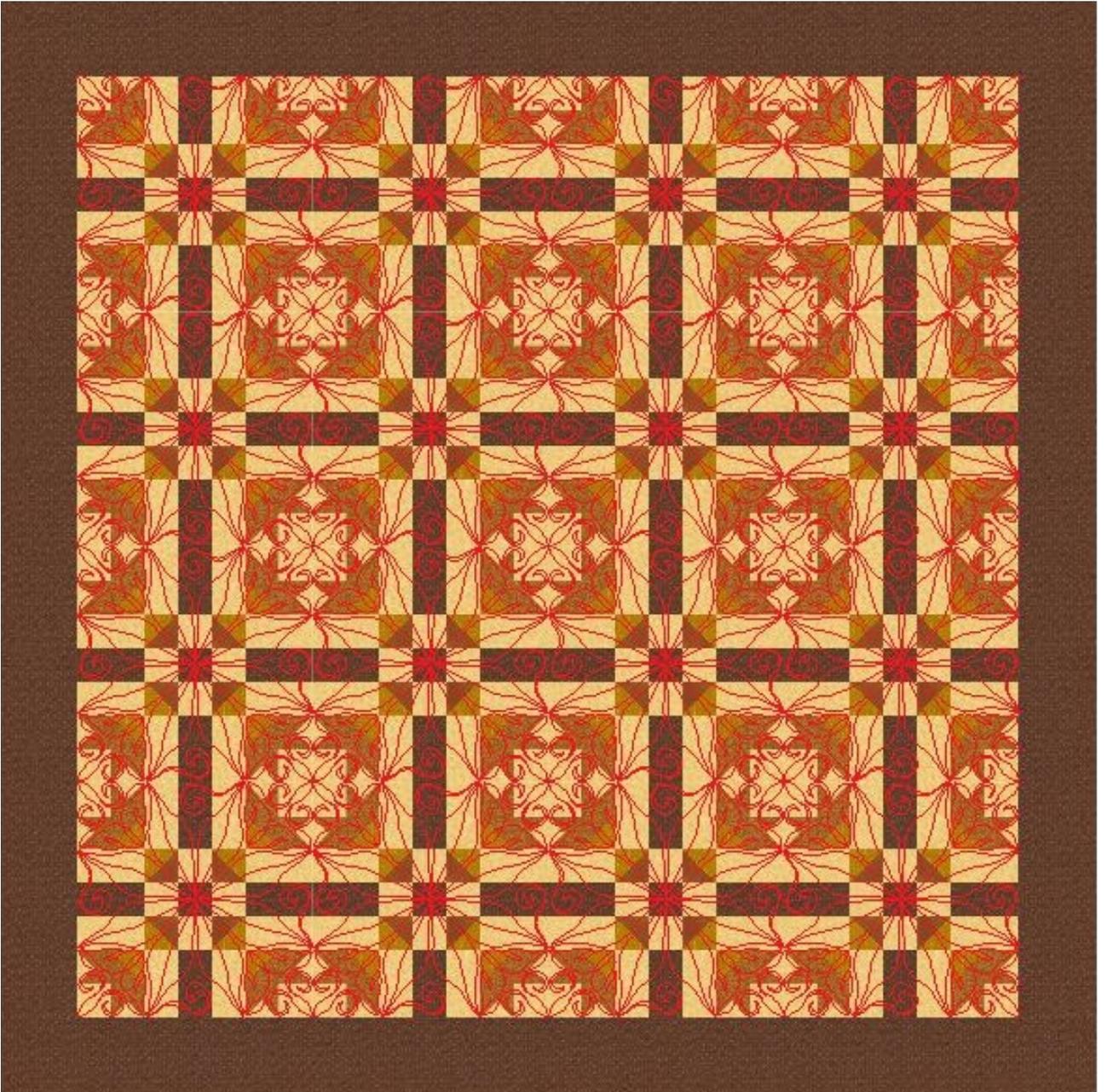
Select the quilting design and click on the Back to Artwork button. This will eliminate jump stitches and will give a cleaner look to your work. Adjust the size of the design and choose a line color that contrasts with the backdrop.





Examples

You can import an entire quilt to see how the design looks when repeated on the quilt.



