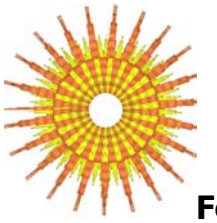
Generations Update Version 1.1
By Bernadette Griffith,
Educational Director Generations Software

In the newest update (version 1.1) to the Generations™ automatic digitizing, many wonderful new features have been added.
This small lesson booklet covers one the new additions.
Check back for more booklets covering other new features soon!

In this booklet we will cover the following techniques:

Basic Feathered Edges

Feathered Edge Effects with Patterns



Feathered Edge Effects with Negative Patterns

Please note that all values given in this lesson are in Millimeters. It may be easier to follow the lesson if you change your settings to Millimeters in the View Preferences menu.

*To change these values, click on the **View menu and then View Preferences** and select **Measure Unit as mm** rather than inches. If desired, you can change these values back to inches after this lesson.*

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The ability to create Feathered Edges in the Generations™ has been changed to be much more user friendly, give you endless feathering options and requires less math - always a good thing in my book.

Feathered edges can now be added to Complex, Satin and Radial filled areas in a number of ways.

Feathering with Complex Fills

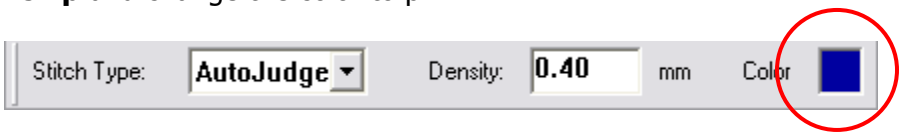
Let start by creating a circle in the Generations™ program

1. Click on the Generations™ icon on your desktop to open the program.

2. Once you have opened the program, select the **Insert Circle** tool from the Create tool bar or select Create from the menu and then select Circle. Your mouse cursor will change from the arrow to a bullseye cursor .

3. Press the **left mouse button and hold it down**. Drag the cursor downward to create a circle in the program. When you have created a circle that appears to be about 3 inches, release the left mouse button and the stitches will be created automatically for the circle.

4. Lets change the color so that the effect can be seen in more detail on your screen. **Right click** on the Circle you have created so that there are blue flashing marquee lines around the area. Then **Left Click** on the **Quick Tool Bar color chip** and change the color to pink.

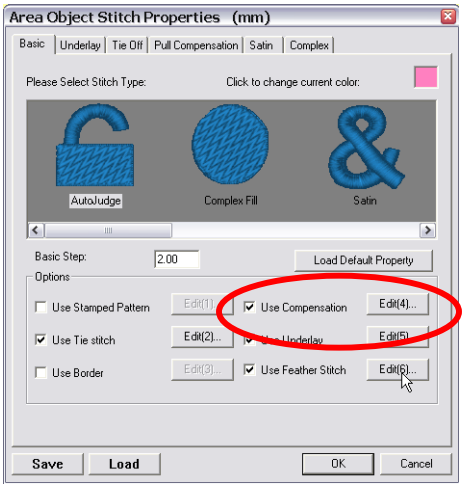


After you have changed the color to pink, the circle should still be selected with the blue flashing marquee lines*. (If not, then Right click on the circle again to select it)* ***Save this design as Circle1.gen by clicking on the File Menu and then Save As and name the file Circle1.***

5. We are going to change the stitch settings on the circle so that we can set a feathered edge.

To open the stitch settings: (and get you used to right clicking ;-)
Right click with your mouse over the center of the selected circle and a drop down menu will appear. Select **Stitch Settings**.

6. This will open the Stitch setting Dialog box where you may select the **Use Feathered Edge** option from the **Basic** Tab.



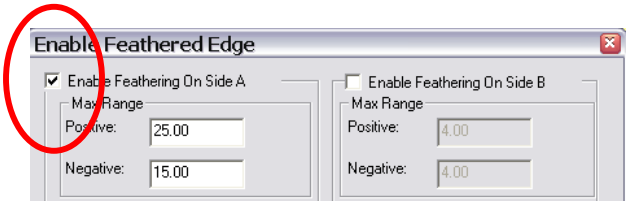
Place a check mark next to the **Use Feathered Stitch** option and click on the **Edit Button** to set your feathering.

This will open the **Enable Feathered Edge** dialog box.

Note: The circle you created is set at Autojudge as the fill type. Since the circle was apx. 3 inches, the fill was judged to be a complex fill.

