

LOVE MY COUNTRY

By Andrea Mattina
Certified Generations Instructor

Skill Level: Intermediate -Advanced

Artwork: LDSpC244.wmf

Fonts: LD Mixed and LD Amore
From Lettering Delights Supreme

www.letteringdelights.com

Or similar fonts and images

Thread: Robison-Anton

- ★ #2270 Cranberry
- ★ #2440 Blue Ink
- ★ #2342 Nat. White
- ★ #2364 Flag



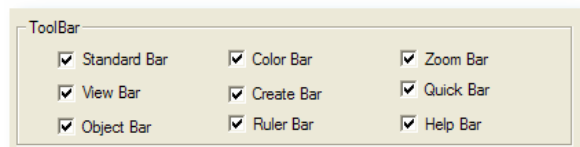
First things First

Please install the Fonts needed for this lesson in your Windows® font directory. If you need instruction on install a font onto your computer, there is a lesson on the Generations® projects and lessons page that will walk you through this process no matter what version of Windows® you are using on your computer.

In order to follow this project, we must first change our view preferences so that we can all work with the same settings.



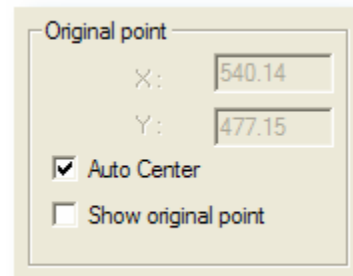
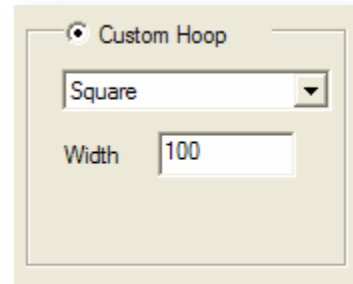
- ★ Double click the **Generations®** icon on your desktop to open the program.
- ★ Left Click on **View** at the top of your menu bar and then scroll down to select **View Preferences**.
- ★ Once in the **Preference Setting** box, make sure that you have selected the **General** tab.
- ★ In the **ToolBar** options you may want to make sure that all tool bars are selected as we will be referencing them through out the lesson.



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- ★ To select the tool bar for display, place a checkmark in the box next to the name of the tool bar.
- ★ Find the **Measurement Unit** section and make sure that it is set for **mm** for millimeters.
- ★ Next to the **Measurement Unit** section, there is an option to **Show Hoop**. Please enable this option by placing a checkmark in the box.
- ★ Left click on the **Hoop/Original Point** tab.
- ★ Find the **Custom Hoop** section and select by left clicking inside the small circle.
- ★ Change the Hoop type to **Square** by left clicking the arrow in the drop down menu box (directly underneath **Custom Hoop**).
- ★ Change the width to **100.00**.
- ★ Beneath the **Custom Hoop** are the **Original Point** options.
- ★ Please make sure that **Auto Center** is selected with a check mark next to that option.
- ★ To enable all these settings, please select **OK** by left clicking on the tab.
- ★ In the **Generations®** work area screen you should see a red square displayed.
- ★ This is the **custom hoop** that was created in the **View Preferences** menu.
- ★ Close the **Generations®** program to save these new settings.
- ★ Reopen the **Generations®** program and you are ready to begin.



*Please familiarize yourself with the Generations™ Toolbars.
You may refer to your Generations® manual on pages 32 through 50 for all
toolbar descriptions and functions.*

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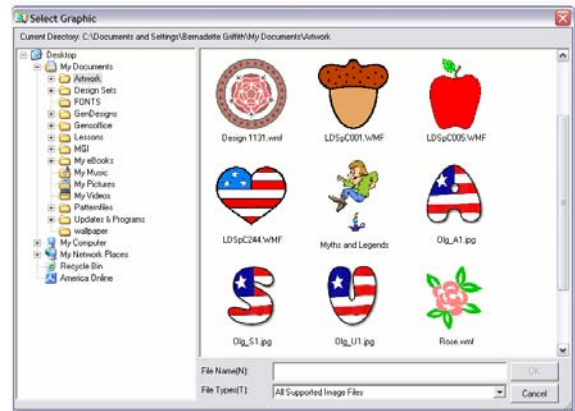
Insert Image File

1. Select **Create** by left clicking from the menu bar and select **Insert Image**.



Or, select the **Insert Image** icon from the **Create Toolbar**.

