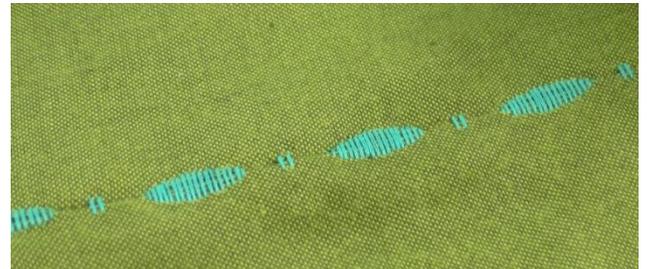

Special Thanks to Helen Herzog for suggesting this topic and generously sending her directions!

- Medium Tear Away Stabilizer such as Floriani Heat N Sta in 1" to 1 ½" strips
- Embroidery Thread
- Lightweight Bobbin Thread

Instructions

Program the Machine for Open Space Stitches

All decorative stitches are continuous without thread breaks unless the sewist stops the machine and clips the thread. When stitch motifs are repeated or combined, stitches run continuously and there is no open space between the motifs. Hand Look or Mock Hand Quilting stitches give the look of separation between the stitches by pulling the bobbin thread to the top and using invisible monofilament thread in the needle. Mock Hand Quilting stitches use a back and forth stitching to pull the bobbin thread and Hand Look stitches pull the bobbin thread with a series of very tiny stitches. Can a machine stitch give the look of open space between the motifs? Yes, it can if the joining stitches are hidden behind the fabric.

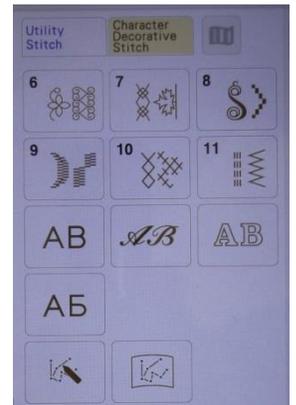


To hide the joining stitches behind the fabric, the stitch is partially hidden in a seam or behind a fold of the fabric. The process uses a wide stitch and a straight stitch in combination. The wide stitch will cross over the seam or fold and the stitches peek through on the right side of the fabric after the seam or fold is opened. The process of sewing alongside a fold is similar to creating a blind hem with the machine. The straight

stitch between the wide stitches will create the seam or a tuck along the fold. To create a motif without a seam, sew the straight stitch onto a stabilizer alongside the fold to allow the fabric to open fully and create a decorative “floating” element.

Program the stitch combination in the machine under the Character Decorative Stitch tab in the sewing portion of the machine.

- Select a straight stitch from category 11 in the Character Decorative Stitch menu. Select the “single star” from the edit icons on the right side of the screen to view a single straight stitch unit. Add straight stitch units to create the desired distance between the motifs. What you see on the screen is the actual distance.
- Select the “+” symbol in the upper left portion of the screen. The “+” symbol opens up the function to combine stitches. (In older machine models the decorative stitches are combined **without** using the “+” symbol. These stitch combinations are available on older model machines. Modify these instructions for your machine’s system.)
- Select return to add the wide stitch and category 8 or 9 for satin stitch options. Choose any of the wide stitches that stitch in a single line such as stitch 9-06, 9-08 or 9-11.
- Modify the wide stitch as desired by using the width, length or elongation key features. Lower the tension of the wide stitch to 2.8 or 3.0 using the tension icon at the bottom of the screen.
- View the repeated stitch by selecting “three stars” from the editing features on the right side of the screen. Individual units of the combined stitch are selected to insert or modify using the up and down arrows below the “+” sign in the upper left of the screen.
- Add additional motifs or spaces as desired by combining stitches and straight stitches. Create the open spaces between the motifs with various lengths of straight stitches.



Stitching the Open Space Stitches

There are three different ways to create open space stitches in your project.

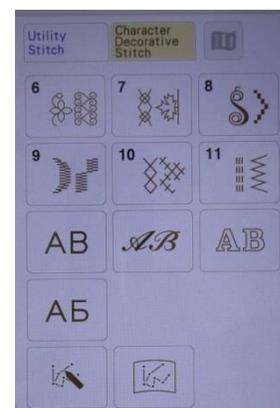
- **Accent a Seam** - To create a seam, lay two fabrics right sides together. Stitch so the straight stitch is along the desired seam line. After stitching, gently pull the fabric open to allow the wide stitches to pull to the right side of the fabric.

- **Create a Fold or Tuck** - To stitch along a fold to create a tuck, fold the fabric right sides together. Lay a narrow strip of water soluble stabilizer under the fold. Stitch so the straight stitch is just along the fold (or deeper into the fabric to create a deeper tuck). After stitching, gently pull the fabric open to allow the wide stitches to pull to the right side of the fabric.
- **Create Independent Elements on the Fabric** - To create a floating element on the fabric, fold the fabric right sides together. Lay a narrow strip of medium tearaway stabilizer under and just to the right of the fold. Use a fusible stabilizer such as Floriani Heat N Sta to secure the folded edge to the underside of the fabric. Stitch so the straight stitch is only on the stabilizer and just to the right of the fold. Do not catch the fold with the straight stitch. Stitch slowly and use a foot with a guide and/or the LED guide light to help keep the stitches off the fold. Use a seam ripper to remove any accidental straight stitches on the fold of the fabric. After stitching, gently pull the fabric open to allow the wide stitches to pull to the right side of the fabric.