7. Since this is a complex fill we need to think about what edges we want to feather and what Side A and B really are on the complex fills.

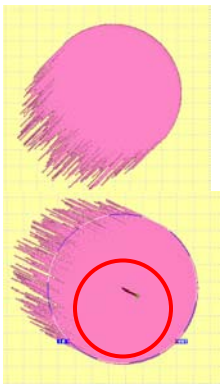
   Lets start by enabling the Feathered edges on Side A and giving them values where we will see the results immediately and boldly.



Left click and place a check mark next to the Enable Feathering on **Side A** option.

Change the Positive (outside feathering) from 4.00 mm to 25.00 mm and change the Negative (inside feathering) from 4.00 mm to 15 mm.

8. After changing the settings, click on the **OK** button until you are back in the main program window and then **Generate** to make the changes to the area.



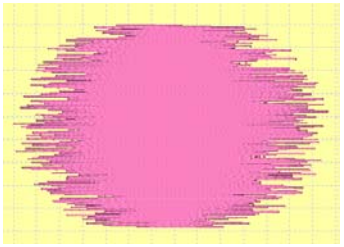
Your new area will look similar to this.

9. Lets change the fill direction and see what happens. To change the fill stitch direction, **left click** and drag on the **wand** in the selected filled area. **Generate** after changing the fill direction to see the changes.

10. Lets enable **Side B** and give Side B the same values as we did for Side A. Select the area with a **Right click**

11. Right click in the middle of the circle again to open the menu and select **Stitch Settings.**

12. Click on the **Edit Button** next to Use Feathered Stitch
Then enable **Side B** and change the values of the **positive and negative feathering**.



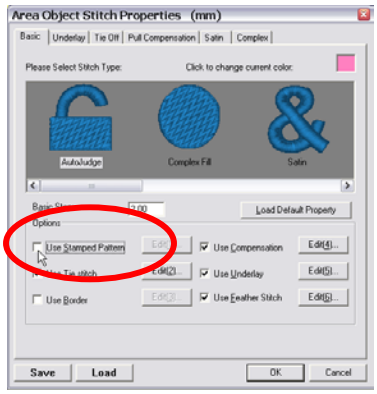
Remember to generate after making your changes and the new feathering should look similar to this:

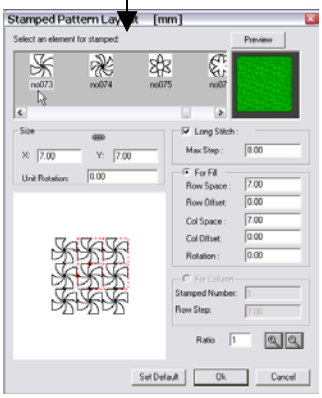
I am sure your creative minds are working already on how you can apply this to your designs and blend the edges of areas together.

Now try this:

Add a **Stamped pattern** to this area and see what the feathering does.

1. To add a stamped pattern to your circle, open the Stitch Settings dialog box and **select stamped pattern**. The **Stamped pattern editor** will open automatically.





2. Select your pattern and edit if desired. When you are happy with your pattern, apply it to the area and generate the new stitches.

3. To see the pattern in the area click on the 3D icon  to display the design in 3D Stitch view.

Isn't this neat! *– The pattern goes all the way to the ends of the feathering and there isn't a distinct line where the feathering pattern starts – it just blends right to the end!*

Next: Try changing the Circle from a Complex filled area to a satin and Radial fill area and apply the basic feathering to see what happens.

Note: *The Radial Feathering Side A is the outside and the Side B is the inside (where the red dot is) It is not advised to add feathering to the inside of Radial fills without moving the red dot away from the area or applying patterns to the feathering in a certain fashion – We will cover that later in this exercise.*

Feathered Edge Pattern Effects

Lets apply a pattern to the edges of *something* and put this to practical use.

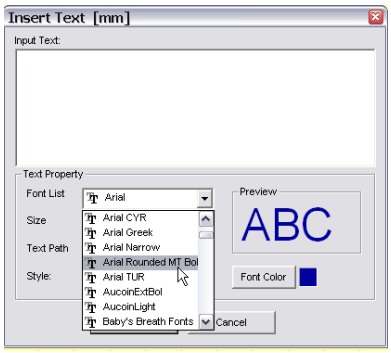
1. Create a new design file in the program by clicking on the New Design Icon  . A new blank design page will open.

2. We are going to apply this to lettering and add a pattern edge to the lettering on one side. Click on the **Insert Text** icon  and the **Insert Text Menu** will open.