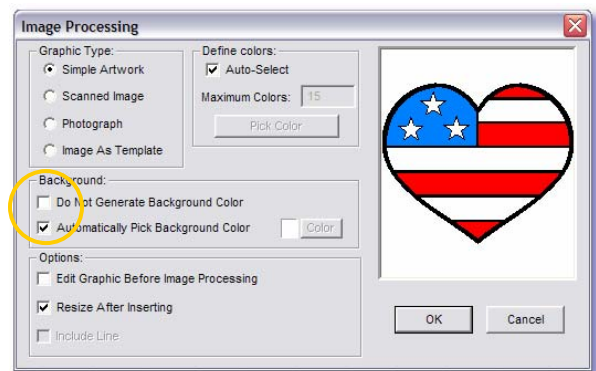
2. The **Select Graphic** menu box will be displayed with the computer directories on the left hand side and graphic thumbnails on the right hand side.
3. Select the directory where you stored the graphic file.
4. When this directory opens, the graphic file **LDSpC244.wmf** should be displayed.



5. Select this file by **double clicking** on the image to insert.

6. The **Image Processing** box will open.

7. In the **Image Processor**, find the **Background** section in the **Image Processor** box.



8. Remove the checkmark next to the **Do Not Generate Background Color** option by left clicking inside the small box.

We need to remove that option so that white stripes in the heart will generate stitches when inserted into the Generations® program.

9. Left Click the **OK** button to insert the image into the **Generations®** program.
10. The **Resize** box opens with default **X** and **Y** values. We need to change the size so that this image will fit inside our hoop.

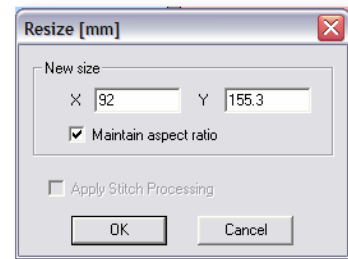
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11. Make sure that the **Maintain Aspect Ratio** box is checked so that when we change the X value, the Y value will automatically change.

12. Change the **X size to 92** and then click on **OK** and the image will be inserted into the **Generations®** program at the new size.


The image should fit inside your custom hoop that is displayed on the screen.



Do not generate the stitches yet, as we have some editing and manual digitizing to do first ☺.

Deleting Areas

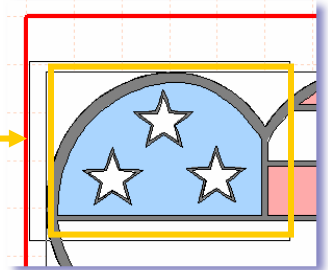
The first thing we want to do is **Zoom In** on the areas we want to delete.

1. Select the **Zoom In Icon**  from the **Zoom Toolbar** by left clicking.

2. **Press and hold the Left mouse button** and drag a box over the blue and white stars of the patriotic heart.

This will zoom or enlarge the area you selected.

Or, place the **Zoom Tool** over the blue area with white stars and **left click** until you are zoomed in completely in that area.



3. **Right click** to deactivate the zoom tool.

4. **Hold your Ctrl key down and Right Click** on the areas representing the three white stars. The stars you have selected will now shade in gray.



5. We want to delete these stars. **Press and hold down the Ctrl key and the Delete key** at the same time. The areas will be deleted.

6. Next, we want to remove the black outlines of the stars. **Repeat directions 4 and 5**, selecting the black outlines of the stars.



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Now we will start to manually punch

Insert Satin Area and Copy & Paste

You will notice when we are manually inserting areas that the image file will not be centered in the hoop displayed on the screen. You may turn off the preview of the hoop if you find this distracting by clicking on the View Preferences and removing the check mark next to Show Hoop.

In this lesson we will only create one satin area for all the stars but use the copy, paste and rotate options to create the rest of the stars.



1. Select the **Zoom In** icon on the **Zoom toolbar** and zoom in on the **bottom right star**. **Zoom In** by left clicking on the star until the star fills your screen or drag around the star to zoom in all at once on the area.

We need to be zoomed in close so that we can see what we are doing.



2. Select the **Create Satin Icon** from the **Create Toolbar**.

If you are not familiar on using the Create Satin tool, please refer to pages 141-143 in your manual for detailed instruction.

3. The cursor will now turn into a circle with a cross hair cursor.

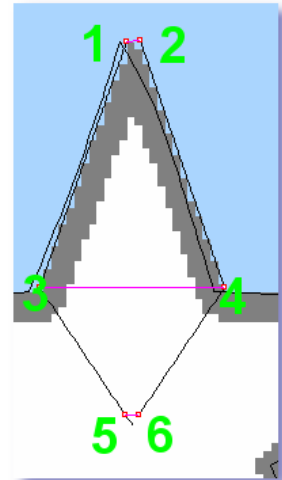
4. Using the top ray of the star and the black outlines as a guide, **Left click** the first point at the upper most left part of the black ray.

