



My Love

By Bernadette Griffith, Educational Director, Generations® Software
A little lesson on editing

Techniques Covered:

- ♥ Insert Image
- ♥ Color Changes
- ♥ Custom Colors
- ♥ Divide with a Line
- ♥ Delete an Area
- ♥ Copy and Paste
- ♥ Group
- ♥ Mirror with a Line
- ♥ Setting Stitching Order
- ♥ Play Stitches
- ♥ Angle Edit
- ♥ Insert Text
- ♥ Save and Export

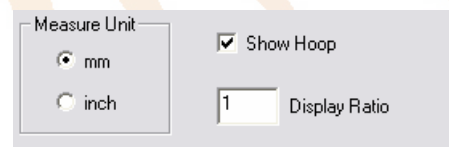


Tell Someone That You Love Them

With the automatic stitch generation, superior image recognition and easy to use editing tools in **Generations®**, even the most basic clipart images can be turned into beautiful designs in almost no time at all. Add some lettering with the True Type Font™ lettering in **Generations®** and you'll soon be expressing your true feelings to those you love.

To begin this project, we are going to make changes to our view preferences. That way we are all working with the same settings.

1. Click on **View** from the menu bar and then **View Preferences** from the drop down menu.
2. On the **General tab**, towards the middle is a section titled **Measure Unit**.
3. Set that to be **mm** for **millimeters** by clicking on the radial selection dot next to it.
4. Next to the **Measure Unit** on the right is the **Show Hoop** option. Click on the **box** next to **Show Hoop** so that the hoop will show as a red square in the program.



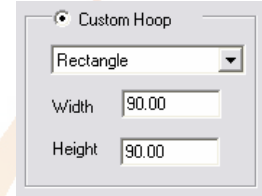
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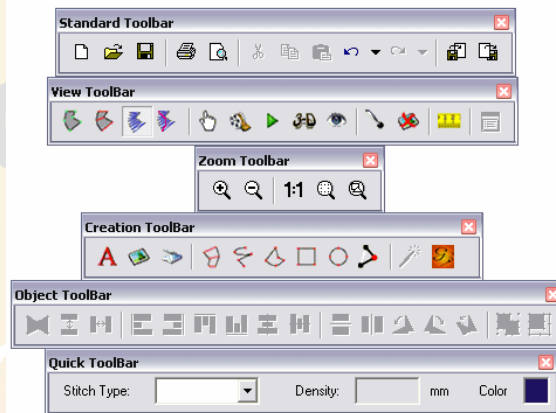
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5. Click on the **Hoop/Original Point** tab to open that menu. Click on the radial selection dot next to the **Custom Hoop** option. The default should be **Rectangle**. If your hoop is set to something else, click on the arrow to the right of the hoop shape and select Rectangle from the drop down menu.
6. We are going to set the **custom hoop size** to match the card used in this project in millimeters. Change the **Width to 90 mm and the Height to 90 mm**.
7. After making all the changes, click on the **OK** button at the bottom of the window. You will see a **red square** in the center of your screen showing the hoop we selected.
8. **Exit** the **Generations®** program to set these settings.



The Generations® Toolbars:

Please note the name of the toolbars shown below. We will be referencing these toolbars throughout the project.



The **Generations®** program offers functions for both the **right and left mouse** clicks. **Right mouse** clicks generally are used for selection in editing or fill type changes. **Left mouse** clicks are generally used for selection for grouping, moving or sizing. To avoid some of the confusion over the left and right mouse click, when this lessons states **Click on**, it is referring to the **left mouse click**. All actions requiring the **right mouse click** will say **Right Click**.

We are now ready to create the design for our favorite Valentine


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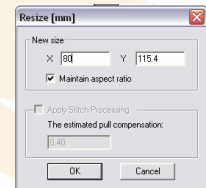
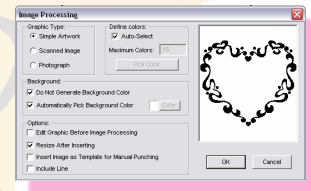
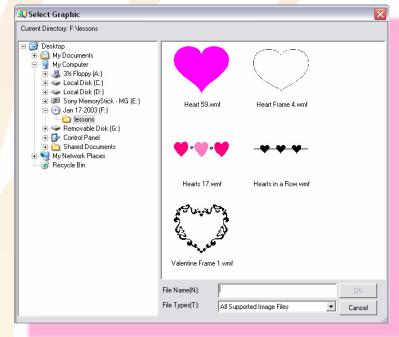


