

Advanced Quilt Design: Instruction Manual

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CHAPTER 1

Workspace Overview

In this section, we introduce the workspace and the tools you will find there, and also details setting your workspace default settings using the Preferences tool.


Topics covered in this chapter:







- Description of the workspace areas
- Overview of the Tools and functions of the workspace tabs.
- Setting up the design workspace environment
- The functions of the Library panel





The Workspace - Overview

The image below shows the Advanced Quilt Design workspace, showing the various different areas. The sections that follow give a brief description of the properties/functions of each.

Quick Access Tools

At the top left-hand corner of the window is the Quick Access  tool. Click on this button to expand a list access to a menu of useful tools, such as New, Save, Print, and several others. Also on the quick access drop down, a list of recent design files will be displayed. Just double-click on the file name to open it.

Tool	What it means
	New Quilt: Creates a new Quilt, which opens in its own tab.
	New Block: Opens a new tab on which you can create a new custom block.
	Open: Opens an existing design file.
	Save: Saves the current design.
	Save As: Opens the Save As dialog, allowing you to choose the destination and file type to save it as.
	Export Image: Creates an image file based on the current design, which can be saved as a *.bmp, *.jpg, or *.pig file.

Tool	What it means
	Direct Print: Opens the printer dialog on your computer, allowing you to choose your printer and adjust the printer's properties.
	Print Preview: Opens the print preview window, which in turn will let you print the current design.
	Print Setup: Opens the print setup dialog, which allows you to select the printer, and to modify print properties.
	Exit: Closes all open files and shuts down the software; you will be prompted to save any open files.


Welcome Screen

When you initially open the program, the Welcome screen will open on top of the workspace. The welcome screen includes links to some very useful web pages, including:

- **Blog:** Click this link to find a large selection of instructional project pages and sewing tips.
- **Projects:** Links to Brother Embroidery Crafting Projects page. On this page, you will find downloadable sewing & embroidery patterns, ScanNCut projects, Brother newsletters, and more.
- **Support:** This link takes you to the Brother Sewing and Embroidery machines page, where you will find information on machines, software, and finding a Brother dealer near you.
- The **Events** page, which keeps you informed about embroidery-related shows and events in your vicinity.



Also on the Welcome screen, you will find buttons with these functions: Creating a new design, opening an existing design, opening the most recently used design, and opening the help files.

When you open a design or create a new one, the Welcome Screen will automatically close. If you want to re-open the Welcome screen, select the View tab and click the Welcome  icon.





Workspace Tabs

The four workspace tabs are arranged across the top of the Advance Quilt Designer workspace. Under these, you will find the tool icons for creating and editing quilt projects and individual quilt blocks.

Quilt Tab

Refer to the Quilt tab when you are building new quilts, or modifying an existing quilt design. On this tab, you can set the following quilt properties.

- **Layout** (number of blocks in the quilt, across and down)
- **Block size** (width and height)

- **Sashing:** The spacing between blocks in the quilt. In the sashing fields, you can independently set the horizontal and vertical sashing dimensions. You can also select the sashing line style (solid/dashed).
- **Border:** The border settings you can adjust include the number of borders, the horizontal and vertical dimensions, and the border style (corners).
- **Block Select**  tool.
- **Piece Select**  tool
- **Picture Quilt**  tool
- **Quilt Variation**  tool.



For details on the Picture Quilt and Quilt Variation Player tools, refer to the corresponding sections in the “Using Special Design Tools” section of this guide.





- **Zoom tools:** These tools include the Zoom in, Zoom out, Zoom to fit, Zoom to fit, and Pan tools.

Block Tab

On the Block tab, you will find the tools and settings relating to individual quilt blocks. You can use the tools to create new custom blocks, and to modify existing blocks.







The following properties of the current Block can be adjusted on this tab.

- **Style:** When you are filling in the piece of a custom block with color, the block tab overlays an array of “cells” that you select and fill in. There are five different styles that can be applied: Rectangle, Triangular, Triangle up, Triangle down, or On Point.

- **Across / Down** block dimensions: The horizontal and vertical dimensions of the overlay grid, in terms of the number of cells
- **Width/Height:** Absolute size of the block (in inches or mm).
- **Piece Select**  tool.
- **Lasso Piece Select**  tool.
- **Unite**  tool: Used merges separate pieces in a block/quilt so they can be treated as a single piece.
- **Break Up**  tool: Used to break up pieces that have previously been joined with the Unite tool.
- **Zoom tools:** These tools include the Zoom in, Zoom out, Zoom to fit, Zoom to fit, and Pan tools.






Tools Tab

The tools tab contains tools that can be used to select and modify blocks and individual pieces in the quilt. It also includes two special tools, the Export Project and Color Theme designer tools.

- **Block Select**  tool.
- **Piece Select**  tool
- **Color Theme Designer**  tool.
- The **Rotate Left**  and **Rotate Right**  tools
- **Export Project**  tool

View Tab

The View tab holds a number of different tools that you can use to change the appearance of the workspace. It also includes a number of check boxes, which can be checked or unchecked to show or hide other workspace areas, such as the Color Palettes and the Library.

- **Welcome Screen**  tool.
- **Grid**  tool: Toggles the workspace grid on and off.
- **Background**  tool: Allows you to choose a color or fabric image for the workspace background.
- **Backdrop**  tool: Allows you to place an image within pieces. Also included here are tools for adjusting the backdrop image. See “Loading a Backdrop—Backdrop Settings” for or information.
- Show/Hide boxes for the following workspace areas:
 - Palette
 - Block Colors
 - Popup Palette
 - Status
 - Blocks
 - Library
- The Preferences  tool.



The Program preferences dialog opens dialog which allows you to change the Environment and Grid settings. For more information, see “Setting up the Workspace Environment”, later in this chapter


Block and Library Panels


The Library and Block panels are located to the right side of the workspace. In the Library panel, you see a list of categories of blocks, including a “Custom” category for the blocks you create.

When you select a category in the Library, the Blocks panel will display thumbnail images of the quilt blocks in that category. You can then drag these onto the Quilt tab to build your quilt. See [Creating a New Quilt—Adding Blocks to a Quilt](#) for details.

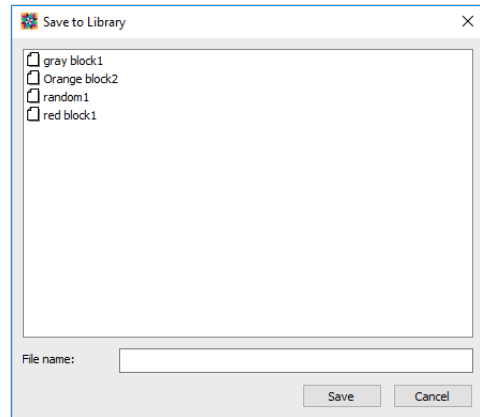
At the top of the library panel there are two folders - “My Blocks” and “My Quilts” - into which you can save your own blocks and quilt designs. Once saved to the library, these will be readily available for you to open by selecting these folders.

Saving a block or quilt to the library:

- 1 On the Quick Access  menu, select the

Save to Library  tool.

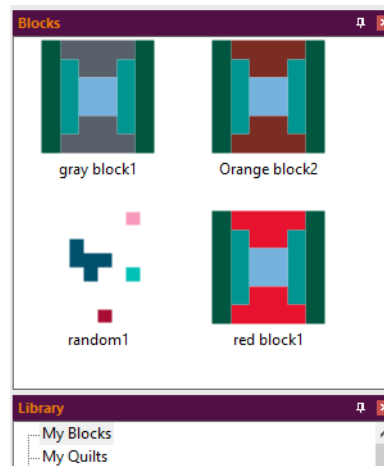
You see the Save to library dialog.



The dialog will list any block files (if you are saving a block) or quilt files (if you are saving a quilt) that have already been saved to these folders.

- 2 In the Name field, enter a new name for the block/quilt.
- 3 Click Save.

The design will be saved to the appropriate folder. When you select either the “My Blocks” or “My Quilts” folder, thumbnails of the designs will appear in the preview panel at the top of the library panel.



Working with Fill Colors

Color Palette

The Palette shows all the available colors that you can apply to a quilt block. It consists of a series of squares (“swatches”) and is located along the bottom of the workspace. You can select any color from the Color Palette, and add it to the Block colors palette.

To show the Palette, or Block Colors palette open the View tab, and check the corresponding check box. Alternatively, if you want to hide either palette, uncheck the corresponding box.

Block Colors Palette

The Block Colors palette shows the colors that are used in the current design. This palette keeps all the colors that are in use in a single array, for easy reference.

To add a color to the Block Colors palette, first select a quilt piece using the Piece Select tool. Then, on the Color Palette, click on the color “swatch” that you want to add. The selected piece will be filled with the new color, and this color will also be added to the list of Block Colors.



The palettes: Block Colors (top) and color Palette (below).

Status Line

The Status Line appears at the bottom of the Advanced Quilt Design workspace. This line displays the dimensions of the quilt or block that is currently “on top” in the workspace.

Note the information in the Status Line changes according to the context; when a quilt is open, it will show the size of the quilt, and when a block tab is open, it will display the block size.



You can hide/show the Status line in the View toolbar.

Setting up the Workspace Environment

Advanced Quilt Design allows you to set up your design workspace environment for all opened design files. You can predetermine the units of measurement you want to use for your designs, as well as decide how often open design files get saved.

The preferences dialog also allows you choose the image editing program to use when editing a backdrop image. The designated image editing program will open when you select Backdrop Tool—Edit Backdrop.

See “Working with Quilts & Quilt Blocks—Loading a Backdrop Image”).

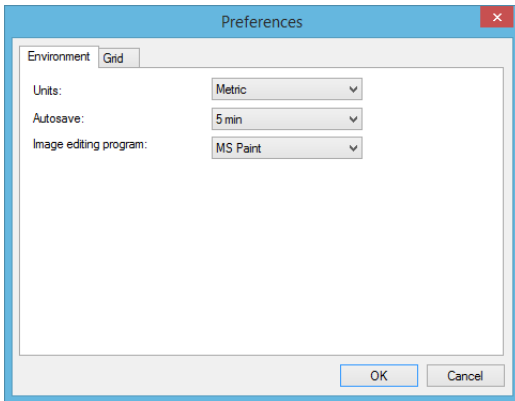
To set up your workspace environment

- 1 On the View tab, click the Program

Preferences  tool.

You see the Preferences dialog box.

- 2 Click the Environment tab.



- 3 From the Units list, select the units of measurement you want used for your designs: Metric or inches.