Eight Point Star by Page Johnson



Examples - Cont'd

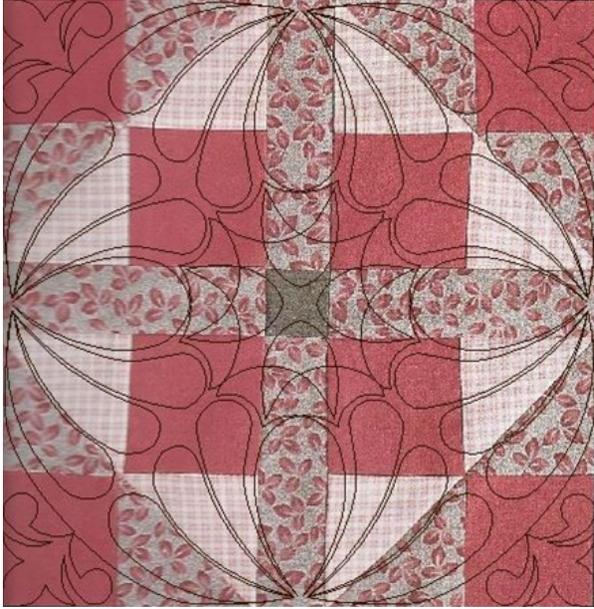
You can import pictures of quilts. Be sure to hang the quilt to get as flat a picture as possible. It might not line up perfectly but you are just trying to get an idea of what works.





Examples - Cont'd

Add your designs to scanned images and choose the one you like best.



Don't worry if it's a little wonky...