3. Select the font from the font list named **Arial Rounded MT Bold** and change the color from blue to what ever color you desire.

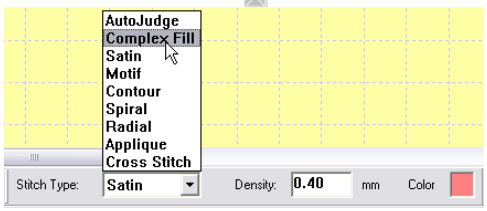
4. In the **Input Text area**, type in 3D and click on the **OK** button to insert the text into the program.

5. **Generate** to place the stitches in the lettering.



6. Click on the **color chip** on the Left hand side of the program window to select all the letters you have entered. ***All letters will be selected with blue flashing marquee lines.***

7. Change the fill type from Satin to **Complex** using the **Quick toolbar** and generate to make the changes.



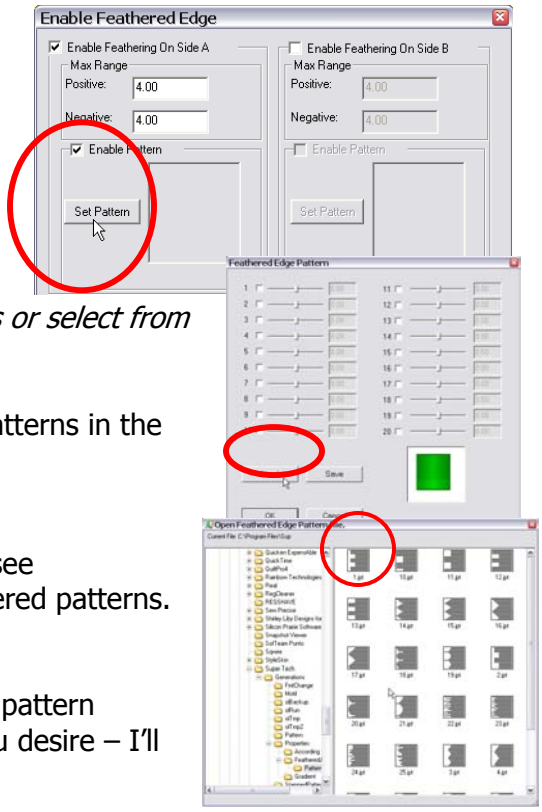
We need to generate the fill type change before we apply the feathering to the edges.

8. With the lettering still selected **with blue flashing marquee** lines, open your **stitch setting** menu by clicking on the **Stitch setting** Icon at the top of the program window.

9. Place a **check mark** next to **Use Feathered Stitch** and click on the **Edit button** to open the **Enable Feathered Edge** dialog box.

10. **Enable** the Feathering on **Side A** by placing a check mark next to that option.

11. Then place a check mark next to **Enable Pattern** and click on the **Set Pattern** button.



This will open the Feathered Edge Pattern Dialog Box and we can create our own patterns or select from the included patterns in the program.

12. Click on **Load** and we will use one of the patterns in the program.

13. After clicking on the **Load** button you will see **thumbnails images** of the included feathered patterns. Select the pattern named **1.jpt**.

That will bring you back to the Feathered Edge pattern dialog box where you can edit the pattern if you desire – I'll leave that up to you to play with a bit later –

Tip – if you like the pattern you have created click on the Save button and save the pattern for future use. The program will create a thumbnail image of the pattern you have saved.

14. Click on the **OK** button to go back to the **Feathered Edge** menu. You may change the **positive value to 5.0 mm** for this exercise. Click **OK** and apply this to the lettering by Generating new stitches in the program.

We need to add an outline to this to make this look more 3D.

15. With your letters still selected with the **blue flashing marquee** lines, **Right click in the center of one of the letters** to open the Drop down menu and select **Create Outline from Area Edges** from the menu.

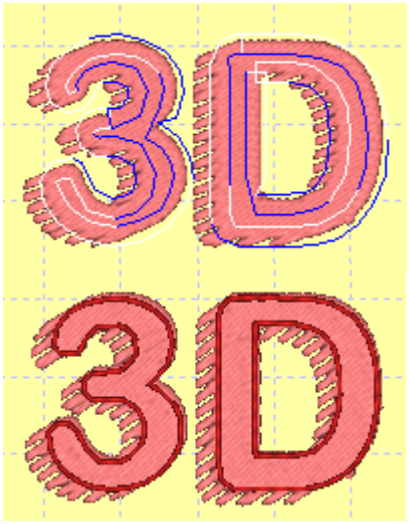
16. The **Offset** value will be 0.
    Apply the outline to **ALL Borders** and
    Select **Triple Running** for the Line Type.