You can also select the units of measurement in your design workspace; to do this, right-click on one of the rulers and select **Metric** or **English** from the context menu.

- 4 From the Image editing program list, select the image editing program you want to use. If you want to use a program not listed, select Other Program and browse to the location of the program.
- 5 Click OK.

Setting up the Workspace Grid


The workspace grid can be used to help you align and measure artwork elements in your quilt design. You can display/hide the grid by checking/unchecking the box in the area of the Home tab.

By default, every horizontal and vertical line will be highlighted in the major grid. If you want to have additional guide lines, you can add more major grid lines as well as a minor grid.

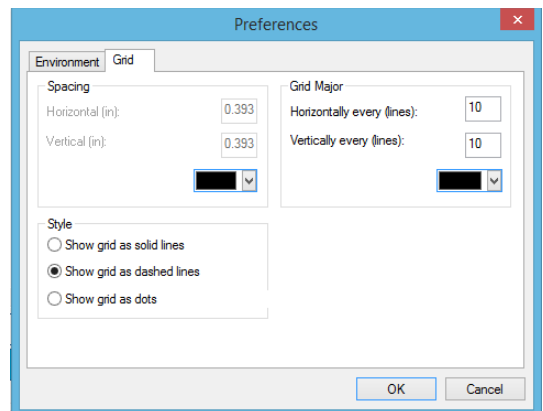
You can increase or decrease the spacing of the minor grid. The minor grid can also have different horizontal and vertical spacing values.

To make grid lines more visible on particular backgrounds, you can change the color of the major and minor grids. If you prefer, different colors can be applied to the major and minor grids.

To define grid settings:

- 1 On the View tab, click Preferences  tool and select the Grid tab.

You see the Grid settings dialog.



- 2 In the Grid Minor area, complete the following:
 - ♦ In the Horizontal spacing box, enter the measurements for horizontal spacing in millimeters or inches.
 - ♦ In the Vertical spacing box, enter the measurements for vertical spacing in millimeters or inches.
 - ♦ From the Color list, select a predefined color to use for the minor grid. If you want to choose from a larger selection


of colors, click Custom from the color box.

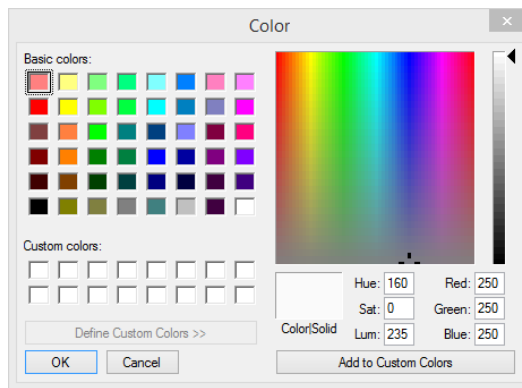
- 3 In the Grid Major area, complete the following:
 - ♦ In the Horizontally Every (lines) box, enter how often you want horizontal lines to be highlighted in the major grid. For example, if you enter 3 in this box, every third horizontal line will be highlighted in the major grid.
 - ♦ In the Vertically Every (lines) box, enter how often you want vertical lines to be highlighted in the major grid. For example, if you enter 5 in this box, every fifth vertical line will be highlighted in the major grid.
 - ♦ From the Color list, select a predefined color to use for the major grid. If you want to choose from a larger selection of colors, click Custom from the color box.
- 4 In the Style area, select one of the following grid styles:
 - ♦ Show grid as solid lines.
 - ♦ Show grid as dashed lines.
 - ♦ Show grid as dots.
- 5 Click OK.

Changing the Workspace Background

Depending on the color values of the Quilt or Block you are creating, you may want to change the background color of the workspace to a color other than white, to contrast better; or, if you want to use a fabric image as the workspace background you can select a fabric image instead. You can apply either of these options in Advanced Quilt Design.

To change the background color of the Workspace:

- 1 Select either the View tab.
- 2 Click the Background  tool.
- 3 To change the background to a different color, do the following:
 - ♦ On the drop-down, click Select Color.
 You see the colors dialog.



- ♦ On the Color dialog, select the desired background color from the one of the color swatches.

If you do not see a suitable color in the Basic colors matrix (left side of the dialog), click in the color “rainbow” on the right to select a different color. Then, click “Add to Custom Colors”. The new color will now appear in the Custom Colors area of the dialog, where it can be selected.



- ♦ Click OK.

The new color chosen replaces the old color on your design workspace.

- 4 To change the workspace to show a fabric background, do the following:
 - ♦ On the Background tool drop-down list, select Select Fabric.

You see the Load Fabric dialog.

- ♦ In the Look in field, navigate to the directory or folder containing the fabric images.
- ♦ Select a fabric image, and click OK.

The fabric will appear in the background; the image will be tiled so as to fill the whole background.

Adding new fabrics to the palette

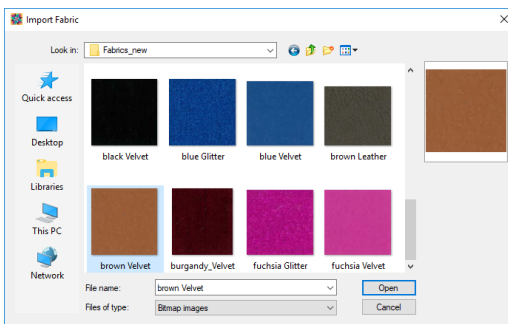
When “Fabrics” is selected on the Popup Palette, an “Add...” button appears on the dialog. This button opens a dialog that allows you to import new fabric images into the palette, so that you can quickly and easily use them in designs.



The images you import can be in any of the following formats: *.bmp, *.jpg, *.tif, *.pcx, *.pct or *.tga.

To Add new fabrics:

- 1 In the Popup Palette, select the Fabrics radio button.
- 2 Click the Add... button in the palette dialog.
You see the Import Fabric dialog.
- 3 In the Import Fabric dialog, browse to the folder containing the fabric images you want to add.



- 4 Select the fabric you want to add by clicking on its thumbnail; to select multiple images and import them simultaneously, hold down the Ctrl key while clicking.
- 5 Click Open.

The Import Fabric dialog will close, and the selected fabric(s) will now be available in the Popup Palette.


Using Zoom Tools

Use Zoom to magnify or reduce in size the design view. With Zoom enabled you can either left-click to enlarge your design or right-click to make your design smaller.

When you select Zoom, the cursor changes to a small magnifying glass. To use the Zoom tool, do one of the following:

- To zoom in on the spot where the mouse is currently pointing, left-click.
- To zoom out again, right-click.
- To zoom in on a particular area, left-click and drag; the display will expand to show only the area that you have dragged over.





To use the Zoom Tool:

- 1 On the Tabs bar, select either of the Quilt or Block tabs.
- 2 On the tab, click the Zoom  tool.
The pointer becomes a magnifying glass.
- 3 Do either of the following:

- ♦ Left-click to make your design larger.
- ♦ Right-click that area to make your design smaller.

Additional Zoom Options


Aside from the basic Zoom tool, the Zoom area of the Quilt and Block tabs include these other tools for enlarging/reducing the magnification of the workspace:

- **Zoom In**  to make your design larger.
- **Zoom Out**  to make your design smaller.
- **To Fit**  to make the whole design fit in the design window.
- **1:1**  to see the design at the actual size.

Opening an Existing Quilt Design

If you have a quilt or block design that has been saved to disk, and you want to modify it, use the Open tool.

To open an existing design:

- 1 On the Quick Access toolbar, click the Open  tool.
You see the Open Design dialog box.
- 2 In the Look in list, browse to the location of the file you want to open.
- 3 In the File name box, enter the file name, or select the file you want to open by clicking the file.



To limit the number of displayed designs in the Open Design dialog, you can enter the first letter of the design name, followed by an asterisk (*) and the file extension.

- 4 Select Preview to view a thumbnail (a small representation) of the design.
- 5 Click Open.



Saving Designs

You can use Save or Save As to save blocks and quilt designs.

Save and Save As

The Save As command lets you save an alternative version of the design with a different name, location, or file format. Save As is handy when you want to keep your original design and create another design with slight modifications. The Save command saves the changes you make to the current design.

To save a design:

- 1 Do one of the following:
 - ♦ On the Quick Access toolbar, select the Save  or Save As  tools.
 - ♦ Press Ctrl + S on the keyboard.
You see the Save As dialog box.
- 2 In the Save in list, browse to the location you want to save your file. You can save design files to your hard drive or external memory device.
- 3 In the File Name box, enter the file name for the design you want to be saved.
- 4 In the Save As type list, select the file type you want the design to be saved as.
- 5 Click Save.
The Quilt or Block will be saved in the selected location.

CHAPTER 2

Working with Quilts & Quilt Blocks


The tools on the Quilt tab and the Block tab are used to create quilt designs and quilt blocks. On the library panel, you can select existing blocks and drag them onto a quilt grid, in order to put together a complete Quilt design.

You can also make new Blocks and customize the color of the pieces within them.

Topics covered in this chapter:

- Assembling new quilts
- Loading a backdrop image.
- Creating a custom quilt block
- Using Block editing tools.
- Outputting designs to the printer
- Exporting designs as image files


Creating a New Quilt

When you open a new quilting project, use the New Quilt  tool. You will see this tool on the Welcome screen when you first open the program, or at the top of the workspace on the Quick Access toolbar.

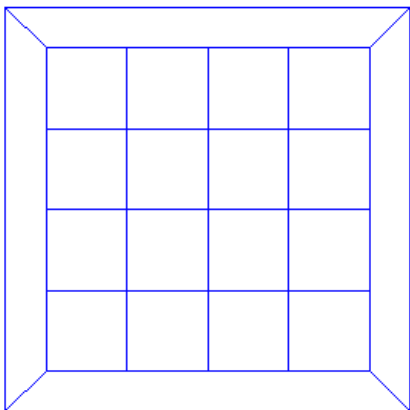
When you open a new quilt, you will see that it has some default properties assigned to it; for example, it will have a 4 × 4 block layout and 8-in × 8-in blocks. However, these defaults (and others) can be adjusted using the control fields and options on the Quilt tab -- see the following procedure for details.

To create a New Quilt:

1 Do one of the following:

- ♦ Click on the New Quilt  tool.
- ♦ Press Ctrl+N on the keyboard.

A new quilt grid appears in the workspace, on its own tab.



2 To adjust the properties of the new quilt, first select the Quilt tab.

3 In the **Blocks** area of the Quilt tab, adjust the following settings:

- ♦ Set the number of columns and rows of blocks in the quilt by entering the desired values in the **Across** and **Down** fields, respectively.
- ♦ Adjust the width and/or height of the quilt blocks by entering the desired values in the **Width (in)** and **Height (in)** fields, respectively.