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Inserting the Image

1. Open the **Generations®** program. The hoop that you selected should be showing on the screen.
2. Select the **Insert Image** icon  from the **Create Toolbar**.
3. When the dialog window opens, select the folder from the folder tree on the left hand side where you have stored the image. In this case the image is located in the file where you unzipped the lesson after downloading.
4. Select the graphic file named **Valentine Frame 1.wmf** from the right side of the dialog box. **Double click** on the image to open it into the image processing.
5. The .WMF file will be inserted into the **Image Processing**. Since this is a simple one color image, we can allow the program to process the image using the default settings. Click the **OK** button to insert the image into the program.
6. When the **Resize** box opens, make sure that the **Maintain aspect ratio** option has a check mark next to it and then change the **X size to 80mm**. The Y value will change automatically since **Maintain aspect ratio** option was selected. Click on the **OK** button.
7. The image is now inserted in the program inside of the custom hoop outline.



Do not generate stitches yet – we need to edit a little bit.

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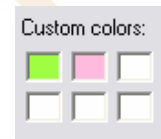
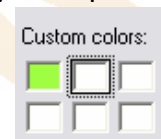
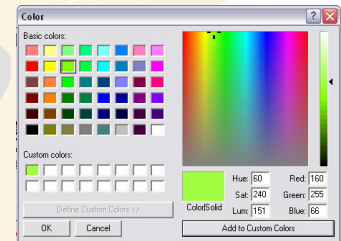
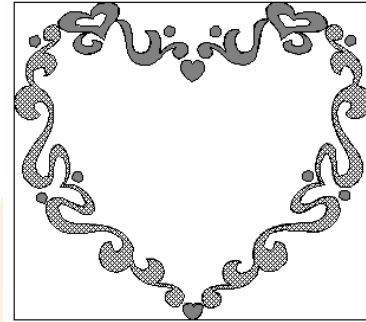
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A Little Bit of Editing

We are going to change the colors of some areas and edit a little bit before we generate the stitches in the design file.

1. **Right Click** on the **left side scroll** in the design. It is filled with a crosshatch shading since there are no stitches in the design yet.
2. Hold the **[CTRL]** on the computer keyboard and **Right Click** on the scroll on the **right hand side** of the frame. Both scrolls will be filled with crosshatch shading.
3. On the **Quick Toolbar** click on the **color chip** to open the color palette.
4. Select a green color and customize that color to the shade of green you desire using the **Define Custom Color button**.
5. To select the shade of green that you like click in the green color range on the right side of the window and then click on the **black arrow** and drag up or down.
6. When you have selected the shade of green that you desire, click on the **Add to Custom Color button**. The green will now be added to the color palette for future use. It will remain there until you replace it.
7. Click in the **white box next to the green color** that was added to the custom color choices. The box will be surrounded by a **black box** showing that it is selected.
8. Click on a shade of pink in the **Basic Color** section and then customize that color in the same manner that you did for the green. Click on the **Add to Custom color button**.
9. The pink is now saved in the box next to the green color created first.
10. Click on the **Green color chip** that was created and placed in the custom colors to select the color for the two scrolls and then click on the **OK** button.





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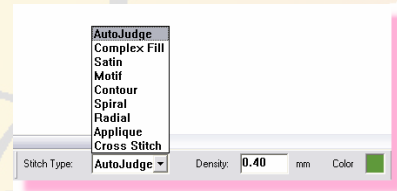
11. Click on the **Generate icon**  or press **[F9]** on the keyboard to create the stitches for the selected areas. (The side scrolls in this case)

12. Click on the **3D icon**  located on the **View Toolbar** to see the results. There should be areas that are part complex stitching and part satin stitching. This happens because the default setting is set to **Auto Judge** and the program is making fill choices based on the size of the area.

We want to change that to Satin stitch.

13. The two scrolls should still be selected after generating the stitches. You will know if they are selected if they are surrounded by **Blue Flashing Marquee Lines**. If they are not still selected, select them by clicking on the **green color chip** on the **Color Bar** located on the **left** hand side of the program window.