    Click on Ok but Do not Generate Yet!

17. Your outline will be shown with blue flashing marquee lines but without stitches. Click on the **color chip on the Quick Tool bar** and change the color to a darker color than the fill color you have selected.

18. Generate to make the new outline stitching.

Your 3D should now look something like this:



Think of all the things that you can do with the feathering on the complex and we still have two more fill types to go!

Save this file as 3D.gen

Feathering Edge Effects with Satin Fills

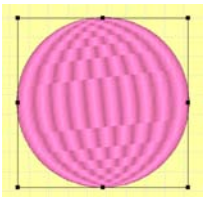
Lets go back to our Circle we created in the first design.

1. Click on **Window from the menu Bar** and select the file named **Circle1**.

2. **Right click** in the **Center** of the area to select the circle OR **Left** click on the **color chip on the Left side** of the program window.

3. When the area is selected with blue flashing marquee lines, change the fill type from **Complex to Satin on the Quick Tool bar** and **generate** to make the changes.

4. So that we are all working with the same sizes**, Left click** on the circle and select the area with **Black boxes surrounding it**.



5. Click on the **Resize** icon located at the bottom of the window on the **Object tool bar** and the resize dialog box will open.

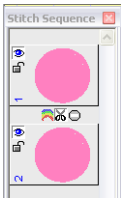
6. Change the size of **X to 60 mm** and press the Tab key on the keyboard. The Y size will automatically adjust to the correct size. Click OK to and **Generate** to set the changes.

7. Open your Stitch Sequence viewer by clicking on the Stitch Sequence icon located at the top of the program window on the View Tool Bar. The Stitch Sequence viewer will open to the left hand side in the program window.

8. Left click on the Circle to select with the black boxes and then click on the **Copy** icon located at the top on the **Standard Tool Bar**.

9. Click on the **Paste** icon located on the **Standard Tool Bar**.

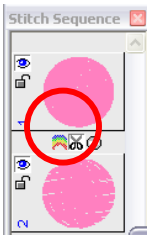
10. A second circle will appear in the **Stitch Sequence Viewer**. You have created an exact copy of the first circle.



This **new copy** is directly on top of the first circle and is now the circle that is **selected with the black boxes** in the design.

11. We are going to resize this circle and make it smaller than the first one. Click on the **resize icon** and change the size to 20 mm.

12. We need to change the color so that we can see it better in the design. Click on the **Rainbow Icon** above the second circle in the **Stitch Sequence** view and open the color palette. Change the color to Yellow.

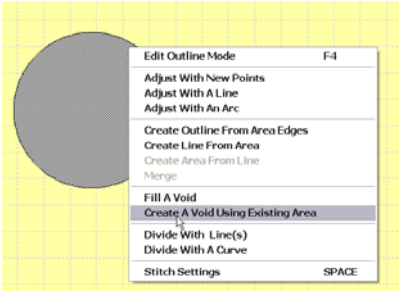


We are going to use the smaller yellow circle to create a void in the first circle.

13. **Left click** on the Pink circle in the **Stitch Sequence Viewer** to select the area. The area will be selected with blue flashing marquee lines.

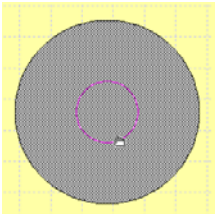
14. Click on the **View Outline**  icon on the **View Tool Bar** located at the top of the program window. The larger pink circle will be shaded with a crosshatched fill.

15. **Right click** on the **crosshatched** filled circle and open the **View Outline Editing** menu. Select **Create A Void Using Existing Area** from the drop down menu.



Your cursor will change to a **hand** cursor.

16. Move the cursor to the center of the circle until the smaller circle **outline highlights magenta.**



17. **Left click** on the highlighted smaller circle to create a **void** (or hole) in the crosshatched shaded circle. **Generate** to make the changes.

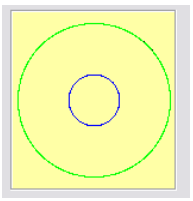
18. **Left click** on the Yellow circle and press the **DEL** key on your computer keyboard to remove it from the design.

19. Your Pink circle will now look like this:

Now we are ready to play with more feathered edge effects on the satin filled circle.