Note that any of these values can also be adjusted up and down by clicking the arrows to the right of the corresponding field.

4 The **Sashing** property sets the spacing between rows and columns within the Quilt Grid. Initially, the quilt will be created without sashing. To include sashing in the quilt, do the following:

- ♦ Enter the desired amount of horizontal sashing the **Horizontal (in)** field.
- ♦ Enter the desired amount of vertical sashing in the **Vertical (in)** field.
- ♦ (Optional) Select the **Line Style** for the sashing; from the drop-down list, select either Solid or Dashed.

5 In the **Border** area do the following to configure the quilt's border pieces:

- ♦ Set the number of borders you want around the quilt. By default, a new quilt will include one border, but you can add additional borders by clicking the small  icon. (To reduce the number of borders, click the small  icon).
- ♦ To adjust the dimensions of the Border pieces, do the following:
 - ♦ Click on one of the border pieces to select it

- ♦ In the Height and Width fields, adjust the height and width of the selected border.

The border piece size will changed accordingly.

- ♦ Repeat for other borders, if applicable.
- ♦ Select the corner style you want to apply to the border pieces. Choose one of the following from the drop-down list:
 - ♦ Mitered.
 - ♦ Blocked.
 - ♦ Strip Horizontal.
 - ♦ Strip Vertical.
- ♦ Repeat for the other borders around the quilt, if applicable.




If you have created multiple borders note that you can select all borders by right-clicking and choosing "Select all borders" from the context menu. In this way, any adjustments you make to the height, width or corner style will be applied to all of them simultaneously.

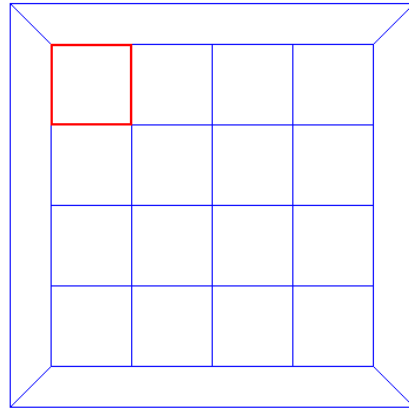
6 Save the Quilt.

Adding Blocks to the Quilt

Once the quilt "grid" (design) has been set up as required for your project, you will want to add quilt blocks to it. You can add blocks by dragging and dropping them directly from the Library. You can also build the quilt by cutting and pasting blocks within the quilt grid, or by dragging a dropping an existing block that is already part of the quilt.

To add a Block to the quilt project:

- 1 On the Quilt tab, click the Select block  tool.
- 2 Click on a block outline to select it.

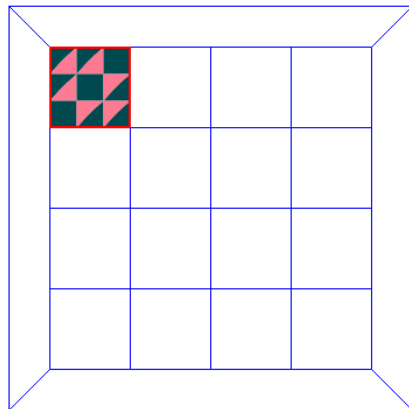


- 3 In the Library, click on one of the block categories (e.g. Flowers, Paths, Pinwheels, etc) to select it.

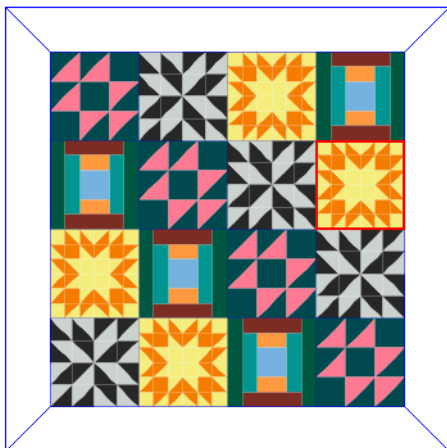
The blocks in the selected category will now be previewed in the Blocks panel.

- 4 In the Blocks panel, click on the block you want to add to select it, then drag and drop it to place it on the grid.

The block will be placed in selected square of the quilt grid.




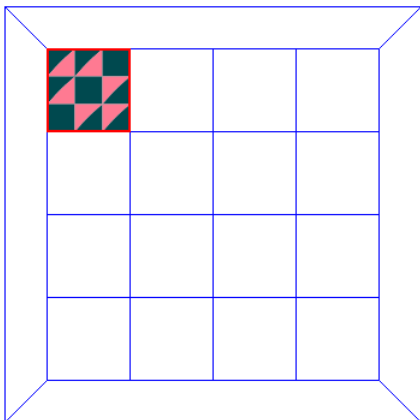
- 5 Repeat the above step(s) to fill each square in the grid.



6 Save the Quilt design.

To place blocks by pasting:

- 1 On the Quilt tab, click the Block Select  tool.
- 2 In the Quilt grid, click on the block you want to copy and paste.



3 Click Ctrl+C to copy the selected block.

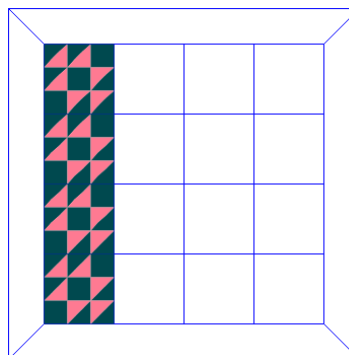
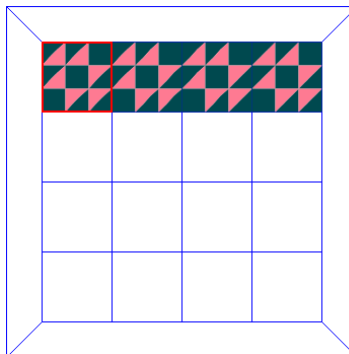
- 4 Click in the location you want to place the block.

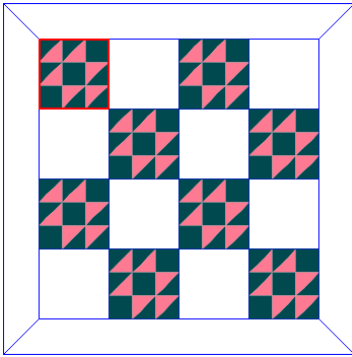
The square will change outline color, to show that it has been selected.

- 5 Left-click to open the context menu. Select one of the following paste options:

- ♦ Paste (places the block in the selected square only).
- ♦ Paste to all blocks.
- ♦ Paste to selected row.
- ♦ Paste to selected column.
- ♦ Paste to every other.


The quilt squares will be filled in according to the selected





Some examples of using the paste commands: top, Paste to selected row; middle, Paste to selected column; bottom, Paste to every other.

To move a block by dragging and dropping:


- 1 On the Quilt tab, click the Block Select  tool.
- 2 Click on the block you want to move to select it.
- 3 Do one of the following:
 - ♦ To move the block to a new position without copying it, click and hold while dragging the block to the new location.
 - ♦ To move and copy the block, hold down the Ctrl button while clicking and dragging the block.

The block will be copied in the new location, and will also remain in the original location.
- 4 Repeat steps 2-3 for all the blocks you want to move.
- 5 Save the quilt to retain the changes.

Editing Individual Blocks within a Quilt

It is very simple to make changes to the existing blocks of your quilt, and then save the modified block back to the quilt.


To Edit a block:

- 1 On the Quilt tab, click the Block Select  tool
- 2 In the design workspace, click a block to select it.
- 3 Right-click, and select Edit from the menu.
The selected block will open in its own separate tab.
- 4 Using the tools on the Block tab, edit the block. For more information, see “Block Editing Tools,” below.
- 5 Right-click and select **Send Block Back to Quilt** from the context menu.
The modified block now appears in the quilt.
- 6 Save the quilt design.

Adding a Row or Column to a Quilt

Using the commands on the right-click (or context) menu, you can add a blank row or column to an existing quilt design. Note that the row or column can be inserted anywhere in the quilt, that is, not just at the edges.

To add a row or column to a quilt:

- 1 Open a Quilt, or create a new one.
- 2 On the Quilt tab, click the Select block  tool.
- 3 Select a block next to the point where you want to add the row or column.

- 4 Right-click and choose one of the following from the context menu:


- ♦ Insert—Row before.
- ♦ Insert—Row after.
- ♦ Insert—Column before.
- ♦ Insert—Column after

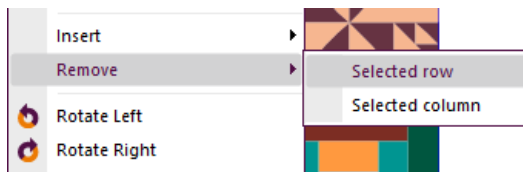
The new, blank row or column will be added to the quilt as specified. Any blocks that are already in the quilt will be “spread out” on either side of the new row or column.

Deleting a row or column from a quilt

On the right-click menu, you can reduce the size of a custom block by deleting the selected row or column.

To delete a row or column from a quilt:


- 1 Open up a quilt design.
- 2 On the Quilt tab, click the Select block  tool.
- 3 Select a blocks in the row/or column that you want to remove.
- 4 Right-click and do one of the following:
 - ♦ Select Remove—Selected row.
 - ♦ Select Remove—Selected column.




The row or column will be removed from the quilt.

- 5 Save the quilt to preserve your change(s).


Creating New Blocks

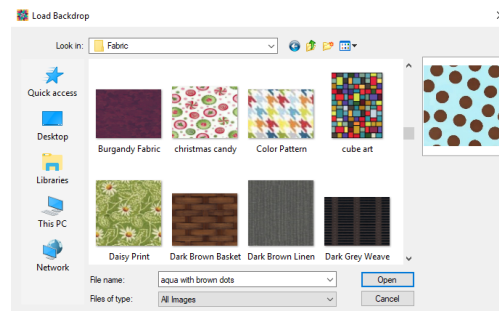
You can create new quilt blocks using the New Block  tool. When a new block is created, it will appear in the “My Blocks” folder of the Library.

