

Create Continuous Decorative Fills

July 24th, 2024

Create your own embroidered fabric with a fill pattern that repeats. These patterns will not “flow” around a design, but are amazing for creating “fabric” larger than the biggest hoop for those special large projects.

Create a Repeatable Decorative Fill

In the settings pages change the machine to metric (mm) instead of imperial (inches). The units of measurement in metric are finer and more precise than with inches. Easily change the machine back to inches after creating the repeatable design. Open My Design Center or IQ Designer. At the workspace, select the shapes icon and a square shape that is fill only (light grey middle icon). Touch OK. The square will be selected on the workspace. **Do not touch inside the workspace.** If the square becomes de-selected by accidentally touching inside the workspace, select “All Clear” to erase the de-selected square and import a new one. This is important because the selection tool is not precise. When selecting the square with a box, the size shown is the size of the box and not the square.

Select the size key and reduce the size of the square to 100.5mm. This is a good starting size for creating a fill design that meets on all sides. The size of the square will undoubtedly need to be changed several times, but this is a good place to start. See the chart below for suggested sizes that have worked for the different fill patterns. In the Region Properties menu, select a decorative fill pattern to work with.

Top of the Line Features

Top of the Line Machines have additional My Design Center features that make this process much quicker:

- No need to create a new square each time by using the Magic Wand selection tool to precisely select just the square.
- The Size key has a number pad to type in the specific size of the square.
- The outline is automatically turned off.
- The machine renders a preview of the embroidery in the Stitch Properties screen with no need to select “Preview” on the Stitch Properties screen.
- The fill can be thinned (fewer passes) when using it as a quilting pattern.

For a first attempt, select the circle fill. Touch OK, then the Region Fill (bucket icon) and then inside the square. A representation of the fill will be inside the square. Touch “Next”.

The workspace changes into the Stitch Properties modification screen. Turn the Outline setting to “Off” and select “Set”. (If there is an outline around the square, select “Return” to go back to the workspace. From the Line Properties menu select “No Sew”, select the bucket icon and then touch the outline.) Select “Preview” in the lower right corner of the screen. The “Design is not saved...” warning appears. Say OK anyway. We will save the design when it has been perfected.

Modify the Design to Precisely Repeat

At the preview screen look the pattern edges over to check for a complete pattern. The Circle pattern #5 is an easy first pattern to check for completeness. If the pattern is not complete at the edges, look carefully to note if more or less of the fill is needed to complete the pattern. If the pattern is not quite complete, make the size of the square larger. If the pattern is over the edge, make the size of the square smaller. Note that on some patterns, such as the diamonds, the square will actually be a rectangle to capture a complete pattern. Select “Return” to modify the size of the square.

“Return” all the way to the opening workspace. Select “All Clear” to remove the square from the workspace and open a new square as before. Use the “Size” key to create a square that will better complete the pattern. **Most importantly, write down the new size of the square.** (Use the handy chart right.) You will need this number if the new size isn’t correct. Select “Next” and “Preview” exactly as before to see the new design. When the pattern looks complete, **save the design.** Send the design to Embroidery Edit.

Check the design for match points using the Border Function. Select the Border Function icon (nine boxes) and repeat the design top to bottom and side to side. If the design just doesn’t match, start over and slightly modify the size of the original square. Here you will be very, very happy that you noted the size of the square that was almost perfect.

The design is now a repeatable design. Just like any other embroidery design it can be modified for size and rotation. Save the design after

<i>My Square Sizes</i>

modification for use in your project. If creating multiple sizes, consider changing the color of the design to easily select the correct one. Use any placement features in the machine for aligning additional patterns.

Fill Pattern	Pattern Number	Suggested Starting Size	My Size
Leaves	#1	100.5mm	
Roses	#4	100.5mm	
Circles	#5	100.5 mm & 180.9 mm	
Diamonds	#6	81mm H x 100.5mm W	
Orange Peels	#25	120.5mm	
For Top of the Line Owners:			
	#32	100.6mm	
	#41	81mm	
	#47	81mm	
	#48	100.4mm	