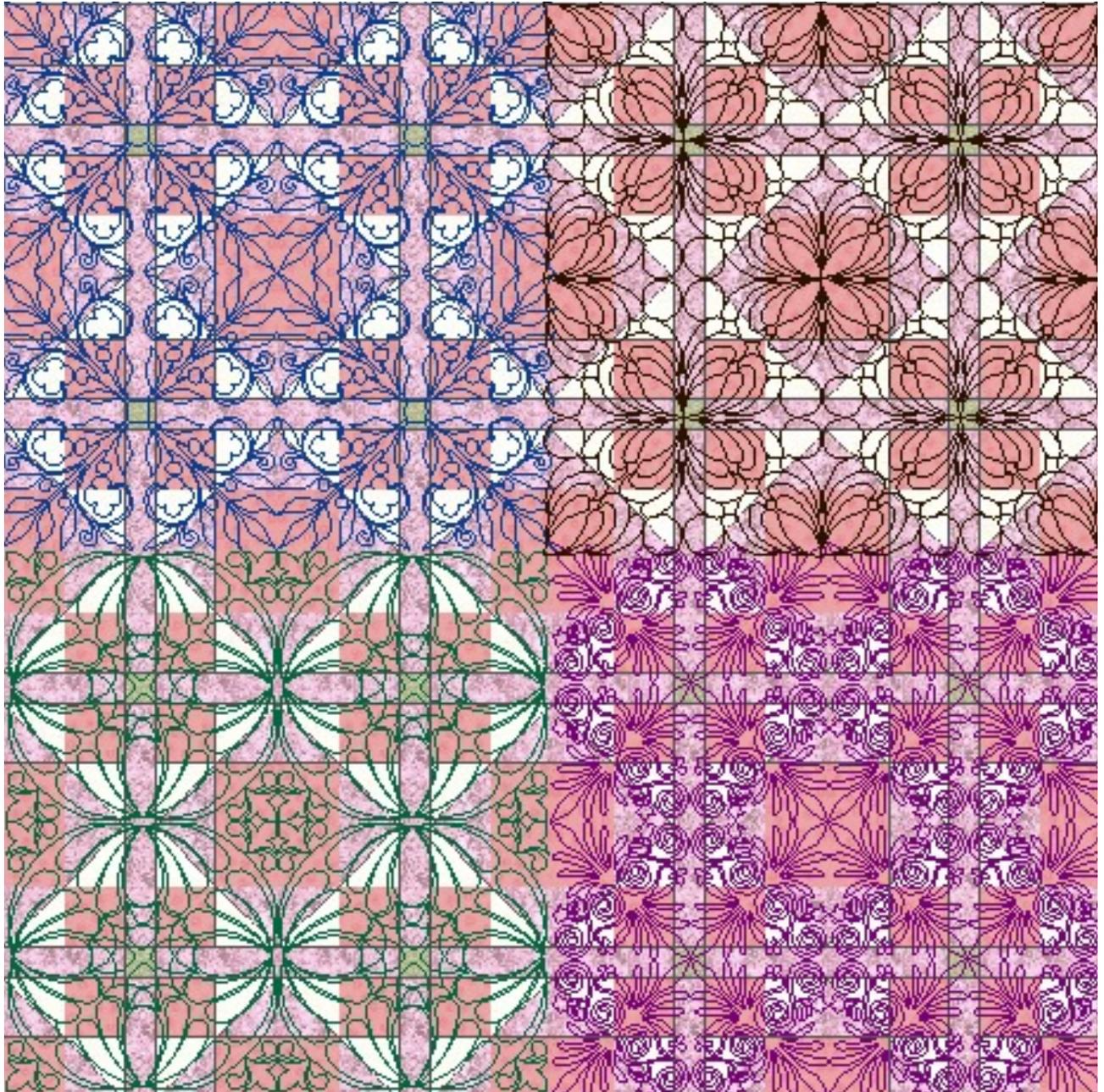


You'll still be able to see how the design looks.



Examples - Cont'd

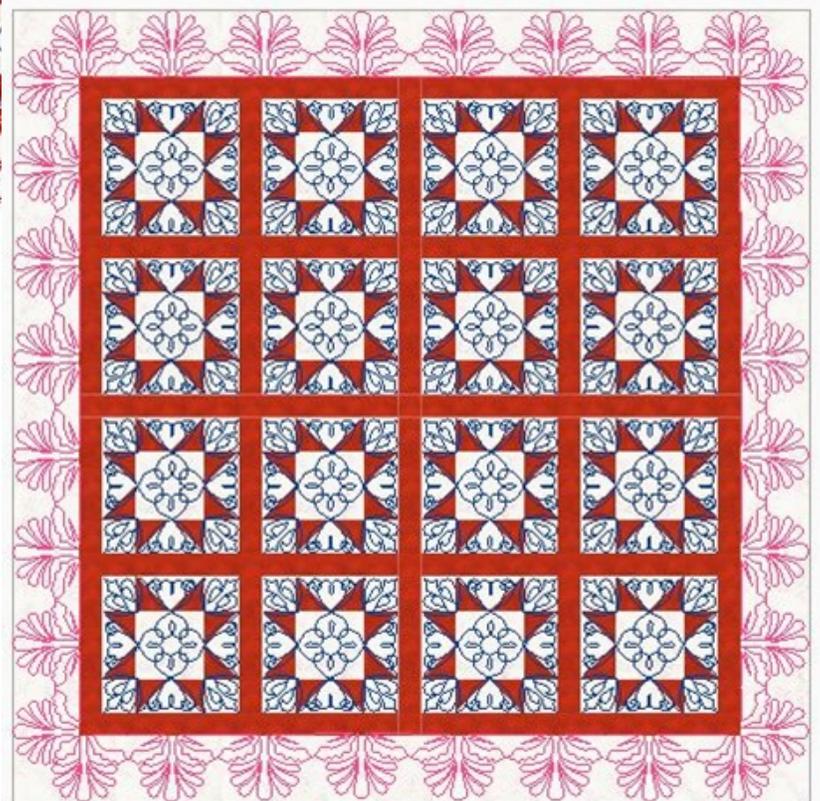
Set up repeats of several designs and see the effect different stitching can give to a quilt. Here I've set it up to show 4x4 sections.