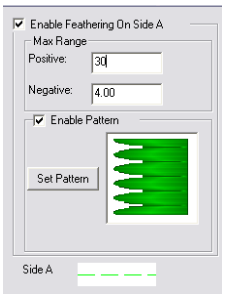
1. **Right click** on the pink circle to select it with the blue flashing marquee lines.

2. Open the **stitch settings** and select the **Use Feathered Stitch** option and edit the pattern.



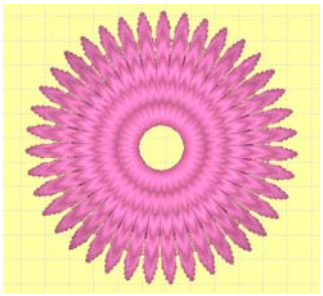
3. Note that you have a **green edge** and a **blue edge** showing in the **Feathered Edge** dialog box.

4. **Enable Side A** and change the **Positive Value to 30 mm**, then **Enable the Pattern** and select Set Pattern.



5. **Load Pattern #20** into the design and apply this to **Side A**. Select OK and generate to apply the feathered edge effect to the area.

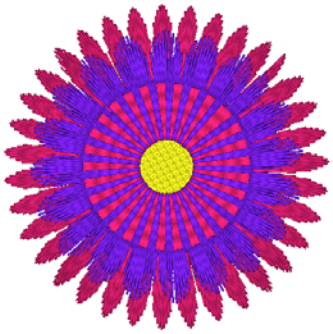
Note with the Enable Pattern the Negative value has little to no effect on the feathering unless created in a specific fashion in the pattern.



Your new Feathered pattern will now look like this:

Try applying different patterns with different positive values to the area and see what happens.

Try enabling side B with a pattern and think of the blending possibilities with flower centers!



Change the fill patterns, add a stamped pattern to the area – the possibilities are endless.

Add a couple of layers and change the density settings!

Radial Fill and Feathered Edges

The Radial Fill patterns behave similar to the Satin filled patterns when a void is created in the middle.

But they behave much differently when there is no void and you can create some wonderful fills with the radial and the feathered edge stitch.

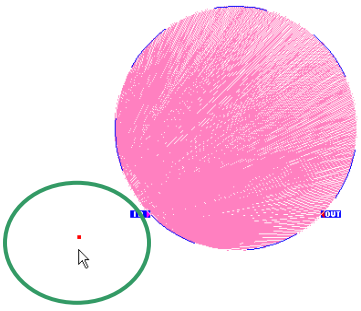
1. Create a new design file.

2. Create a circle about 3 inches large in the design and change the color to Pink.

3. **Right click** on the circle to select the area with the blue flashing marquee lines.

4. Change the fill type to **Radial** from the **Quick tool bar** and **Generate** to make the changes.

5. Make sure that the area is selected with the blue flashing marquee lines. In the **center** of the radial filled area there is a small red dot. **Left Click and drag** the **red dot** to the left and outside of the radial fill area.

   Generate to make the changes take effect. Note that the Radial fill is now radiating from a new location

6. Open the **Stitch settings** by clicking on the Stitch Setting  Icon located in the View tool bar OR by pressing the space bar on the computer keyboard.

7. Place a check mark next to **Use Feathered Stitch** and click on the **Edit** Button. The Enable Feathered Edge dialog box will open.

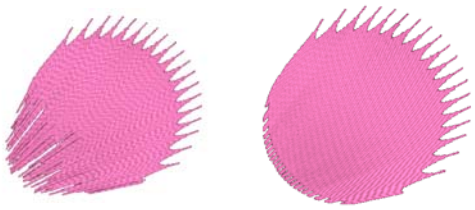
8. **Enable Side A** and then **Enable and Load** a feathered edge pattern from the patterns in the program. Change the **positive value to 10 mm** and click on OK.

9. Generate the changes. Note that Side A on the Radial Fills is the side away from the Red Dot.

10. Open the **Stitch Settings** again and click on the **Edit** button next to the Use Feathered Stitch and **enable Side B**.

11. You can change the positive or negative values without enabling a pattern or select a pattern and see what happens.



12. If you do not see any change or the pattern overlaps, **move the red dot further** away from the edge of the filled area.

Note that Side B is the side near the red dot where the pattern radiates from.

Creating Your Own Pattern and Using Negative Patterns

1. Create a new design file and a new circle. Change the fill type to Radial but leave the Red Dot in the center of the circle.