This will create a small magenta node. **Point 1**

5. **Left Click** the second point at the upper most right part of the black ray. **Point 2**

6. Pull your cursor down to the first **left** corner of the black outline and place another **left click**. **Point 3**

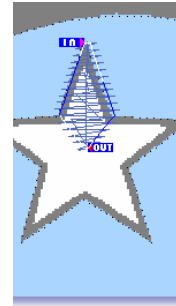
7. Move your cursor to the right and place a **left click** at the first **right** corner of the black outline. **Point 4**



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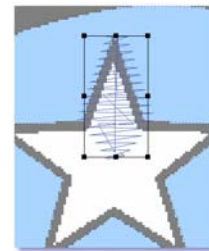
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8. Now pull the cursor towards the middle of the star to create a diamond shape at the bottom of the ray. **Left click** on a point towards the middle of the star using **point 1** as a reference. **Point 5**
9. To finish the area, place the final **left click** slightly to the right of point 5, using point 2 as a reference. **Point 6**
10. Press **Enter** on your keyboard to create the satin area.
11. Press the **ESC Key** on your keyboard to **disengage** the **Create Satin** tool.

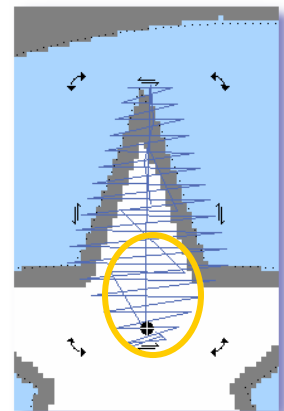


To create the rest of the star, we will copy, paste and rotate.

1. Select the newly created satin area by **left clicking** directly on the area. It will be surrounded by small black squares.
2. Select the **Copy** icon from the **Standard Toolbar**.






3. Then select the **Paste** icon from the same toolbar. This will copy the area and paste it right on top of the area we just selected.
4. With the area still selected with the black boxes, **left click** on the area to change to the **rotating options**.
5. There is a **small circle with a cross hair** in the center of the selected area. Move the mouse over that circle until your cursor changes to a **4-way arrow cursor**.
6. **Press and hold the left mouse button and drag** the circle to the bottom point of the satin area. This will change the rotation center point and make rotating the satin area easier to control.



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7. Rotate the area by placing your cursor over the upper right hand curved arrows. Your cursor will turn into a green circular arrow .
8. **Press and hold the left mouse button** when the green circular arrow appears.
9. **With the mouse button held, drag the green arrow** to the right and downwards until it is lined up with the second point of the star.
10. Release the mouse button once you have rotated the second ray into position.
If you need to move the area, but not rotate it, move the mouse over the area until the 4-way arrow appears. Press and hold the left mouse button and drag the area in to the new position.

11. With the new area still selected, copy  and paste  another section of the star.

12. Move this ray into the third position as shown using steps **4 through 10**. Your star should now look like this.

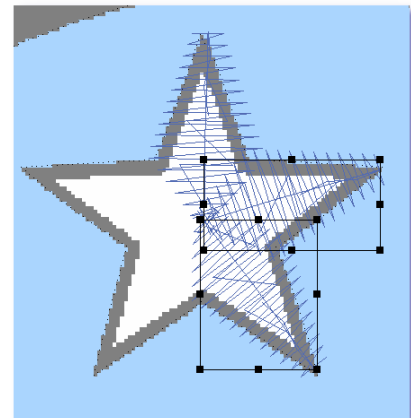
13. With the third ray still selected, press and hold the **CTRL key** on your keyboard and **left click** on the **second ray** of the star.

14. Both rays will be selected with black boxes.

15. Click on the **Group/Ungroup**  icon and group these two sections of the star together.


16. **Copy**  and **paste**  the two rays of the star into the design.

17. Click on the **Mirror Vertical**  icon and mirror the newly created rays.



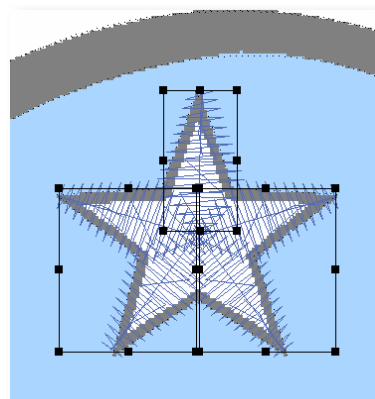
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18. Use the  key on your computer keyboard to move the new rays into position on the star.