Examples - Cont'd

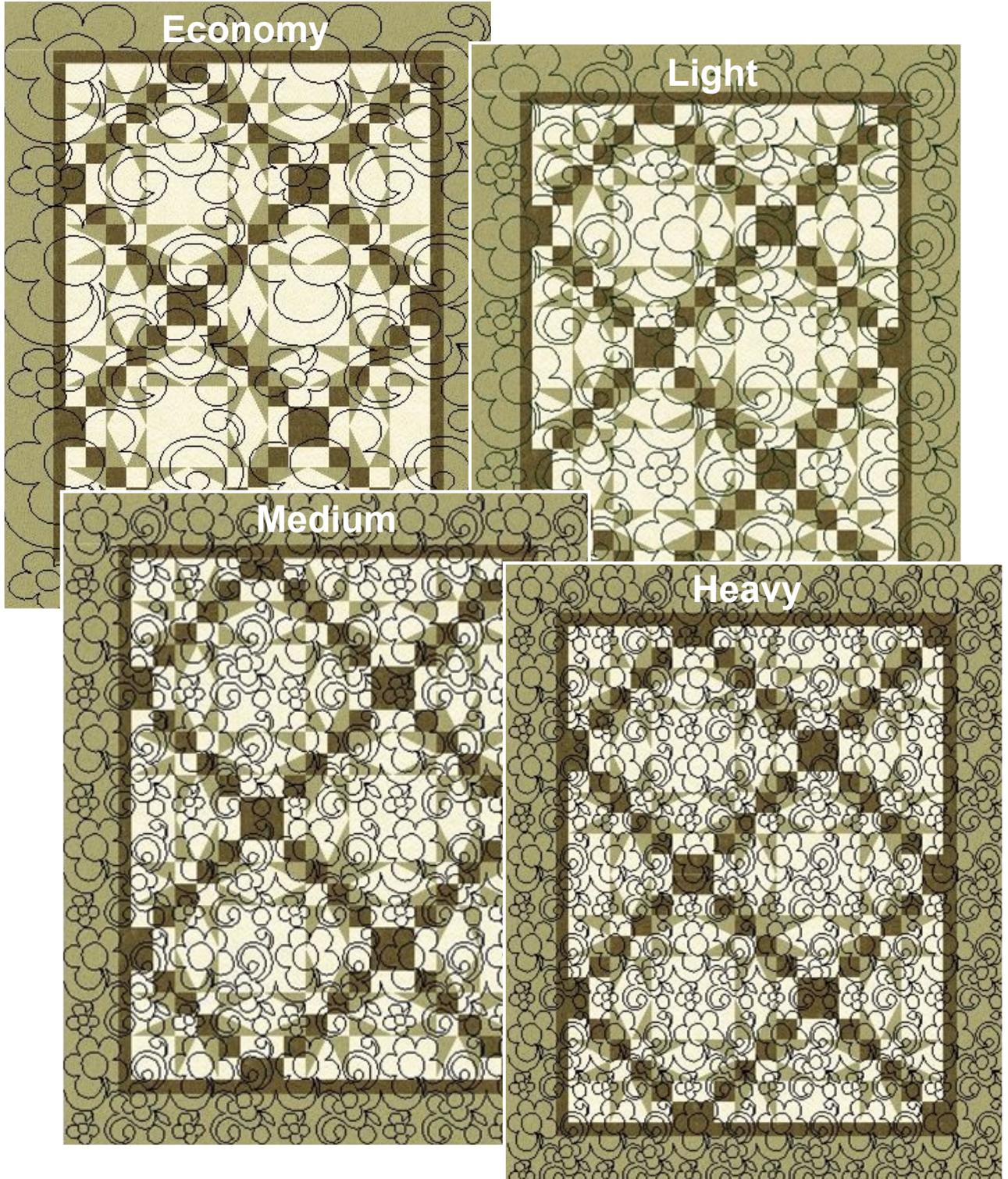
You can fill in the sashings, cornerstones and borders. If you don't like it, you can change it. Use the Snipping tool or Print Screen and Paint to save the image for comparison to help you or your customer decide which designs look best. Give your customers options.





Examples - Cont'd

Create pictures to help explain your pricing to customers who can't "see" the difference in your pricing levels.





Whether you create your own designs or purchase from the many talented designers, Art and Stitch can help you avoid stitching the wrong design on a quilt.

You can show your customers what the finished quilt would look like and give options. If you have a website, you can show your customers how your designs will look on finished quilts without having to make an entire quilt and stitching it yourself.

You can use this feature to help write lesson plans on using your designs. You can show how versatile your designs are on different blocks or quilts.

This is an amazing time-saver on many levels and it's a bit addicting and lots of fun.

Enjoy!