14. On the **Quick Toolbar**, click on the arrow next to **AutoJudge** and select **Satin** from the menu. **Generate** to create the satin stitches in the scrolls.




A Little More Editing

Now that the scrolls have been changed to the color and stitch type that we desired, we need to work on the scrolls on top of the heart and edit them a little bit. These present a little bit of a different problem as they are connected to the hearts beside them.

To separate them we are going to have to use the editing tool called **Divide With Lines(s)**.

1. **Right click** on the heart and scroll located at the top **left** hand side of the image. It will be filled with a **crosshatch shaded fill** showing that it is selected.

Since there are no stitches in the area yet this is being seen as an outline and is being displayed in View Outline mode. View Outline is the main editing view for the Generations® program.

2. We are going to zoom in on the selected area so that we can edit with more precision. Click on the **Zoom Object icon**  located on the

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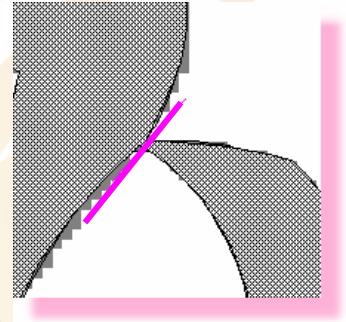
Zoom Toolbar. This will fill your screen with the heart and scroll that are selected.

3. Select **Outline** from the **menu bar** at the top of the program window. A drop down menu will appear with several editing options. Select **Divide with Lines(s)** from the menu. Your cursor will turn into a small bulls-eye cursor.

Note: If you have stitches in this section of the design, please

click on the Outline View icon  **then follow instructions from #3 above.**

4. We need to divide the scroll away from the heart. To divide the two sections, **Left click** with your mouse outside of the area then move the cursor to the other side of the area and place another left click. A **magenta line** will appear showing where the division will take place.



If you are not happy with the placement of the dividing line and want to change the placement of the line, press the backspace key on your computer keyboard to remove the point and re[Enter] as desired.

5. When you are happy with the placement of the dividing line, press **[Enter]** on your computer keyboard to set the division.
6. **Right click** off to the side of the image in a blank spot on your work area screen to **deselect** everything.
7. Then **right click** on the scroll. If only the scroll fills with crosshatch shading, then you have divided the areas correctly. If not, then repeat the steps above.
8. With the scroll still selected and filled with the crosshatch shading, **Right Click** on the **color chip** on the Color Bar on the left of the program window and then generate to create the stitches in the scroll.

You have now changed the color of the scroll from the original black to the green used in the other scrolls.

9. Click on the **Zoom Natural Size icon**  located on the **Zoom Toolbar** to have the design displayed at the actually size.

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Generating the Rest of the Design


We need to fill the rest of the design in with stitches and then remove one section of the design.

1. **Right click** off to the side in a blank area away from the design to deselect the green scroll.
2. Click on the **Generate icon**  or press **[F9]** on the keyboard and the rest of the design will fill in with black stitches.
3. Note that in the **Color bar** on the left of the work area there is now a black color chip. **Left click** on the black color chip. All black areas in your design are now selected with the **blue marquee flashing lines** showing that they are selected. 
4. On the **Quick Toolbar**, click on the black color chip to open the color palette.
5. Remember the pink custom color we created earlier? Click on the **pink color chip in the custom color section** to change the black to pink in the design and then click on the **OK** button.
6. With the Pink areas still selected, change the fill type from **AutoJudge to Satin** using the **Quick Toolbar**.
7. **Generate** to make the changes to the design.



Delete, Copy and Paste

In our design the scroll and heart area on the top right has not been divided and is filled with pink stitches. We are going to remove that area from the design and replace it with a copy of the edited scroll and heart.

1. **Right click** on the heart and scroll on the right side of the heart frame.
2. **Press and hold the [CTRL] key** and then press the **[DEL]** key on your computer keyboard. The area is now gone for good.
3. Click on the **Zoom In icon**  located on the **Zoom Toolbar**. Place the **Zoom cursor** towards the top left corner of the heart frame.

