

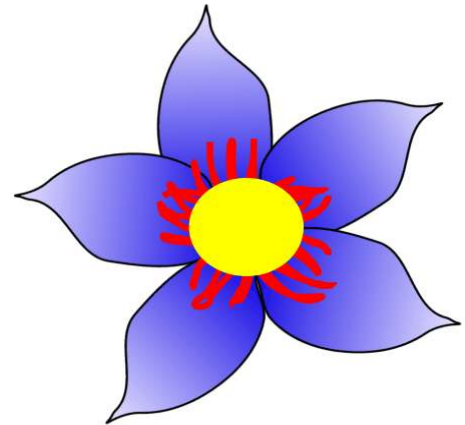
# autodigitizing

## Thread Blending and Manual Punch

part 3 of 3

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*In this part, we'll be doing manual outlining, and creating a center for our flower. I think you'll find that outlining is a bit like finding your way through a maze – we're going to do it with no jumps!*

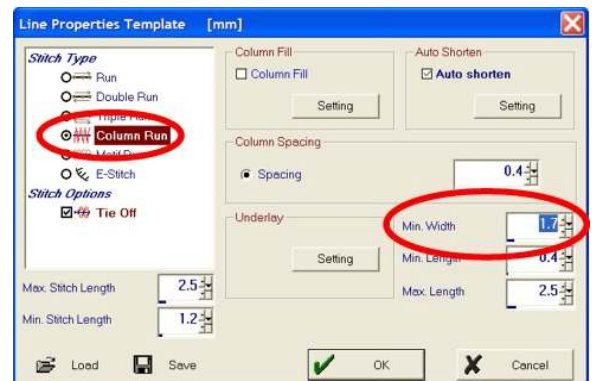


Open autodigitizing

In the File menu, choose Open, and find your previously saved file “Blended Flower 5” – you should be able to see the picture of it if you have thumbnails enabled in windows. *I have mine stored in c:\autodigitizing\stitch file, and I mentioned that to you in part one, when we first saved the file. You may have made a note somewhere about where you put yours!*

## Outlining

- In the Accessories menu, choose Line Properties Template. This brings up a window that allows us to set our preferences for the outlines we're about to make. We'll have to change some lines that will be traveling stitches, but we're going to set up the main properties now.
- In the Line Properties Template window, choose Column Run and set the Minimum Width to 1.7. *Before we close this window, let's notice something cool – see the Load and Save icons in the lower corner? We can save a line set up for another time – this could be handy if we have some sort of line that we like to use a lot!* Click OK to confirm your choices and close this window.

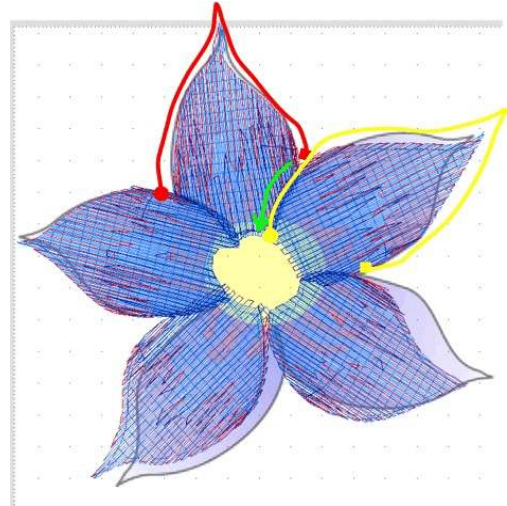


- Choose a color you haven't used in the design so far in the Quick Changes toolbar.



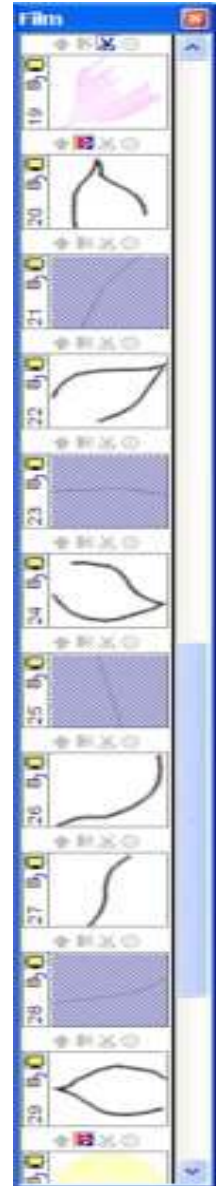
- Choose the Insert Line tool.