Now, we need to group all the rays together so that it becomes one star.

19. With the new rays still selected, **hold the CTRL key on your keyboard and left click** on the other rays in the star to select them all for grouping.



20. Click on the **Group/Ungroup** icon and group all sections of the star together.

Since this is now one star, we can easily copy this star and paste it onto the other two stars we deleted.



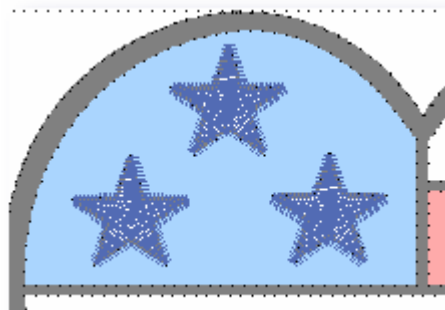
21. Click on the **Zoom Out** icon on the **Zoom Toolbar**.
22. **Left click** in the center of the star a few times until you can see all three stars on your screen.
23. With the grouped star still selected (with the black boxes), **copy** and **paste** a second star.
24. Move your cursor over the new star until you have the **4-way arrows** and then **press and hold the left mouse button and drag** the star into the bottom left hand position.

25. Repeat steps 23 and 24 for the top center star.

Now we can generate the rest of the design areas.



26. Click on the **Zoom Design** icon to see the whole design.



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27. Then click on the **Generate** icon to place stitches in the rest of the design.

Fill and Create Voids

Since we have removed and recreated the stars, we want to make sure that the areas that stitch around the stars are accurate.

1. **Right click** on the blue area around the stars to select it.

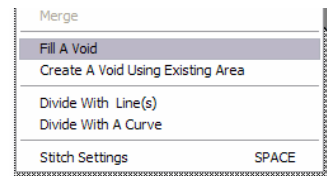


2. Click on the **Zoom Selected** icon and the selected area will fill the display area.



3. Click on the **View Outline** icon and the area will be **shaded gray** and is ready for editing.

4. **Right click again** on the shaded area and a **drop down menu** will appear.



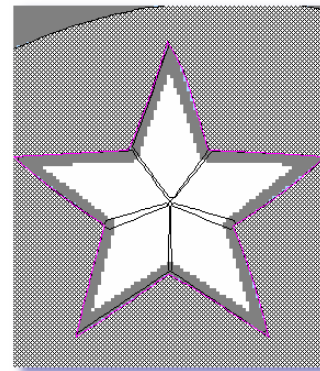
5. Select **Fill a Void** from the menu.

6. The cursor will now turn into a hand. Move the hand over each star and the **outline will turn magenta**.

7. **Left Click** to fill the Void. Repeat for the other two stars.

8. **Right click** to disengage or exit this editing function.

The area is now a solid shaded gray area.



We are now going to remove the stitching under the stars, or create voids using the new stars that we created with manual punching.

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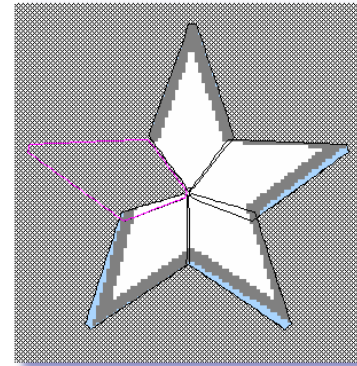
9. Make sure that blue area is still selected (it will be shaded in gray). Select **Outline** from the menu bar and choose **Create a Void Using an Existing Area**. This tool acts just opposite of **Fill A Void**.

10. The cursor will now turn into a hand (just like Fill A Void).

11. Move the cursor over the area where one of the stars is located until a **magenta line** appears on the screen.

12. **Left Click** on the **magenta line** and a **void or hole** will appear in the shaded area. Repeat for each ray on the stars until all the areas are removed from the blue background

13. Right click to disengage this editing tool.



14. Zoom the whole area by selecting the **Zoom Design** icon and **generate** to place the new stitches in the edited area.



*You will see that the stars we created are under the light blue area, this will be changed later in the **Stitch Sequence**.*

It's time to Slice and Dice



1. Left Click the **View Outline** icon on the **View Toolbar**.
2. **Right Click** on the **Black Outline of the Heart**. You will notice that all the black on the heart is one area; we need to make some changes to this so that we can have the satin stitching a little smoother.
3. **Zoom In** on the top point of the heart. We need to separate the outline from the black line attached to it.
4. Select **Outline** from the menu bar and select **Divide with Line(s)**. Your cursor will now turn into a circle with cross hairs.