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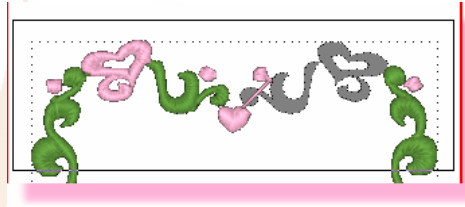


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
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4. **Press and hold the left mouse button while you drag** a square around the top of the heart frame.

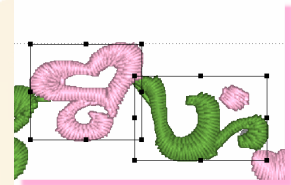
The display will fill with the area inside the box that was drawn.



5. **Right click** to deactivate the zoom tool.
6. **Right click** on the green scroll, **press and hold the [CTRL]** and **then right click** on the pink heart to select them both.

7. Click on the **Copy icon**  located on the **Standard Toolbar**. This places a copy of the heart and the green scroll in the Windows® clipboard.

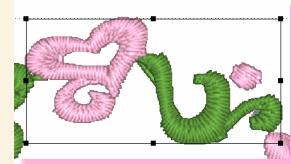
8. Click on the **Paste icon** located on the **Standard Toolbar**. The heart and scroll are pasted exactly on top of the original ones and will be surrounded by black boxes.



9. We are going to **group them as one piece** to make moving them easier. Click on the **Group icon**



located on the **Object Toolbar**. The areas will now be surrounded by only one black box showing that they are grouped as one unit.



Mirroring with a Line

Now that we have created a new heart and scroll we need to **mirror** and move them into the correct position in the design.

1. With the heart and scroll still selected by the black box, click on the **Edit** option from the menu bar and select **Mirror** from the drop down menu.
2. A small menu will open next to the **Mirror** option. Select **By a Line** from the menu.

By a Line allows you to mirror the selected area by placing a line or a point anywhere in the window. In this case we only need to mirror this to the other side of the heart frame.

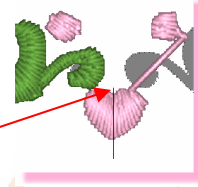
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3. We can use another part of the design to help with placing the line to mirror. The **small heart between the scrolls** is the perfect area to use for lining up the areas correctly when mirroring. **Left click** at the **V** at the top of the small heart and the area will mirror automatically.

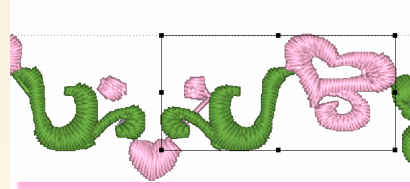


If you need more precise placement, you can hold the left mouse button down and drag a placement line but in this case all we needed was a click to place the scroll and heart correctly.

4. If you are not happy with the placement of the scroll and heart, click on the



undo arrow and undo the mirroring and try again.



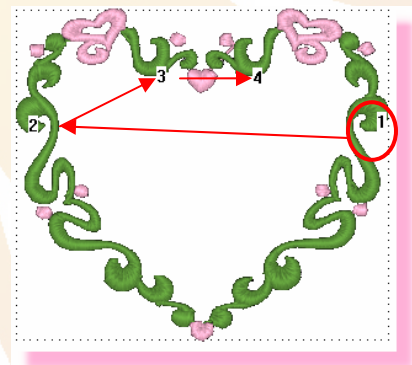
5. When you are done mirroring, use the **Zoom All icon** and the design will fill your program window at the largest possible viewing size.



Setting the Stitch order of the Design.

We now need to get the design to stitch in a better stitching order so that there are few jumps and color changes. Since there are only two colors in the design, we want all the green to stitch together and all the pink to stitch together.

1. Click on **Accessories** from the menu bar and select **Set Stitching Order** from the drop down menu. Your cursor will turn into a **hand cursor**.
2. **Left click** on the green large scroll on the right side. A number one appears in a square on the area. That will place the scroll in the first stitching position in the design. Continue to click on the green scrolls going in the order shown here.
3. Press **[Enter]** and the stitching order is set.
4. Select **Accessories** from the menu bar again and then **Set Stitching Order**. We will now order the **pink areas** in the design. *Think logically*



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how they should stitch and in what order and then begin to set the order of these areas.


If you make a mistake when setting the stitching order, press the backspace key on your keyboard and remove the last selection.