Loading a Backdrop

You can use the Backdrop  tool to import an image file into the workspace to serve as a backdrop. You can then use this image as a guide for creating new custom quilt blocks with the New Block tool; for more information on using the New Block tool, see following procedure, “Creating a Custom Block”

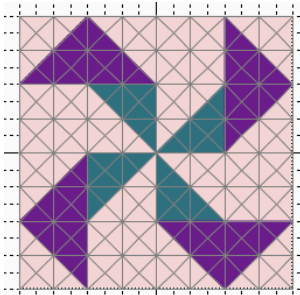
To load a backdrop image:

- 1 On the View tab, click the Backdrop  tool.
You see a drop-down menu.
- 2 From the menu, select Load Backdrop...
You see the Load Backdrop dialog.
- 3 In the “Look in” list, navigate to the directory containing the backdrop images.
The images appear in the Load Backdrop preview window.



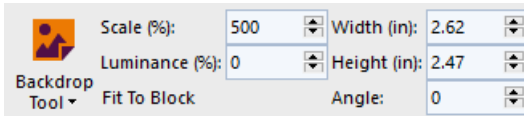
- 4 Select the backdrop you want to load, and click Open.

The backdrop image appears in the workspace



Backdrop Settings

You can adjust the size, angle, and luminance (color intensity) of the backdrop image on the View tab.



Adjusting the luminance of a backdrop can be useful for distinguishing between the background colors and the colors you are adding as you build your custom block.


Adjusting Backdrop settings:

- 1 Load a Backdrop image.
- 2 Adjust one or more of the following:
 - ♦ **Scale (%)**: Enter a percentage value to change the size of the Backdrop image (relative to the original size).
 - ♦ **Luminance**: Adjusts the color intensity of the backdrop; a large numbers means a less intense backdrop image

- ♦ **Fit to block**: When you click this option, the backdrop will automatically scale up or down so that it fits the current block.
- ♦ **Width and Height**: Enter the dimensions in these fields to determine the size of the Backdrop.
- ♦ **Angle**: Enter the value (in degrees) to rotate the Backdrop by.

Showing and Hiding a Backdrop Image

Once a backdrop is loaded, you can show and hide it using the Backdrop tool. This hides the current backdrop (without removing it), so you can more clearly see your design work.

To hide the image click the Backdrop  icon and un-check “Show backdrop” on the menu. To show the backdrop once again, click “Show Backdrop” again.

Editing the Backdrop

If required, you can edit the Backdrop image using an external graphic editing program (e.g. MS Paint). You can then use this external programs to edit the image – change colors or resize it, for example – and then save your changes. When saved, the modified Backdrop image will appear in the Advanced Quilt Design workspace.

To edit the Backdrop using an external editor:

- 1 Load a backdrop image.

- 2 Click the Backdrop Tool  button again

click Edit Backdrop.

The current backdrop will open in the image editing program.




You can select the image editing program that will be used in the Preferences dialog—Environment tab.

- 3 Edit the image as desired, and save it.

The modified backdrop image appears in the workspace.

Creating a Custom Block

Using the New Block  tool, you can create new, unique, quilt blocks of your own. When you create a New block, you overlay the backdrop image with a “overlay grid” consisting of an array of “cells”. You can then fill in the pieces of the new block by selecting and filling (“coloring in”) cells on this grid.

The completed blocks can then be saved to the Custom folder of the Advanced Quilt Design’s library, making them available for use in assembling quilt blocks. See “Adding Blocks to the Quilt” above.

To create a custom block:

- 1 On the quick access toolbar, select the

New Block  tool.

A new “Block” tab opens in the workspace.

- 2 On the Block tab (Properties area), select the style to apply to the block grid overlay. Choose one of the following
- ♦ Rectangle
 - ♦ Triangular
 - ♦ Triangle up

- ♦ Triangle down
- ♦ On point



The style chosen should reflect the type of backdrop, i.e., use the rectangle style to make rectangular blocks and use one of the triangular styles if you are creating a block with diagonal lines in it.

The style of the overlay grid will change accordingly

- 3 In the Across and Down fields enter the number rows and columns of “cells” in the block overlay grid.
- 4 In the Width and Height fields, you can adjust the dimensions of individual “cells” in the overlay grid, if required.
- 5 By default, the “Keep Aspect Ratio” box will be checked; when checked, both height and width of the “cells” in the grid will be scaled proportionally when you adjust either dimension. To change one dimension without affecting the other, uncheck “Keep aspect ratio” before entering a new value for height or width.

Note that you can increase or decrease the overall block size using steps (3) and (4) above. You can do this by increasing/decreasing the number of cells in the block, or increasing/decreasing the width and height of the cells that comprise the block. (Or, use a combination of both methods).

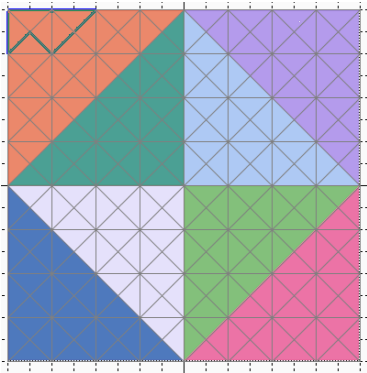


- 6 On the Block tab, click the Piece Select

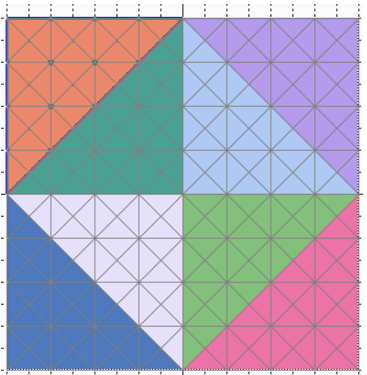



tool. Fill in the colors of the block by doing the following:

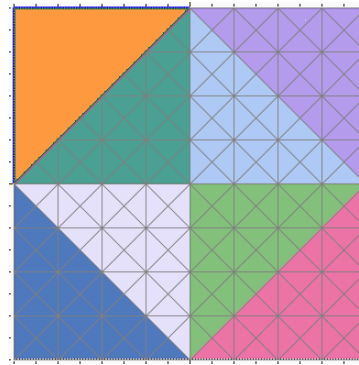
- ♦ On the block overlay grid, click individual cells to select them; hold down the Ctrl key while clicking to select multiple cells.




- Continue clicking on cells until a whole piece of the block has been selected.
In this example, all of the cells in the upper-left triangle of the block are selected.



- To join the cells as a unit, do one of the following:
 - On the Block tab toolbar, click the Unite  icon.
 - Right-click on the selected pieces, and select Unite from the context menu.
- 7** In the Block Color palette, click on a color square to change the piece to the desired color.



- 8** Repeat steps **4-6** for the other pieces of the block.
- 9** If required, you can undo the action of the Unite tool, so that the selected pieces revert to individual “cells.” Select the united piece and do one of the following:
- Click the Break up  tool on the Block tab toolbar.
 - Right-click on the piece and select Break up from the context menu.
- 10** Using the Save or Save As commands, save the block.
The block will be saved as a Outline File (.BRF).*



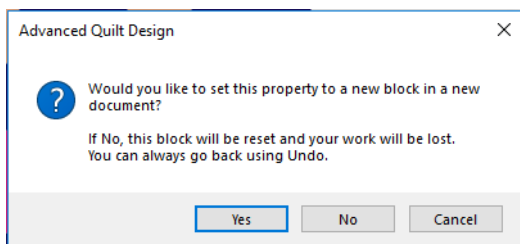
If you want the custom block to be available in the Blocks panel, save it the Library–Custom folder. By default, this folder will be found in the following directory: C:\Program Data\Pacesetter\Advanced Quilt Design\Library\Custom.

Note: Changing Basic Block Properties During Editing

Whether you are building a new block or editing one of the built-in blocks from the library, some basic properties can not be changed without resetting the block (that is,

removing all the color fills and effectively creating a brand-new, blank block design). These properties are the “style” property (Rectangle, Triangle up, Triangle down, etc) and the two “number of pieces per block” properties (Across and Down).

If, while editing a block, you do opt to change either of these properties, you will see the following warning message before the change is applied.



There are three options available at this point, which are as follows:


- If you select **Yes**, a new (blank) block will open in a separate tab in the workspace; this new block will include the property change that you just specified. The original block will remain as it was, in its own tab.
- If you select **No**, the current block will be replaced by a blank block, which has the property change that you just specified. The original block will be overwritten. (Note that you can use the Undo tool to return to the block as it was prior to the change).
- If you select **Cancel**, no property change will be applied to the block.



Note that the Width & Height properties **can** be adjusted without resetting the block; if you make changes either of these properties, the block will be re-scaled automatically.

Block Editing Tools

Selecting a Block


Use the Select Block  tool to select individual blocks or block frame in the quilt grid.

When block is selected, you can rotate it, copy it, or delete it, by right-clicking and selecting the corresponding command from the context menu.


Also, you can use the Select tool to select an empty block location in the quilt to paste a copied block into the quilt.

Selecting a Block Piece

Use the Piece Select  tool or the Lasso

Piece  select tools to select piece within a block or quilt design. When a block piece is selected with this tool, you can change its color by selecting a color “swatch” from either of the palettes.

To use the Piece Select tool:

- 1 Select the Block tab or the Quilt tab.
- 2 Click the Piece Select  tool. There are three different ways that you can select pieces using this tool:
 - ♦ To select one individual piece in a block, click on it.
 - ♦ To select a number of adjoining pieces, click and drag a rectangular box over the pieces you want to select.

- ♦ To select a number of non-adjointing pieces, hold down the Ctrl key while clicking on the individual pieces.

The selected piece (or group of pieces) will now be outlined in blue, indicating that it is selected.

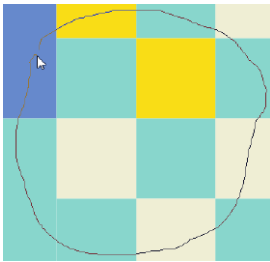
To use the Lasso Piece Select tool:

- 1 Select the Block tab.
- 2 On the tab, click the Lasso Piece Select



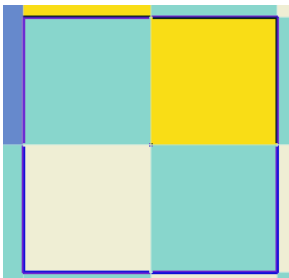
tool.

- 3 In the workspace left-click and drag, holding down the button as you trace out a line around the pieces you want to select.



- 4 Release the mouse button.


The pieces within the traced line will be outlined in blue, indicating that they are selected.



Selecting Similar Pieces for Editing

Once a piece has been selected, you can use the options on the right-click menu to select other pieces of the same size, shape, or combination of size and shape. In this way, it is possible to select and edit (e.g. change the color of) all the similar piece in a block or quilt at once.