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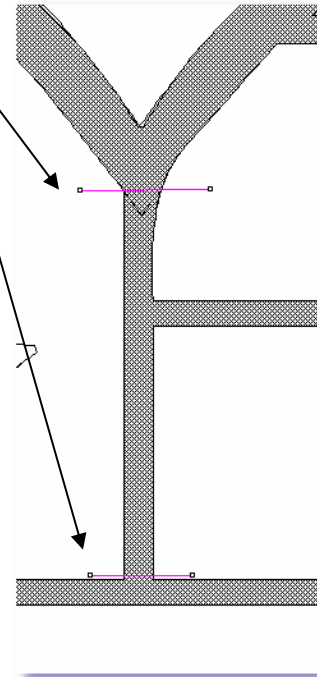
5. Place a **left click** outside of the area and then **drag the mouse** across the area to be divided and place a **second left click**.

6. **Repeat for the bottom section** of the bar so that there are two magenta lines in this section.

If you do not like the line placement or you have placed one of the nodes in the wrong position, press the Backspace key on your keyboard to remove the node and then left click in the correct position.

7. Press **Enter** on the keyboard to **divide** this area from the point on the heart.

8. Press the **Escape** key on the keyboard to disengage this tool.



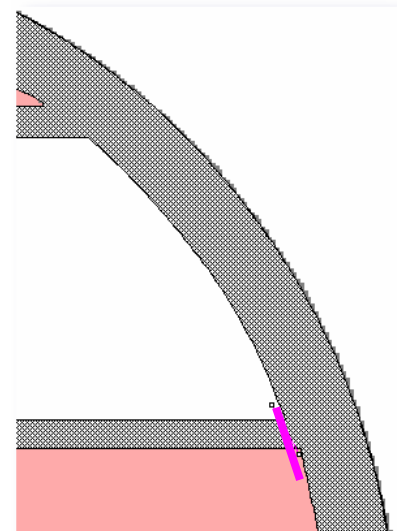
9. Move over to the **right side of the heart outline** close to the second bar down from the top.


10. With the outline still selected and shaded, click on **Outline** from the menu and then **Divide With a Line(s)**. Your cursor will now turn into a circle with cross hairs.

11. Place a **left click** outside of the area and drag the mouse across the area and place a **second left click**.

12. Press the **Enter key** on the keyboard.

13. Press the **Escape** key on the keyboard to disengage this tool.





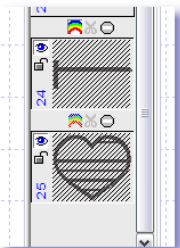
14. **Zoom Design**  and then **generate** to place new stitches in the design.

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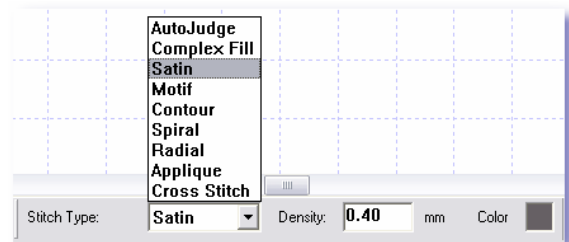
The section is now divided from the outline and we can use other editing tools to create the point and adjust the satin stitching in that area.

1. Click on the **Stitch Sequence Viewer**  icon and a new window will open on your screen.
2. To the upper left of the design window, there is the **Color Bar** displaying the colors in the design. **Left click** on the **black color chip** representing the outline. 


3. Then look in the **Stitch Sequence Viewer**. You will see the **two** sections of the black outline and the cells will be shaded gray. Look at the outlines on the screen, they will be surrounded by blue flashing lines. 

4. With these outlines selected, we will change the fill type from **Auto Judge** to **Satin** using the **Quick Toolbar**.

5. On the **Quick Toolbar**, click on the black arrow next to the **Stitch Type** and select **Satin** from the menu.



6. **Generate** to place the new fill type in the outline.
7. In the **Stitch Sequence Viewer**, **left click** on the **main** portion of the heart **outline** so that only that section will be selected.
8. **Zoom in** on the top point of the heart by **holding the left mouse button in and dragging a square** around that section of the design. *When we divided this area, we divide it straight across with a line. Now we need to create a new point for this area.*

9. With the heart outline still selected, click on the **View Outline**  icon. The area will be filled with gray shading.