- As shown in the picture at the right, start at the intersection of the upper left and top petal, where the red dot is. Trace and click around the top petal as shown by the red line, and press the Enter-key on your keyboard when you reach the little red box shown in this picture. The Enter key finishes the line. *Note that the program creates a satin stitched outline around the petal.*



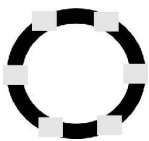
- The Insert Line tool remains active until you choose to deactivate it by pressing the ESC key on your keyboard. Begin a new line at the point where you stopped, and trace and click along the line between the two petals as shown by the green line. Stop at the base of the petals (marked by the arrow point) and press enter to finish this line. *Notice that this line is also satin stitched. We'll have to change that later, since this one is a traveling stitch, but we can do all of the travelers at once when we've finished making our outlines, so we won't worry about this now.*
- If you happen to move the cursor off to somewhere on the side of the screen and make the picture "scoot," don't panic. You can recover from this – simply press the ESC key on your keyboard (in the upper left corner, usually). This releases the active tool. Once you've done this, click on the Zoom All icon to put everything back onto the screen. This scooting can be scary at first, but it can also be a good tool. You'll want to practice controlling the scooting – you CAN master it and make it work for you!*

- Begin where you left off – at the green arrow point/yellow dot, and trace and click along edge of upper right petal, like we did the top petal. End at the next intersection, as marked by the yellow dot in the picture by pressing the Enter Key after you click there.
- Outline all of the petals in the same manner as you’ve done these first two.
- Click on the Save icon to save this as – blended flower6
- In the film strip – highlight the traveling outlines. They’ll be the small ones. Use the CTRL-key to collect them all by holding it down while you click on each one of the travelers’ frames. Your film strip will look something like this picture (I’m lucky, I can set my screen resolution high enough to let me see all of the outline frames at once. You may need to scroll to find all of them.)
- When you’ve selected all of the in between lines, press the Space bar on your keyboard and change the line type to “Run” and click the Generate icon.
- Click on the Save icon and replace the old version.



### **Make a Center for the flower**

- In the Quick Change bar, change the color to yellow and the spacing to 0.8



Choose the Circle tool. Hold down the Ctrl-key so that you can make an oval rather than a circle. Left click just above and to the left of the center of the flower. Drag the mouse down and to the right to create an oval that covers the center of the flower. You’ll see it growing as you drag. Left click again to finish the oval, and then press the ESC key to release the Circle tool.

- *This area won't have a lot of stitches, but it will help to hide any holes in the stitching that might peek through when we're finished with the rest of the center!*
- Right click on the yellow oval to select it. You may instead left click on the oval's frame in the film strip.



Left click on the Outline mode icon in the lower left corner of the autodigitizing window

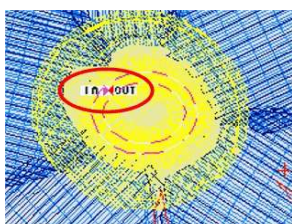
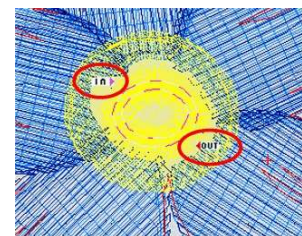
- At the top of the screen, choose the Outline menu and left click on the Make Line From Area Border command. A window will open so that you can choose the line's features.

- For this line, choose Column Run, set the offset to -6.0, set spacing to 0.8, and width to 5.0. Click OK and then Generate Stitches.



- *Note: this data isn't set in stone – if your oval comes out funny, it's probably too small an area to use the numbers I've given you. In some of my experiments, these numbers made nasty looking centers. I chose to change the offset to a larger number (did you know that moving toward zero could be a bigger number?) and I made the column width a bit narrower.*

- Right-click to highlight the newly made oval shaped line so that you see the marching ants marquee. You may find the film strip is an easier place to get hold of it. Notice the locations of the in and out markers.



- For a smoother stitch out, move the little in and out flags to the line, and put them together, as you see in this picture at left.

- Generate Stitches
- Save your design – replace the old one!

We're going to repeat the above process a few times, to make the center more colorful. The following is a list of settings for each time you'll repeat the "make line from area border" process.

2. Set the offset to -4.0, set the spacing at 1.0, min width 5.0, choose column, then click OK and Generate stitches.
3. Set the offset to -2.0, the spacing at 1.1, min width 5.0, choose column, then click OK and Generate stitches.
4. Set the offset 0.0, the spacing at 0.6, min width 2.0, choose column, then click OK and Generate stitches.

Save your design, name it blended flower7

Last, go to the File menu at the top of the screen and choose EXPORT.

If a message comes up that some unit has not been generated, click cancel and generate stitches one more time, then choose Export again.

A window will come up asking where you want the file to go – choose To Directory and click OK.

Find a location to save your stitch file (where you can find it again!) Pick your design format from the save as type area at the bottom of the save window, name your design, and click save. *I usually keep mine in c:\autodigitizing\stitch file*

***Transfer your design to your machine's media and have fun stitching!***