To select multiple pieces simultaneously:

- 1 On either the Quilt or Block tabs, click the Piece Select  tool.
- 2 Select a piece you want to edit, and then right-click
- 3 On the context menu that appears, choose "Select same in block" or "Select same in quilt".



Note that this method can be used both when working on a single block or on a whole quilt. In the case of working with a block, only the "Select same in block" option will be available at this point.

You see a fly-out menu.

- 4 On the menu, choose one of the following options:
 - ♦ By Color & Shape.
 - ♦ By Color.
 - ♦ By Shape.

In the workspace, all the pieces that match the original piece will now be selected.

Using the Palettes

Color Palette

The Palette shows all the available colors that you can apply to a quilt block. It consists of a series of squares (“swatches”) and is located along the bottom of the workspace. You can select any color from the Color Palette, and add it to the Block colors palette.




The palettes: Block Colors palette (top) and Color palette (below).


Block Colors Palette

The Block Colors palette shows the colors that are used in the design. This palette keeps all the colors that are in use in a single array, for easy reference. Colors can be added to the Block Colors Palette by using either the Piece Select tool or the Block select tool.

To add a color to the Block Colors using the Piece Select tool:

- 1 Click on the Piece Select  tool.
- 2 Select a block piece using the Piece select tool.
- 3 On the Palette, click the color “swatch” that you want to add to the Block Colors palette.
This color will fill in the select block piece, and will be added to the list of Block Colors.

To add a new color the Block Colors using the Block Select tool.

- 1 Click the Block Select  tool.


- 2 Select one of the border pieces or the sashing.
- 3 On the Palette, click the color “swatch” that you want to add to the Block Colors Palette
This color will fill in the select border or the sashing and will be added to the list of Block Colors.

Changing Colors with Right-click Menu

One way to change the colors of pieces in the current block or quilt is through the options available the “right-click” or context menu. By using these short-cuts to select all pieces that have the same shape or size (or combination of the two) and change them all at the same time.

You can also use the options on the right-click menu to change colors of borders; to do this, you select the

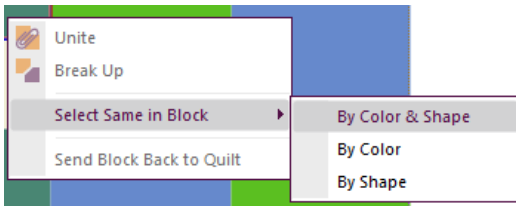
To change piece colors using the context menu:

- 1 On the Quilt of Block tab, click the Piece Select  tool.
- 2 Select the piece that you want to re-color.
- 3 Right-click and on the context menu that appears, choose “Select same in block” or “Select same in quilt”, whichever is applicable.



Note that this method can be used both when working on a single block or on a whole quilt. In the case of working with a block, only the “Select same in block” option will be available at this point.

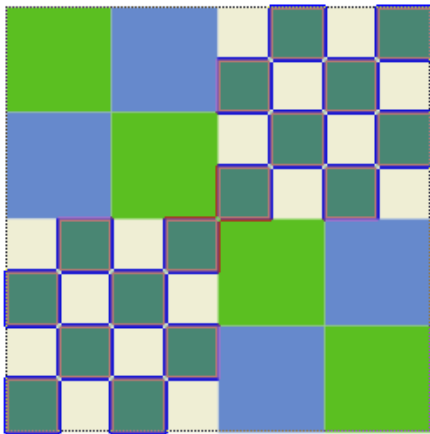
You see a fly-out menu.



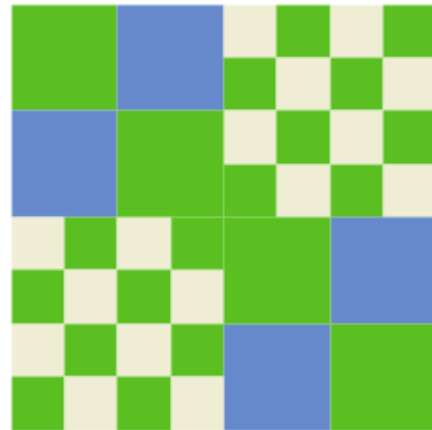
- 4 On the menu, choose one of the following options:

- ♦ By Color & Shape.
- ♦ By color.
- ♦ By shape.

In the workspace, note that the selected pieces will now have thick outlines drawn around them.



- 5 In the Block Colors palette or the Color palette, select the color or fabric that you want to replace the select color with.



All the selected pieces will now be changed to the new color.

- 6 Repeat the steps above to change the fill color of other pieces in the quilt of block.
7 Save the block or quilt design.

To change the color of borders:

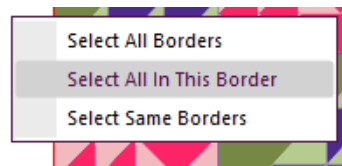
- 1 On the Quilt tab, select the Block Select



tool.

- 2 Select the border you want to change.
3 Right-click on the selected border.

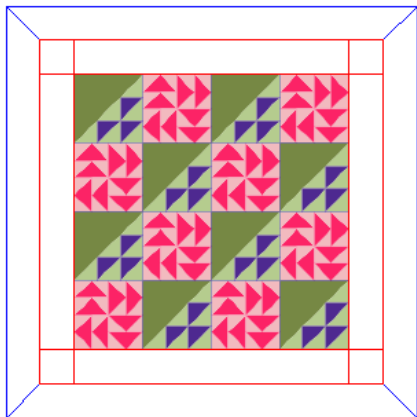
You see the context menu.



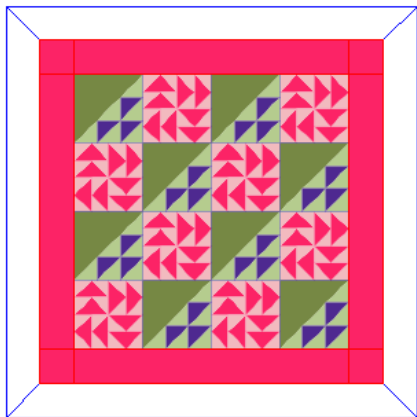
- 4 On the menu, choose one of the following options:

- ♦ Select All Borders.
- ♦ Select All in this Border
- ♦ Select Same Border.

In the quilt, the selected border (or pieces of it) will be highlighted accordingly.



- 5 In the Block Colors palette or the Color palette, select the color or fabric that you want to apply.



The selected border/sections of the border will be filled with the selected color.

- 6 If the Quilt design has more than one border, repeat the steps above for the other borders.
- 7 Save the Quilt design.

Changing Colors using the “Drag and Drop” method

Another way to change the color of pieces in the design is by dragging and dropping one color on to another. In this way, you can instantly change all pieces of one color to another. Note that you can take the color you want to use from the Color palette, or use one already on the Block palette.



The “Drag and Drop” method cannot be used to change the colors of quilt borders or sashing. To color borders or sashing, first select them with the Block Select tool, and then choose a color from one of the palettes.

To change colors using Drag and Drop:

- 1 On the color or block palette, click and hold on the color you want to copy into the design.

The color square will be outlined showing that it has been selected.

- 2 Keeping the mouse button depressed, drag the new color over the color (on the Block palette) that you want to replace.

When the color squares overlap, a small + sign will appear next to the cursor.



- 3 Release the mouse button.

The new color will replace the old one in the Block palette and the design.


Using the Popup Palette

You can also use the Popup color palette to quickly change the color of piece that you have selected in the open block. If you are working with a whole quilt, you can also use the Popup Palette to add colors to/change the color of the borders and sashing.

Using the options on the Popup palette, you can choose your fill from either (a) the current thread chart (b) a fabric image, or (c) a custom color selected from the color chooser dialog. Each of these methods is described individually in the procedures that follow.

To add a fill color from the thread chart:

- 1 On the either of the Quilt or Block tabs,

click the Piece select  tool.

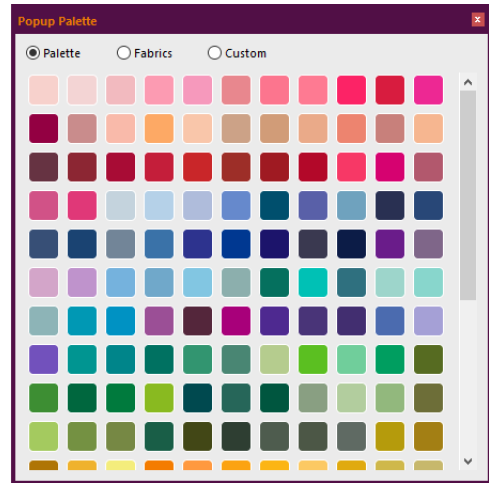


If you are adding a fill color to the quilt's borders or sashing, use the Block Select tool to select it.

- 2 Select the piece you want to fill with color.
- 3 In the "Block color" area (lower-left corner of the workspace) click the Expand Popup

Palette  button.

The Popup palette will open, displaying all the colors in the current thread chart.



- 4 To select the thread color, click on the corresponding color swatch.



If you "hover over" a color swatch, a pop-up tag will display the name and thread chart of the color in the swatch.

The selected area will be filled with the chosen color; note that this color will now be added to the "Block colors" palette, if it was not already there.

- 5 Click close Popup  to close the dialog.

There is also an option to use a fabric image as the fill for a block piece. The fabric image can be selected from the pre-installed fabrics library, or you can use your own fabric images.

To fill a piece with fabric background:

- 1 On the either of the Quilt or block tabs,

click the Piece Select  tool.



If you are adding a fabric fill to the quilt's borders or sashing, use the Block Select tool to select it.

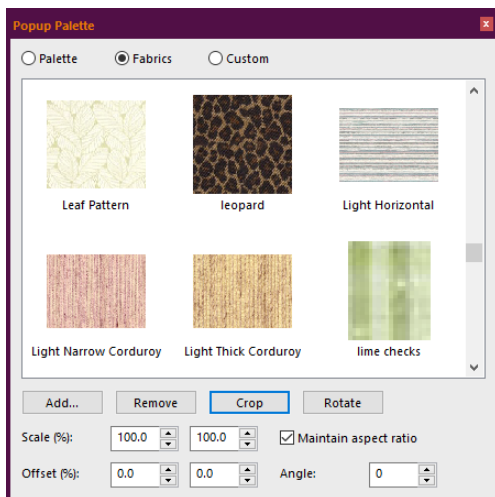
- 2 Select the piece you want to fill with color.
- 3 In the “Block color” area (lower-left corner of the workspace) click the Expand Popup

Palette  button.

The Popup palette will open.

- 4 On the Popup palette, click the Fabrics radio button.