5. After pressing **[Enter]** to set the sewing order of the Pink areas, **right click** off to the side to **deselect** all areas and **Generate** to allow the program to recalculate the traveling stitching and in and out points.

Note that the color chips now show that the Pink areas will all stitch first and the green areas second.


Since we **didn't manually move the in and out points** before we reordered the areas, the program is able to recalculate the in and out points and traveling stitches so that there will be no jump stitches between any of the pink areas in the design. The green areas will have jumps since they stitch after the pink areas and there are no areas in the design where traveling stitches can be placed.

If you want to see how the design will stitch out, click on the **Stitch Player**

 **icon** located on the **View Toolbar**.

If you press the first turquoise arrow, the design will play automatically from start to finish. Clicking on the double turquoise arrow will play the design faster. (Tip: If using the double arrow, select the 10 for fast, 100 for very fast and 1000 for warp speed.)



After previewing the design click on the **green arrow**  to close the **Stitch Player** and return to the main window.

Just a Little More Tweaking.

The two small hearts in the design are not exactly perfect in my design. Since this is for that *Someone Special* in my life, this design needs to stitch a little better.

To edit these two hearts, we are going to use one of the other editing views in **Generations®** called View Angle. This tool is used to edit satin stitches and lettering.

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Please note that the image processing in **Generations®** depends on the graphics capability of your computer, some of the editing in the next section may be different than what you will need for your hearts. These directions should help you figure out what is needed for your area and can be used as guidelines.



1. Click on the **Hide Image icon** to hide the original image that the design was created from on the screen.

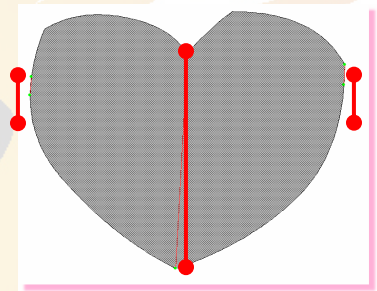


2. **Right click** on the small top center heart and use the **Zoom Object** tool to fill the screen with the heart.



3. Click on the **Angle View icon** located on the **View Toolbar**. The heart will have red lines with green nodes on the ends of them. These represent the blocks for the satin stitching.

4. **Left click** on one of the **green nodes** on the line to the right. The nodes on both ends turn red showing that the line is selected.



5. **Left click** on one of the nodes and hold the **left mouse button in**. **Drag** the node into a different position. We need to move the nodes so that the satin stitching will go up and down in the heart.

6. Follow the directions for moving the nodes in step #5 and move the nodes into the positions illustrated in the image.

7. When you are done editing this heart, press the letter **[N]** on your keyboard. This will display your design at the 1:1 stitching size.

8. **Generate** to place the changes and create new stitches in the heart.

9. We need to change the second heart at the bottom of the frame. **Zoom In** on that heart using the **Zoom Object tool** and select the **View Angle** so that we can edit. (Follow steps 2 and 3 above to do this)

10. My heart has four lines when in **View Angle**, we need only **three** stitch direction guidelines. To delete any extra lines, **Left click** on the line and press the **[DEL]** key on the keyboard. The line is removed unless it is a defining line.

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
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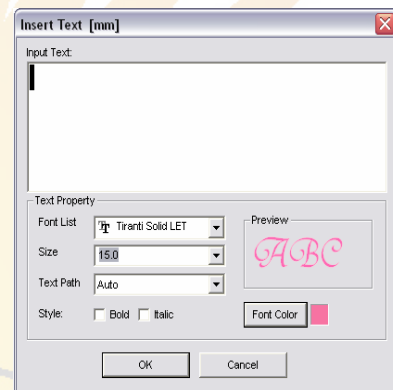
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11. Edit the stitch direction guidelines in this heart to match as closely to the first heart as you can.
12. When you are done editing, click on the **1:1** icon in the **Zoom Toolbar** and then **Generate** to place the new stitches.

Adding Lettering.

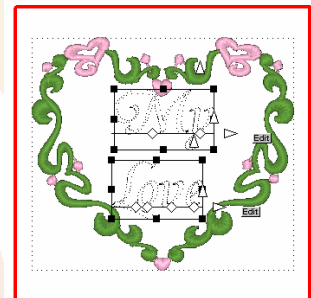
Now to add that special message to the inside of the heart.