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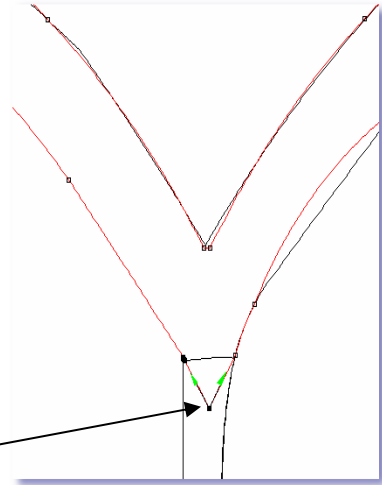


10. Click on the **Edit Mode** icon and the area will become outlined with a **red line and read nodes**.

At the point of the heart, where we divided the section of the outline away, the area is flat and we need to create a new point there.

11. In the **center of the line** where the point should be, **left click and drag the line downwards** to form a new point.

12. A small black node will be created on the line with arrows as shown here and the area now has a point as it should.



13. **Generate** to create the new stitches for the area.

The satin stitching in this area is not what it should be. As you can see here the fills are now smooth and following the flow of the outline.



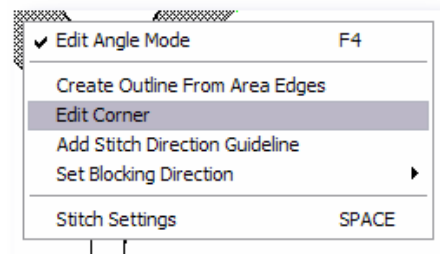
We need to use another tool to correct this problem.

1. To repair or change the satin stitching for this point, **right click** on the outline of the heart to select the area if the outline is no longer selected.



2. Click on the **View Angle** icon and the outline will be filled with gray shading and have **red lines with green nodes** on the ends of the lines. This is the satin stitch editing tool.

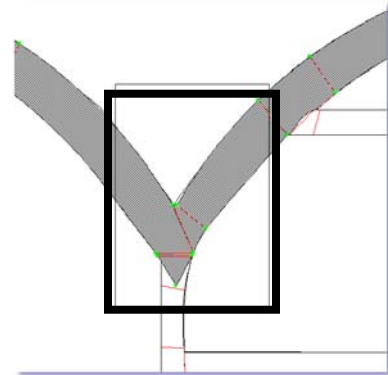
3. **Right click** on the **shaded outline** and select **Edit Corner** from the menu.



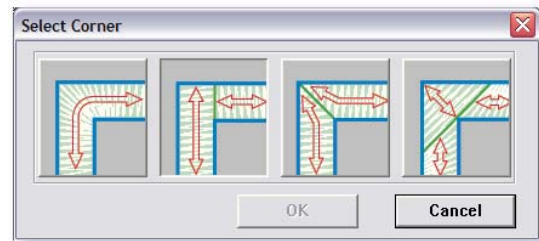
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4. **Draw a small square around the point**, taking care to enclose the point, but not too much else of the outline. You may have to try this a few times to get the area selected.



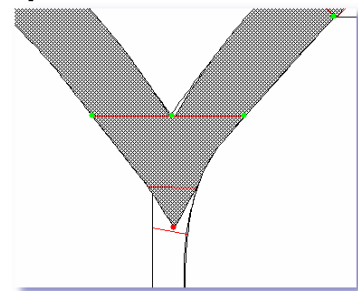
5. A small window will open displaying the corner options available in the program.



6. Select the corner type you would like the point to have but bear in mind if the program cannot create that corner for the shape you will receive a message asking you to select another corner option.

7. For our design, we select the last option called a **Cap Corner**.

8. The program will **display** the changes in **View Angle** mode and you may adjust the nodes as desired for the corner you have selected by left clicking on the green nodes and dragging them into the position desired.



9. **Generate** to place the changes into the design.

10. Check the bottom point on the heart to see if that needs editing as well.

Let's change some stitch types and colors.

Changing Stitch Properties

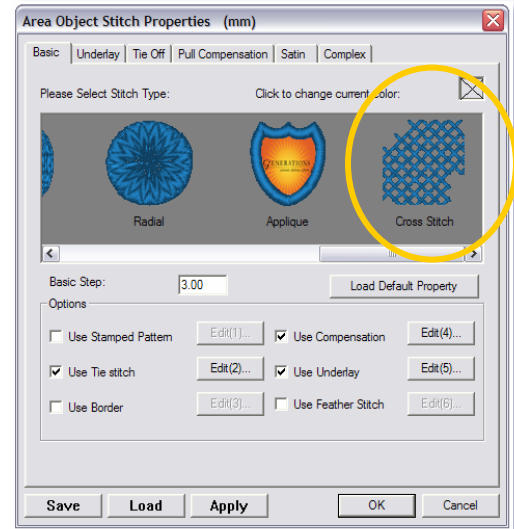
1. **Right Click** off to the side of the design so that you have nothing selected.
2. We need to select multiple areas of the design. **Hold the Ctrl Key** down on the keyboard while **right clicking** the **red and white stripes of the heart**. This will select all the striped areas. There will be a **blue and white marquee** "dancing" around each red and white striped area.