The palette now displays the list of available fabrics.



- 5 Click on the fabric you want to use as the fill.

The fabric will now fill the selected block piece; note also that this fabric will be added to the “Block colors” palette, if it was not already there.

- 6 **Fabric image options:** When the Fabrics popup palette is selected, you will see a number of new options on the dialog. These options allow you to adjust how the fabric image will appear. Do one or more of the following.


- ♦ **Crop:** Opens a dialog that allows you to crop the fabric image, vertically and/or horizontally.
- ♦ **Rotate:** Opens a dialog that rotates the fabric swatch.
- ♦ **Scale:** You can adjust the scale of the fabric image in these fields (horizontal and vertical) in order to make closer to the scale of the actual fabric that you are going to use.

By default, the “maintain aspect ratio” option will be selected, meaning that horizontal and vertical changes in the scale will be linked. If you want to “skew” the scale of the fabric image (i.e. change the vertical or horizontal scale percentages independently), you must first un-check the “maintain aspect ratio” box

- ♦ **Offset:** You can apply an offset to the fabric image. These settings change the position of the fabric image relative to the border of the piece in which it has been placed.
- ♦ **Angle:** Enter an angle in this field to rotate the fabric image relative to the “frame” of the block piece.

- 7 Click close Popup  to close the dialog.


To add a custom fill color:

- 1 On either of the Quilt or Block tabs, click the Piece Select  tool.



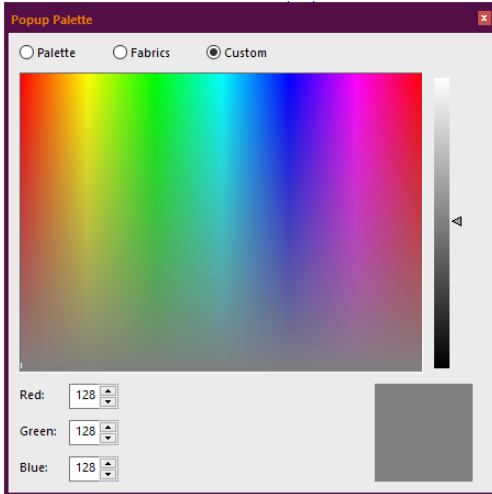
If you are adding custom fill color to the quilt's borders or sashing, use the Block Select tool to select it.

- 2 Select the piece you want to fill with color.

- 3 In the “Block color” area (lower-left corner of the workspace) click the Expand Popup Palette  button.


The Popup palette will open.

- 4 Select the Custom radio button.
The dialog will now display the RGB color chooser spectrum.




- 5 Do one of the following:
 - ♦ Click in the spectrum to choose the color (“hue”) that you want. Adjust to “tone” slider to the right of the spectrum to make the color lighter or darker, if required.
 - ♦ If you already know the Red/Green/Blue values of your material, enter these into the corresponding fields at the bottom of the dialog.

Note that, as you adjust the color values, the color will be previewed in the preview swatch in the bottom-right corner of the dialog.



- 6 Click Close Popup  to close the dialog.
The selected area will be filled with the chosen color; note that the custom color will now be added to the “Block colors” palette.

Removing Colors using the Clear Fills tool

You can remove the color fill from a block piece, quilt border, or sashing by using the

Clear Fills  tool. This tool is located on the left side of the Palette bar.

To use the Clear Fills too:

- 1 Select the item you want to clear:
 - ♦ Use Piece Select  to select pieces within blocks
 - ♦ Use Block Select  to select borders and/or sashing.



You can hold down the CTRL button while clicking to multiple individual pieces.

- 2 Click the Clear Fills  tool.
The fill (color or fabric) will be removed from the selected item or items.

Rotating Blocks

The Rotate Left  and Rotate Right 

tools are located on the Tool Tab. You can use these tools to rotate blocks both in the Quilt View and the Block view.




In the Quilt view, you can select one (or more) blocks of a quilt, and rotate them in place; each time you click the Rotate tool, the

selected block(s) will be rotated 90 degrees.

Note that the rotate tools do not change the position of the block within the quilt.

In the Block view, the Rotate tools can be used to rotate the block to the left or right on its own.

To rotate a block in Quilt view:



- 1 Open a Quilt design.
- 2 Click the Block Select  tool.
- 3 Using the Block Select tool, select the block you want to rotate. (To select multiple blocks, hold down the **Ctrl** key while clicking subsequent blocks.)
- 4 Click the Tools tab to display the rotate tools.
- 5 Do one of the following:
 - ♦ Click the Rotate Left  tool.
 - ♦ Click the Rotate Right  tool.



You can also rotate the selected blocks by right-clicking on them and selecting one of the rotate tools from the context menu.

The selected block (or blocks) will be rotated relative to the quilt.

To rotate a block in Block view:


- 1 Open a block design.
- 2 Click the Tools tab to display the rotate tools.
- 3 Do one of the following:
 - ♦ Click the Rotate Left  tool.
 - ♦ Click the Rotate Right  tool.

The block will be rotated accordingly.


Correcting Mistakes

Undo and Redo tools allow you to remove or re-do an setting change or edit that you have made.

To use Undo:

- Do one of the following:
 - ♦ On the Quick Access toolbar, click the Undo  tool.
 - ♦ Press **Ctrl+Z** on your keyboard.

To use Redo:

- Do one of the following:
 - ♦ From the Quick Access toolbar, click the Redo  tool.
 - ♦ Press **Ctrl+Y** on your keyboard.

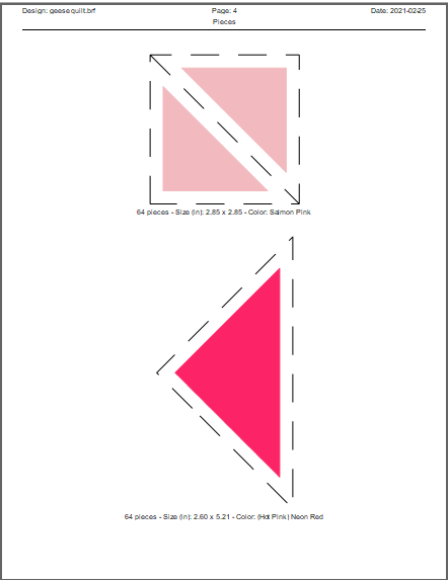


Note: if Undo or Redo are grayed out, you cannot Undo or Redo.

Printing Designs

You can make print-outs of your designs in Advanced Quilt Design. These print-outs create worksheets for all the pieces required for the quilt project. Each page of the preview will include multiple quilt pieces when possible, i.e., when more than one piece will fit per page.

Also, as an option, the print-out can include a dashed outline around each piece to represent the seam allowance. This option can be enabled/disabled in the Print Settings dialog; see “Changing the Print Settings” (below) for details on setting print options.



An example of one page of a quilt worksheet with the Seam Allowance setting enabled.

The print preview includes a color analysis page at the very end. This page summarizes all the characteristics of the cut pieces - It has sections displaying the border and sashing dimensions, and includes tables that list all the colors used in each quilt block, plus the number of cuts required for each color.



The print preview will include the border and sashing pieces as well, but these will printed on separate sheets from the block pieces. Since border and sashing pieces are often quite large, they might not be printed at full size (100% scale), as the others are.

Design: Quilt paths.brf

Page: 16

Date: 4/5/2019



Block Analysis

Border	Horizontally (mm)	Vertically (mm)
	50.8	50.8
Sashing	Horizontally (mm)	Vertically (mm)
	25.4	25.4
No. of Blocks: 6		
Color / Fabric		No. of Cuts
	1. Preview Quilt Design Red	4
	2. Preview Quilt Design Melon	2
	3. Preview Quilt Design Topaz	4
	4. Preview Quilt Design Real Yellow	3
	5. Preview Quilt Design Electric Blue	2
No. of Blocks: 6		
Color / Fabric		No. of Cuts
	1. Preview Quilt Design Lime Green	1
	2. Preview Quilt Design Flame Red	2
	3. Preview Quilt Design Lime Green	1
	4. Preview Quilt Design Wistaria Violet	1
	5. Preview Quilt Design Wistaria Violet	1
	6. Preview Quilt Design Lime Green	1
	7. Preview Quilt Design Wistaria Violet	1

Previewing a Design before Printing



You can preview a worksheet on the screen before sending it to the printer.

To preview the quilt design worksheets:

- 1 Click the Quick Access  button.
- 2 On the Quick Access list, click Print — Print Preview .
- 3 To zoom in and out of the previewed worksheet, do the following:
 - ♦ To zoom in on the worksheet, click Zoom In and scroll to view specific parts of the design.
 - ♦ To zoom out on the worksheet, click Zoom Out and scroll to view specific parts of the design.
- 4 To close print preview and return to the design window, click Close.

Printing Design Worksheets

You can print a design, without previewing it. On the Quick Access tools drop-down list,


select Print  and then Print Setup .

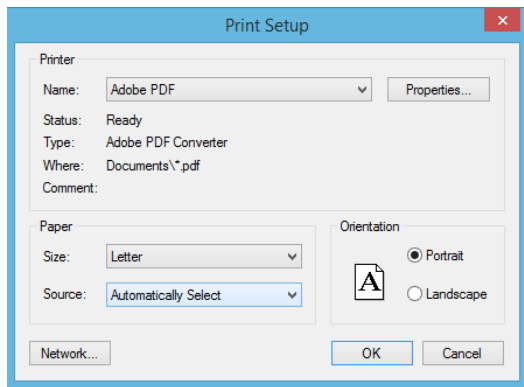
This button opens your computer's Print dialog, where you can choose printer options such as how many copies you want to print.

You can also print worksheets of your design immediately, without previewing the design or changing printer options. To do this, use the

Direct Print  tool.

To print a worksheet for your design:

- Do one of the following:
 - On the Quick Access menu, select Print—Print Setup .
 - Press Ctrl+P on the keyboard.
- You see the Print Setup dialog.*





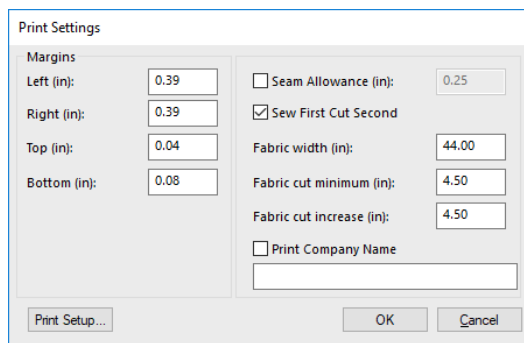
- Make any required changes to the print settings.
- Click OK to send the file to the printer.