1. Click on the **Insert Text Icon**  located on the **Create Toolbar**. The **Insert Text** dialog box will open where the font, font size and font color may be selected.
2. Find the font that you would like to use for your lettering from the **Font List**. **Generations®** uses all True Type Font (TTF) lettering so any font installed on your Windows® system will be available for lettering in the program.
3. Change the **Size** of the font to be **15.0** in the **Size option**. Change the **color** to a medium pink by clicking on the color chip and selecting the color from the color palette.



Your selections will show in the preview section of the Insert Text dialog box.

4. [Enter] the **word or words** you would like to have placed inside the heart in the **Input Text window** as if you were typing them on a word processor.
5. When you have finished typing your lettering, click on the **OK** button to insert the lettering. **Generate** to place the stitching in the letters.
6. If your lettering needs to be **resized**, click on the **Edit** located on the right side of the selected text. Then select a smaller or larger size from the Insert Text dialog box.
7. If you need to move the line(s) of lettering to fit better in the heart, **left click** off to the side to deselect the lines of lettering and then **left**



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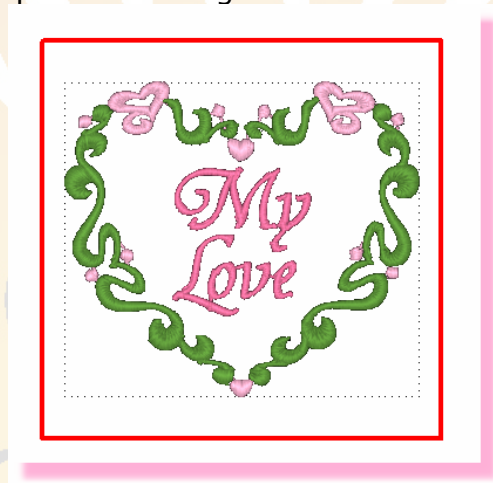
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click on the line of lettering that needs adjusted. When the **4 way arrow** is present, **left click and drag** into place.

For minor movement adjustments of the lettering use the arrow keys on the keyboard and move the lettering as desired up, down or side to side.

8. After moving the lines of lettering into the desired position, **left click** off to the side of the design to **deselect** everything and **generate** one last time to complete the design.



Saving the Design

You have now completed the design for that special Valentine and need to save the **.gen** file for future editing.



1. Click on the **Save icon** located on the **Standard Toolbar**. If you have saved the design previously this will resave the design under the same name and in the same location. If this is the first time you are saving the design, the **Save** dialog box will open.
2. From the **folder tree** on the left side of the dialog box, select the **drive and folder** where you would like the design to be saved to.
3. **Type the name** of the design into the **text box** and then click **Ok**. The design is now saved for future editing.

The .gen file extension is not a stitch file. This is a file that only the Generations program can open and it allows for editing of the design should you need to make changes in the future.

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Exporting to Your Machine

In order to stitch the design, you must export the design from the **Generations®** program in your particular machine language. If your machine uses the ART, VIP or SHV format export the design file in PES or HUS as your transfer programs for your machine will import or open those file extensions and allow you to transfer the design to your machine or card in the proper format for stitching.

1. Click on the **Export Icon** located on the **Standard Toolbar**. A small dialog box will open.
2. Select the **machine format** you need for your particular machine from the selection in the left hand window.
3. Select the **location** where you would like to export the design or stitch file to from the **Design Location** option.
4. Since we have saved the file, the name of the design will show at the bottom of the dialog box. Above that in a small window, all the stitch files you have placed in the selected location will display with their name and machine format.
5. When you have made your selections, click on the **Export** button and the design will export in your machine language and it is now ready to be sent to your embroidery machine.

Our Heart file is now saved and exported for stitching. Now what can we do with this design?

Remember that you can resize this design as needed and use this for any number of things from personalizing your loved ones clothing to a really special card.

Tip: If you are planning on resizing the design it is a good idea to group the design sections that were copied and pasted with the rest of the design. To do this use the Edit from the menu, then Select and Select All.

Then use the Group icon located on the Object Toolbar and group them as one section. This will allow you to resize the whole design as needed.

All screen shots for this project are from the **Generations®** software program.
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