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3. **Left Click** on the **Stitch Settings** icon on the **View Toolbar**. This will open the **Area Object Stitch Properties** dialog box. We want to change the stitch fills of the stripes to a **Cross Stitch** fill type.
4. **Left Click** on the scroll bar and drag it to the right until you see the cross-stitch fill type.
5. **Left Click** on the **Cross Stitch** thumbnail.
6. Select the **Cross Stitch Tab** to open the **Cross Stitch Properties**.
7. Place a **checkmark** in the box next to the **Use Gradient Border** option.



*Since there is so much satin stitching on the outline we also need to **Increase the Pull Compensation** for that area.*

8. Click on the **Compensation Tab** at the top of the Area Object Stitch Properties box to change those settings.
9. Change the **Standard Value** to **0.50**.
10. **Left click OK** to exit the **Area Object Stitch Properties** menu.
11. When you are back in the design screen, **right click** off to the side of the design to remove all areas from the selection.
12. Then **Generate Stitches**.

We need to group the design pieces together.

1. Click on **Edit from the menu**. Choose **Select** and then **Select All**. This will select all pieces of the design and they will be surrounded by black boxes.

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2. Click on the **Group/Ungroup** icon and all the sections will be grouped together.

Adding Lettering

We will be using 2 different types of fonts for our design. Please make sure that these fonts are installed on your Windows® system. If you need instruction on installing fonts, please download the lesson on the Generations® website.



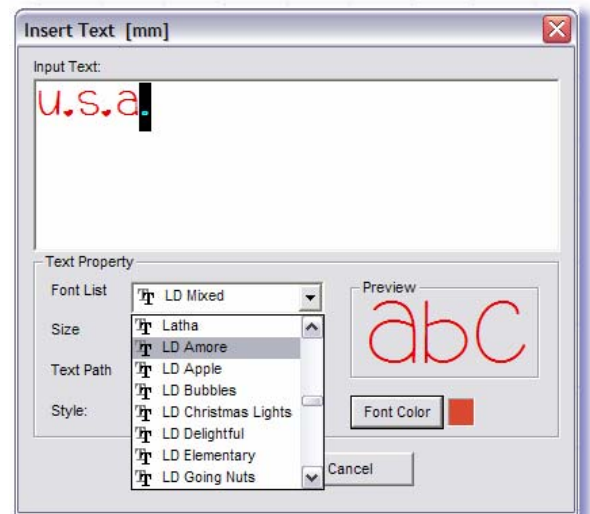
1. **Left Click** on the **Insert Text Icon** on the **Create Bar**. This will bring up your Text Box.
2. First, select the **LD Mixed** Font and set the **Size equal to 20.00**. In the **Style Property**, check the **Bold Option**.
3. Type **U.S.A.** in the **Input Text Box**.

Now, we are going to change the periods after each letter to a different font.

1. Highlight just the period after the U by **left clicking and dragging over just the period**.
2. After selecting just that letter, choose **LD Amore** from your **Font List** by left clicking on the drop down arrow and selecting it from the list of installed fonts.


This will change just the period you highlighted.

3. **Repeat** for the periods after the S and A.
4. After changing the periods, **press OK** and this will insert your text into the design.



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5. **Generate** the stitches. The letters have been automatically placed in the center of the hoop.
6. The U.S.A. should still be **selected**. If not, **left click** on the **U.S.A** to select the lettering.
7. **Press and hold the left mouse button and then drag** the text below the heart design. Now, we will center align it with the heart.
8. With the lettering still selected, **press and hold** the **Ctrl key**. **Left clicking** on the grouped heart design. Both areas selected.
9. Select the **Align Vertical Center Tool**  on the **Object Toolbar** to center the two areas.

We need to change the colors to match the Red, White, and Blue theme.

1. **Left click** on the bottom **red color chip** on the **Color Bar**.
2. **Right click** on the first **red color chip** on the **Color Bar**. Now both reds are the same color.
3. **Left click** on the **dark blue color chip** on the **Color Bar**. This will select all the dark blue areas – all the stars we created.
4. **Right click** on the **white color chip** on the **Color Bar**. This will change all the stars to white.
5. Your Color Bar should look similar to this:



Now we need to sort these colors so that we can stitch the red and the white sections of the design together and have the black outline stitch last.