Changing the Print Settings

You can customize print settings for your embroidery designs. On the Print settings dialog, you can adjust the image and worksheet information displayed in design printouts.

To change a design's print settings:

- Click the Quick Access  button.
 - On the drop-down list, select the Print—Print Preview .
- You see the print preview window, displaying your design.*
- On the preview's toolbar, click Settings.
- You see the Print Settings dialog.*



- In the **Margins** area, enter the margins (Top, Bottom, Left and Right) for your design worksheet.
- Check the **Seam allowance** box to include the seam allowance in the print-out.
- (Optional) In the seam allowance field, adjust the amount (inches) of seam allowance to include on the print-out.
- Sew First Cut Second:** When enabled, this setting adjusts the print-out of pieces to permit the “Sew First Cut Second” sewing

method to be used. Where applicable, the print-out will have squares in place of triangles, and the dimensions of these squares will be adjusted to allow for any difference in seam allowance that is required when using this method.


- 8 Select **Print Company Name** to have the name of your company name printed on your design worksheet. Enter your company name in the field underneath this check box.
- 9 Click OK to save the changes to print settings.
- 10 Click Print to output the preview to your printer, or Close to exit without printing.

Exporting Designs

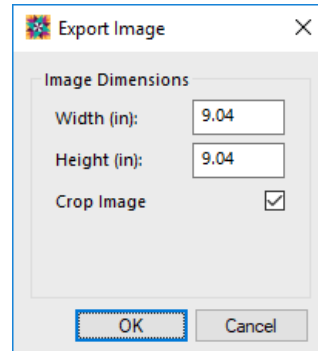
Exporting Designs as Images

If you want to save or send design as an image, you can be exported as images files. The Export Image tool can be used to save both individual Blocks or whole quilts as an image file. You can save the images as *.BMP, *.JPG or *.PNG.

To export a design as an image:

- 1 Open a Quilt or Block design.
- 2 Click the Quick Access  button, and select Export—Export Image  from the menu.
You see the Image dialog.
- 3 In the Save in list, browse to the folder or directory you want to save your file.

- 4 In the File Name field, enter the file name for the design.
- 5 In the Save as type: field, choose a file type to save as - *.BMP, *.JPG, *.PNG or *.GIF.
- 6 Click Save.
You see the Export Image dialog.



- 7 Set the size (width and height) of the image.
- 8 (Optional) Check the Crop Image box to remove the white space from around the outside of the image.
- 9 Click OK.
The image of the design will be saved to the selected directory

Exporting a quilt or block as a Project

Once the design work of the block or quilt is all done, you can use the Export Project tool to export the cut files to a project folder. Then, you can send the cut files (*.FCM) to the cutting machine. This

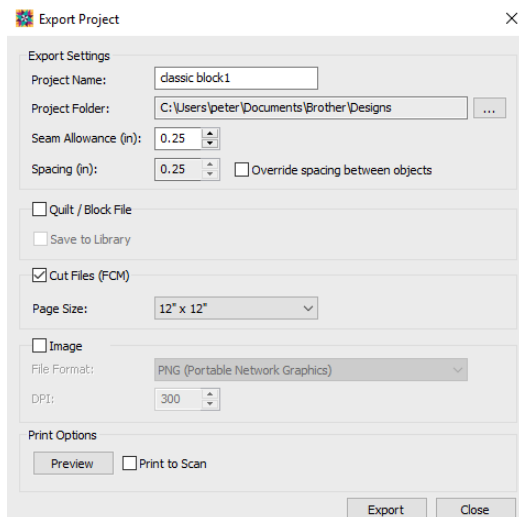
To export the quilt block files to the Project folder:


- 1 On the tools tab, click the Export Project



tool.

You see the Export dialog



- 2 By default, the project will be given the same name as the file name of the block or quilt. However, the project can be re-named in the Project Name field.
- 3 Select the output directory: Click the browse  button and browse to the directory you want to save to.
- 4 If required, adjust the seam allowance setting. The seam allowance sets the amount of “extra” border around the fabric piece to allow for the fabric that is taken up by the finishing stitches.
- 5 The Spacing setting determines how much separation will be inserted between individual pieces in the cut file. To override

the default value, check the “Override spacing between Objects” box, and enter a new value in the field.

- 6 In the Page Size field, select the cutting mat size.
- 7 To export the blocks as image files, do the following:
 - ♦ Check the Image box.
 - ♦ From the File Format drop down list, select an image file type you want to output – *.JPG, *.BMP, or *.PNG.
 - ♦ Adjust the resolution of the exported image in dots per inch (DPI).
- 8 Click **Preview** to see a preview the design’s worksheets. This will include a view of the design (quilt or block) followed by images of all the cut files (pieces) in the project, grouped by color.
- 9 (Optional) Select the Print to Scan” check box. When enabled, each of the pieces will be output as an outline in the print preview, suitable for scanning on certain types of cutting machines.



Note that the cut images on the print preview pages will include the seam allowance.

- 10 Click Export.

The Export dialog will close, and the cut files and embroidery files will be sent to the project folder.

A browser dialog will open automatically, showing the project folder directory; in this directory, you will see all the cut files in the project.

CHAPTER 3


Using Special Design Tools

Advanced Quilt Design includes a number of special design tools that allow you to make new and creative in your block and whole quilt designs.

Topics covered in this chapter:

- Using the Quilt Variation Player to generate series of different quilt designs base on a given set of blocks
- Using the Color Theme Designer to vary the set of colors in a block, by applying a color theme or tint.
- Creating quilt designs from an imported image file with using the Picture Quilt tool.

Quilt Variation Player

The Quilt Variation Player  is a special creative tool that allows you create a number of different quilt designs, by rearranging the blocks of the current quilt in different ways. This tool includes a number of different Variation options, which determine how the blocks will be rearranged. For example, “Rows and columns” will only arrange the block horizontal rows and verticals columns; the “diagonal” options will only create diagonal arrangements; and so on.

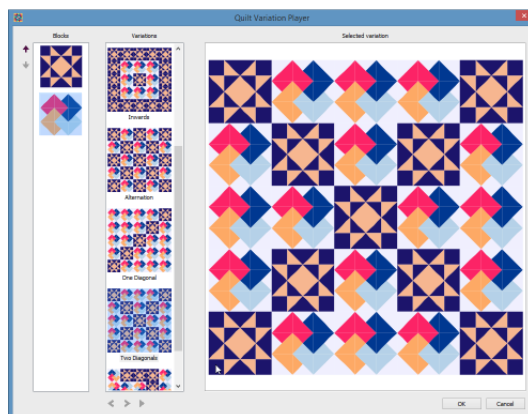
The Quilt Variation Player includes a “player” feature, which automatically “Plays through” all the possible different arrangements that our possible within the Variation you have selected; or, if you prefer, there is a tool that you allows you to go through the permutations one at a time.

To use the Quilt Variation Player:





- 1 Open a quilt or create a new one.
- 2 On the Quilt toolbar, click the Quilt

Variation Player  tool.

The Quilt Variation Player dialog opens.



Note that all the blocks in the quilt will be listed in the column on the left; in the middle column, you will see the list of available Variations.

- 3 In the **Variations** column, select a variation to apply.
- 4 Depending on which variation you choose, there may be a large number of different arrangements that can be made of the blocks; to view these different arrangements, do one of the following:
 - ♦ Click the “Play”  button to play through the different possible variations automatically one at a time.
 - ♦ To stop the player click the “stop”  button.
 - ♦ Click the “Next variation”  button to go through these different combinations one at a time.
 - ♦ To move backwards through the different combinations, click the “Previous variation”  button.
 - ♦ If you chose the “Random” variation, you have option of rotating the blocks

within the quilt. Click on the “Rotate”




button to randomly vary the orientation of blocks within the quilt.

- 5 When you are finished browsing through the variations, click OK.

The Quilt Variation Player dialog will close, and the latest variation will open in the workspace as a new quilt.

- 6 Save the design.

Color Theme Designer

The Color Theme Designer  tool is used to change the overall appearance of a design (Quilt OR Block) by adjusting its color scheme. There are a number of different ways in which this tool can be used to adjust the design's colors:

- **Lighten or Darken:** In these options, the Color Theme Designer analyzes the colors of the pieces, and substitutes new colors of a similar hue but different intensity (i.e., lighter or darker, depending on which you choose).
- **Tint:** All selected colors will be adjusted according to the color you choose in the color chooser dialog. So, for example, if you select orange in the dialog, the colors in your design will all be converted to a correspond range of orange colors.
- **Theme:** A wide range of color themes come pre-loaded with the software. When you apply a theme, the software looks at the selected colors in the design, and substitutes for each color from the Theme set that is closest in value.

If you have applied any of the color adjustments and want to “step back” in the process, do this by clicking on the “Undo” button. You can also re-apply the change by clicking the “Redo” button.



Click the “Reset” button to return the Block or Quilt to its original colors.

- Note that you can choose which colors will be affected by Color Theme Designer. By default, all colors in the design will be selected, so they will all be adjusted. However, if you only want to some colors to be changed, you can uncheck the boxes next to the colors that you want to remain constant.



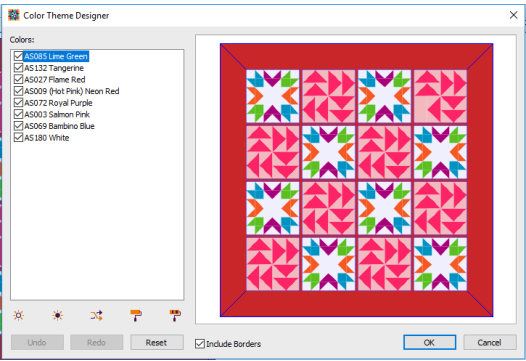
- There is also an option on the Color Theme Designer dialog that allows you to include or exclude the Border pieces and sashing from the color changes.

To use the Color Theme Designer tool:



- 1 Open a quilt or block design (for the purposes of this procedure, a single block will be used as an example).
- 2 On the Tools tab, select the Color Theme

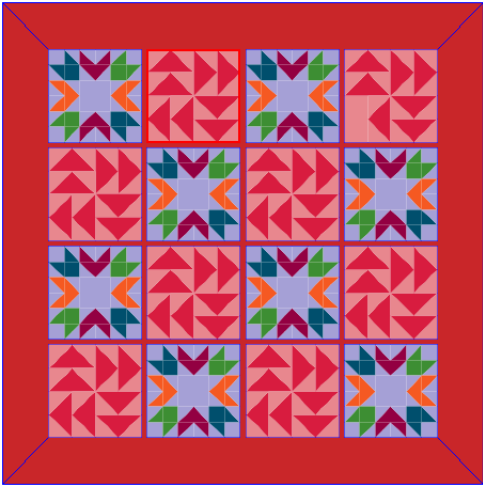
Designer  tool.