2. **Copy, paste and resize a second circle** as we did with the Satin filled areas

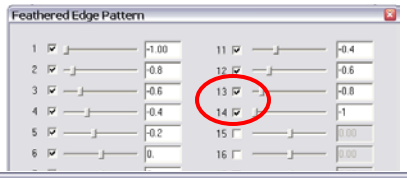
3. **Create a void** using the smaller circle and then delete the small circle from the design. (Left click and then DEL or Right Click and then CTRL+DEL)

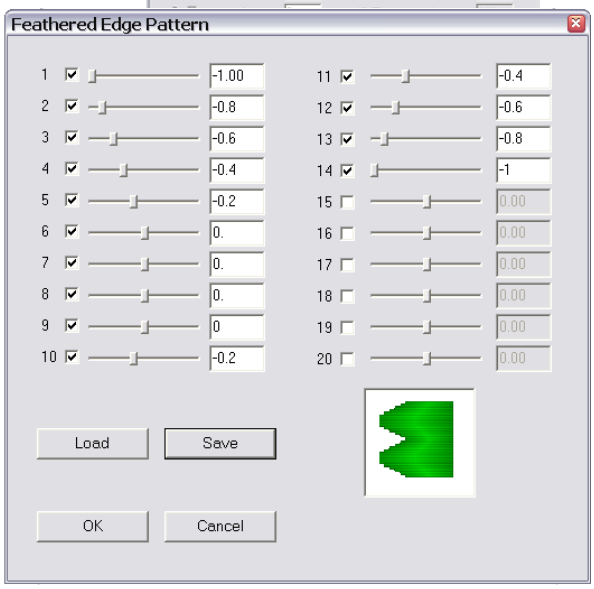
4. Open the **Stitch Settings** and select **Use Feathered Stitch** and click on the **Edit** button.

5. **Enable Side B only** and then **Enable Pattern**.

6. Click on the **Set Pattern button** and the **Feathered Edge Pattern Editor** will open.

7. To create a negative pattern, we need to select the number of **stitch points** we want to use. For this exercise, click on the square next to the **#14** showing that we will use 14 pattern stitch points.



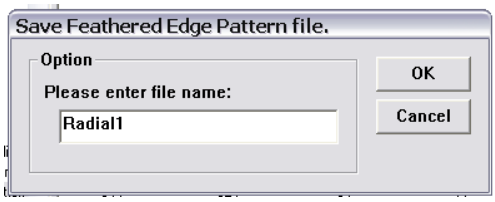


8. To create a **negative** pattern, you can slide the **slider bars to the left** and the numbers will appear as **"-"** numbers. Or you may enter the number **manually in the box** next to the check mark by entering **"-"** before each number. (i.e. –1.00)

9. Enter the values shown in the boxes from the example manually or use the slider bars.

Note that the preview of the pattern is forming in the window next to the Save button.

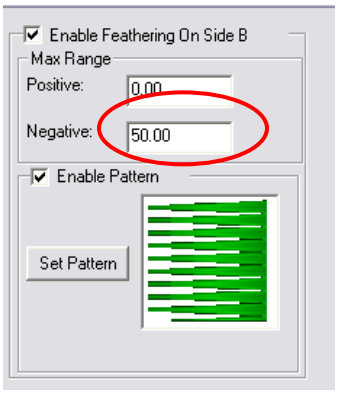
10. When you have finished editing the stitch points and like the way the pattern looks, click on the **Save** button and a dialog box will open where you may **name and save the newly created pattern.**



A new **pattern thumbnail** will be created for your saved feathered edge pattern.

11. After saving your new pattern, **Click OK** and return to the **Enable Feathered Edge** dialog box.

12. Enter a new value in the Negative value. 50 Is a good value since the effect will be dramatic.

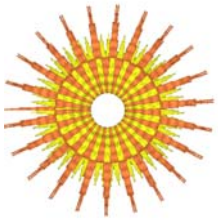


Note: remember how the negative value had no effect on the other patterns we used in the previous exercises – Those were positive patterns. Their stitch points were all to the Right of the Zero mark so the negative values didn't come into play.

For the negative fill we created, the values are all to the left of Zero so the positive values will not come into play here. Check it out. Place a zero in the negative value and a 50 in the positive value. There is no change to the fill.

13. **Click on OK and** Generate to change the area to the new settings.

14. You new fill will look like this.



Play with the settings, add layers and change the values to see what happens. You can create some interesting effect using positive and negative values.