LOVE MY COUNTRY

By Andrea Mattina
Certified Generations Instructor

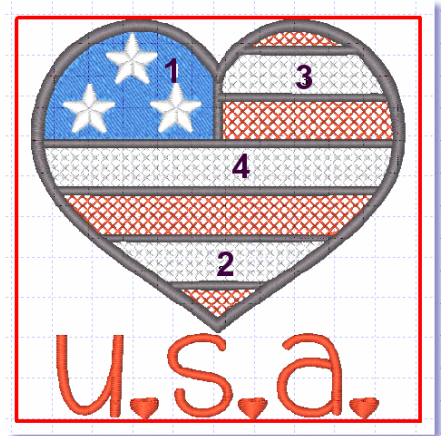
Setting the Stitching Order


To set the stitching order we need to figure the best possible way to stitch this out. First, look at your colors – what colors should stitch first? As I have looked at it, it looks best to sew the **Blue first, then Red, then White, and finally Black.**

1. Select **Accessories** from the menu bar and choose **Set Stitching Order**. This will turn your cursor into a little hand.
2. Since we were very logical when we created the stars ☺ we have little work to do here. **Left click** on the area as follows:

- ★ Blue Background
- ★ Bottom White Stripe
- ★ Top White Stripe
- ★ Middle White Stripe

3. The program will place **small numbers** on the areas as you click on each section. If you make a mistake, press **Backspace** on the keyboard and select the correct area.
4. When you are done selecting the areas, press the **Enter** key.



5. Open the **Stitch Sequence Viewer**  if you have closed it and look at the new stitching order.

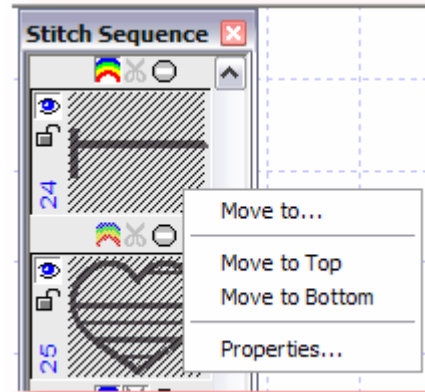
Since we had created the stars first, they were in the top of the stitching order. When we selected the blue and then the white stripes, we moved the blue to the first stitching position and the stripes in positions 2-4, above the stars.

Now to move the outline to the bottom of the stitching order.

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6. **Left click** on the black color chip on the Color Bar. The two black outlines are selected and shaded in the Stitch Sequence Viewer.
7. **Right click** on one of the shaded cells in the Stitch Sequence Viewer and a menu will open.
8. Select the **Move to Bottom** option and the outline will be placed in the last stitching position.
9. Look at the black outline and make sure that the two sections are the same as shown here. If not, select the largest section of the outline in the **Stitch Sequence Viewer** with a **right click** and **move it to the bottom**.
10. Look at the red stripes and the lettering. The lettering should be stitching after the red stripes. The red stripes should stitch from the top down.
11. If you are satisfied with your stitching order, **right click** off to the side of the design to deselect all areas.
12. **Generate** the whole design one last time and save it.



Exporting for Stitching

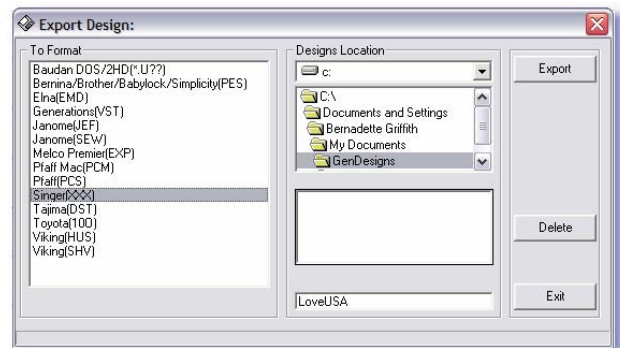


1. Select the **Export** icon on the **Standard Toolbar**.
2. The Export dialog box will open and you may select the machine format and export location desired.

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3. Select your stitch file format on the left hand side of the **Export Designs** menu.



4. Select the proper drive and folder on the right hand side by using the drop down menu if necessary.
5. The name of the saved design will be displayed in the bottom right of the box.
6. If you have not saved the design the name would show as Unsaved# or you could enter a design name for the file.
7. After exporting the design, you are ready to start stitching!

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