You see the Color Theme Designer dialog window.




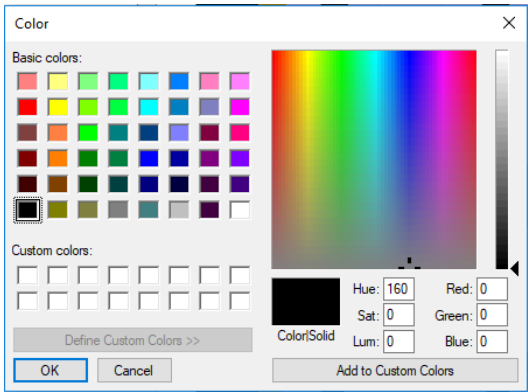
The dialog includes a preview of the image, and a list of the design's colors.

- 3 To lighten or darken colors, do one of the following:
- Click the Lighter  icon to substitute lighter colors for current design colors.
 - Click the Darker  icon to substitute darker colors for current design colors.
 - Repeat as many times as required to achieve the desired color level.



A darkened quilt design.

- 4 To substitute random colors for the design piece colors, click the Randomize  icon.
- 5 To change the Tint of the design's color scheme, do the following.
- Click the **Apply Tint...**  button.
You see a Color dialog.




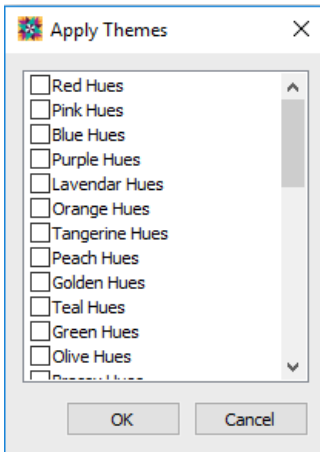
- In the Color dialog, select the tint color you want to apply.

Colors can be selected from the color "swatches" on the left, or you can click in the color palette on the right to create a custom color. If using the palette, note that the slider on the far right controls the light/dark balance of the custom color.

- Click OK.

The Color dialog will close. In the Color Theme Designer dialog, the preview window will reflect the changes

- 6 To apply a Theme, do the following:
- In the Color Theme Designer dialog, click the Theme  icon.
You see the Themes dialog.



- Tick the box next to the theme you want to apply.
- Click OK.

The Color Theme Designer Themes dialog will close. In the Color Theme Designer preview window, you will see that the colors have been changed to those in the selected Theme.



At any time, you can click the Reset button to change the design back to the original colors.


- 7 Borders** option (applies to quilt designs only). By default, the “Borders” option will be selected. When it is, this means that the border pieces and sashing will have their colors adjusted (along with the rest of the quilt) in any color theme changes that you make.

If you deselect the Borders option, note that the borders and sashing will disappear from the preview pane.

- 8** Click OK to close the dialog and complete the color changes.

The design will appear in the workspace with the new color scheme.

Picture Quilt Tool

Using the Picture Quilt  tool, you can convert any image you have into a quilt design. The Picture Quilt takes the image that you open in it and generates a series of quilt blocks or pieces which you then print off. Alternatively, you could export the pieces as a FCM file for output to an automatic cutting machine.

Step 1: Selecting an image

- 1** On the Quilt toolbar, select the Picture Quilt


 tool.

You see an “Open” dialog.

- 2** In the dialog, browse to the location of the image file you want to use as the basis for the quilt.

If you want to replace the image with a different one at this stage, you can click the

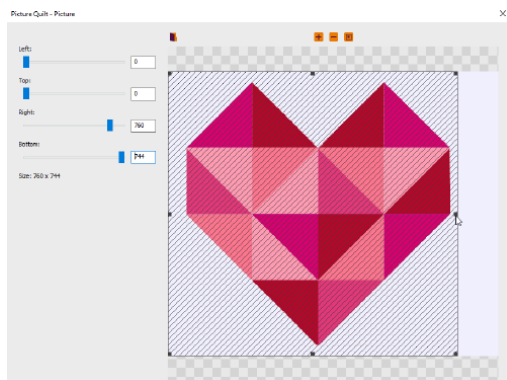


“Select file”  icon at the top of the dialog.

This will open a new dialog, allowing you to open a new image file.

- 3** Select the image, and click Open.
You see the Picture Quilt Crop page.

Step 2: Crop the image



- 1 If required to get a better view of the imported image, you can adjust the image preview in the window with the zoom tools.

- ◆ Click  to zoom in.
- ◆ Click  to zoom out.
- ◆ Click the “Fit image”  icon to fit the image to the window.

- 2 To crop any unwanted background from the imported image drag the Top, Bottom, Left and Right slider controls.

The number of pixels to the right of each slider will update automatically as you move these controls they represent the distance (number of pixels) of each crop bar from the top-left corner of the image.

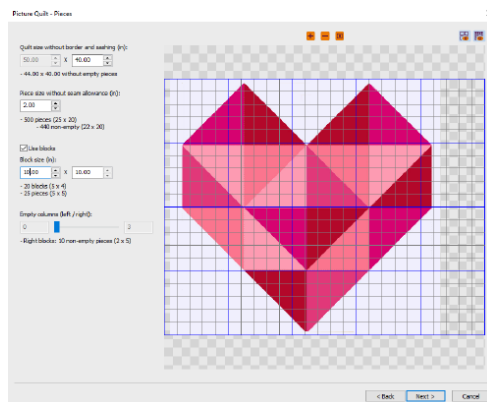
Note also that the dimensions of the image, after cropping, will be displayed beneath the sliders.

- 3 Click Next.

You see the pieces page.

Step 3: Setting the quilt, piece, and block dimensions

On the Pieces page, you can determine the overall size of the quilt, and set the piece size (in inches) the block dimensions.



- 1 Under the heading “Quilt size without borders and sashing”, enter the overall quilt dimensions (in inches). Note that only the smaller of the two dimensions will be editable; the other dimension will be scaled automatically to maintain the quilt’s proportion.

- 2 In the “Piece size” field, enter the piece size you want to use.

Note that the status line immediately underneath the “Piece size” field shows the number of pieces and piece dimensions of the quilt (i.e. number of pieces wide by the number of pieces high).

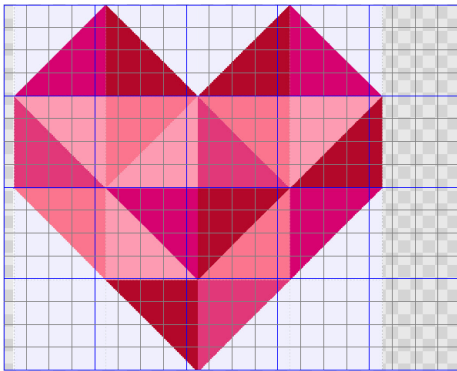
- 3 To divide the quilt into blocks, tick the “Use blocks” check box.

The Block Size fields will become editable.

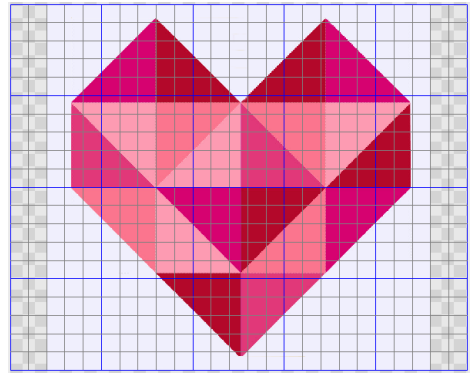
- 4 In the block size fields, enter the block dimensions (width X height).
In the preview window, you see blue lines delineating the blocks. Underneath the block size fields, the dialog will display the number of blocks in the quilt, plus the number pieces in each block.

Tip: Redistributing unfilled pieces

When the design have been broken up into blocks, you may find (depending on the block dimensions and the quilt size) that some blocks may have only a few filled pieces. For example, in the project below, you see that the main image is justified to the left, and so all the blocks on the right side only have filled pieces in the first column.



If you want to redistribute the filled areas better, you can do so by dragging the slider control at the bottom of the “blocks” area of the dialog (as in the example below).



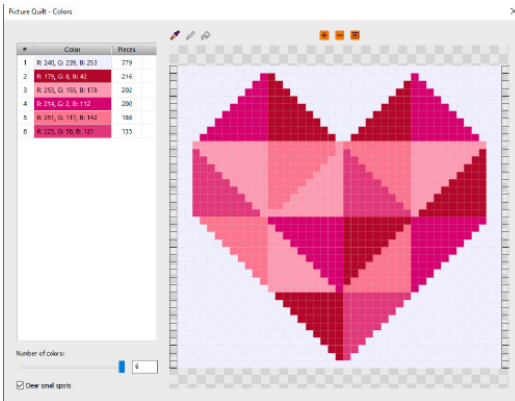
Note that you can use the tools on the “Colors” page to fill in the piece on the edge of the quilt design. See Step 3 for details.

- 5 Click Next.
6 You see the Picture Quilt colors page.

Step 4: Adjusting colors in the design.

The tools on the color page allow you to reduce the number of colors in a quilt (if necessary) in order to simplify it.

The Colors page also includes pick color, pencil, and bucket tools, which can be used to add color to empty pieces, if necessary.




- 1 To decrease the number of colors, drag the “Number of Colors” slider to the left; as you move this control the least-used color will be left off first.




You can drag the slider back to the right to put the colors back in the design.


- 2 To simplify a design that has a few isolated areas of color, check the “Clear small spots” box. This option automatically removes such areas by changing their color to that of larger areas of a similar color, thus reducing the total of number of colors overall.
- 3 To re-color pieces in the design manually, do the following:

- ◆ Select the “pick color”  tool, and click on the color you want to use as the fill color.

The color will be “loaded” onto the pencil and bucket tools, and will remain so until you pick a different color.

- ◆ To fill one or more pieces individually, select the “pencil”  tool and click on the piece(s) that you want to re-color.

The individual piece squares will be filled with the new color.

- ◆ To fill a larger area, select the “bucket”  tool and click on a piece that you want to re-color.

The selected piece and all adjacent pieces of the same color, will be filled with the new color.

- 4 On the Picture Quilt dialog, click “Finish”.
The finished quilt design appears in the workspace.
- 5 Save the quilt.

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