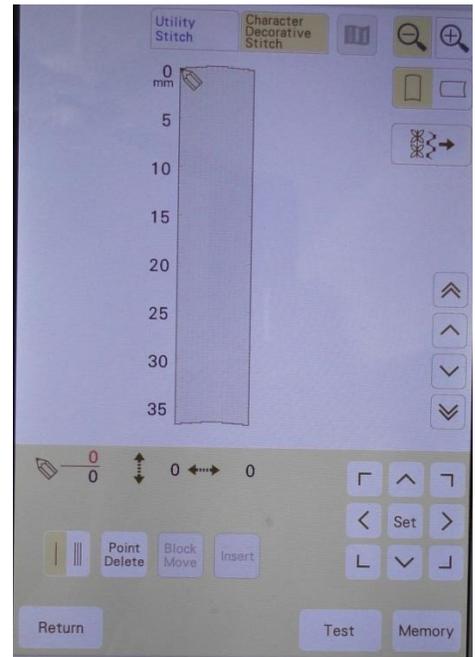
Brother Stitch Creator Overview

Some Brother machines, like the Stellaire and Lluminaire, have a stitch creator feature. This feature has also been available on previous models. This built-in program allows the sewist to modify some of the decorative stitches or create a new decorative stitch from scratch. While this program doesn't replace Brother's PE Design software for creating very complex decorative stitches, it does offer a quick method of creative stitching right on the machine. Here is an overview of how Stitch Creator works.



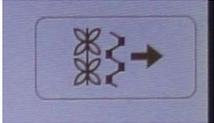
On the Stellaire, select the Character Decorative Stitch tab in the Sewing screen. Look at the bottom to find the Stitch Creator and Saved Created Stitches icons. Select the Stitch Creator icon to open a new screen showing a grid to create or modify a built-in stitch pattern.

- Zoom in on the grid using the “-” or “+” magnifying glass icons in the upper right corner of the screen. The grid is 7mm x 35mm and is divided into dots.
- The grid can be viewed in either a vertical or a horizontal orientation using the icon in the upper right of the page.
- The pencil icon indicates the location a stitch point will be inserted using the “Set” icon in the lower right of the screen. Move the insertion point using the 8 directional arrows around the “Set” icon. Insertion points are automatically placed on a dot in the grid. The location of the pencil is indicated directly below the grid with a vertical number and a horizontal number.

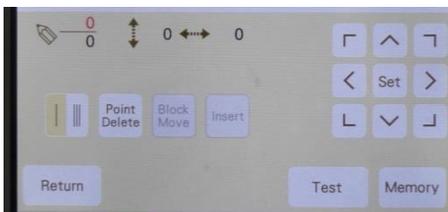
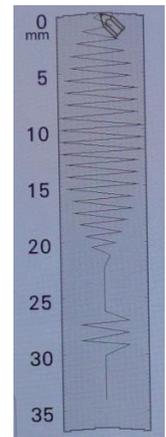


- Remove a stitch point by moving the pencil to that point indicated by a small black square on the grid and then selecting “Point Delete”.
- Add a stitch point by moving the pencil to a unused location on the stitch path and then selecting “Insert”.
- Entire sections of a stitch pattern are relocated on the stitch path using “Block Move”.
- Selecting the single run icon in the lower left of the screen creates single stitch points and the triple run icon automatically adds three stitches for every stitch point added.
- To select and modify a stitch pattern, select the decorative stitch icon to the right of the grid. Select a stitch from the different categories of decorative stitches. Select an existing stitch to view as an orientation of the scale of the grid. Stitch points that are very close together will not stitch well.

Modify an Open Space Stitch in Brother Stitch Creator

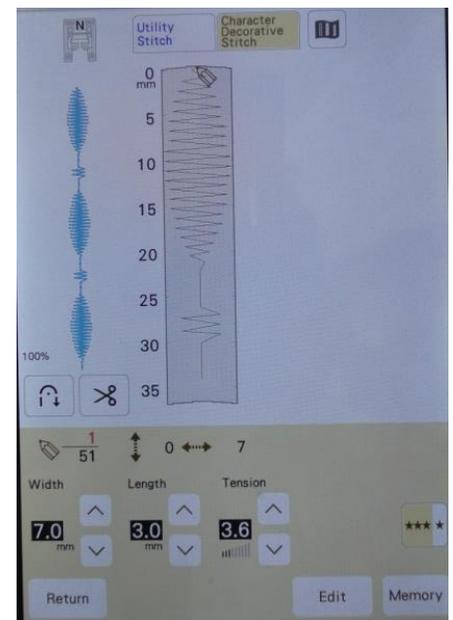


Select the decorative stitch icon to insert an existing stitch. Select the stitch that looks most like stitch 9-06. The stitch will be displayed on the grid as insertion points and as black lines connecting the points. The pencil will appear at the end of the stitch sequence. Move the pencil to the next point using the arrows around the “Set” icon. The potential path of the thread will be a red line. Use the “Set” icon to insert the stitch point and the line will become black. Add straight stitches and then two or three zig zag stitches as shown in the photo.



Select “Test” to view the stitches and sew a sample out. The stitches will appear as an actual size decorative stitch, the grided stitch points and the machine is ready to test sew the stitches.

Use the Width, Length and Tension icons to modify the stitch just as you would with any other decorative stitch. View the stitch as a single unit with the one star icon or as a continuous stitch with the three star icon. To further Edit the stitch, select the “Edit” icon to return to the previous screen.



To edit individual parts of the stitch, use the arrows on the side of the screen (not the arrows around the “Set” icon) to move the pencil to the various stitch points. If the pencil seems to dance back and forth between the points, the triple stitch icon was selected when inserting the stitch points. Delete the stitches and re-insert them using the single stitch feature. Place the stitch into memory of the machine or on a USB drive if the stitch is ready. Recall the stitch from the Saved Created Stitches icon on the Character Decorative Stitch home page. The stitches that you create can be added to existing Character Decorative Stitch, but some editing features such as mirror image are not available for these stitches.

