



Creating Basting Stitch Files Using PE Design/Palette Layout and Editing V6

by Carolyn Keber

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Creating Basting Stitches for your embroidery machine

Using Layout and Editing V6

Although this tutorial is written using PE Design/Palette Layout and Editing Version 6 it may be possible to use any software program or earlier versions of PE Design/Palette to create the same basting stitches.

Basting stitches are stitches that are sewn around the edge of a hoop before the embroidery design is stitched. These basting stitches will anchor the fabric and stabilizer in the hoop so there is less chance of the design “moving” while it is being stitched. The basting stitches are usually longer in length than normal stitches so that they can be easily removed once the embroidery design is finished.


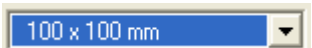
Basting stitches are also very useful if you do not wish to hoop your fabric. When using fabrics such as velour, toweling or even polar fleece then hooping the fabric can cause “hoop burn” where a hoop mark is left on the fabric once the hoop has been removed. Instead the stabilizer – such as “sticky” is hooped and then the fabric placed on top. The basting stitches are then called up from the memory of the machine and stitched first before the embroidery – thus anchoring all the layers together.

Okay, let's begin.

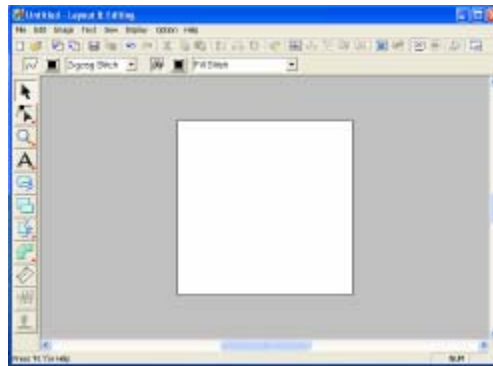
- Open PE Design/Palette and then open Layout and Editing.
- Go to Option on the Menu Bar and choose Design Page Property.


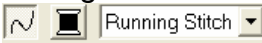



The following screen will appear.



- Place a check mark in the Hoop Size selection. 
- Select the smallest hoop you use from the Hoop Size drop down box.  100x100 or 4x4.
- Click OK.

The Design Page will change to the selected hoop size.



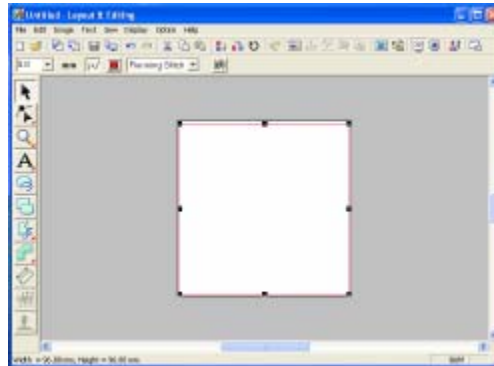
- Left click to select the Rectangle Tool. 
- Change the Line Sew drop down box to Running Stitch.

- Click on the Region Sew button to turn off the fill stitches.

- Check that the Radius is set to 0.0. 
- Left click on the Sewing Attributes shortcut  or go to Sew/Sewing Attributes setting on the Menu Bar.


The following screen will appear.



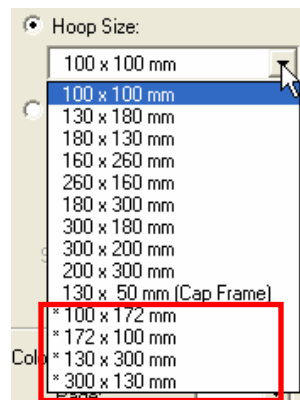
- Change to Expert Mode.
- Change the Run Pitch drop down box to 8.0mm.(0.33inch). This creates a longer stitch length.
- Change the Run Times to 1. This is the times the square will stitch.
- Click Apply.
- Click Close.
- Take the cursor to the Design Page and with the left mouse held down drag across the screen to create the rectangle – as shown in the example below.

- To create a perfect square shape hold down the SHIFT key on the keyboard as you create the shape.

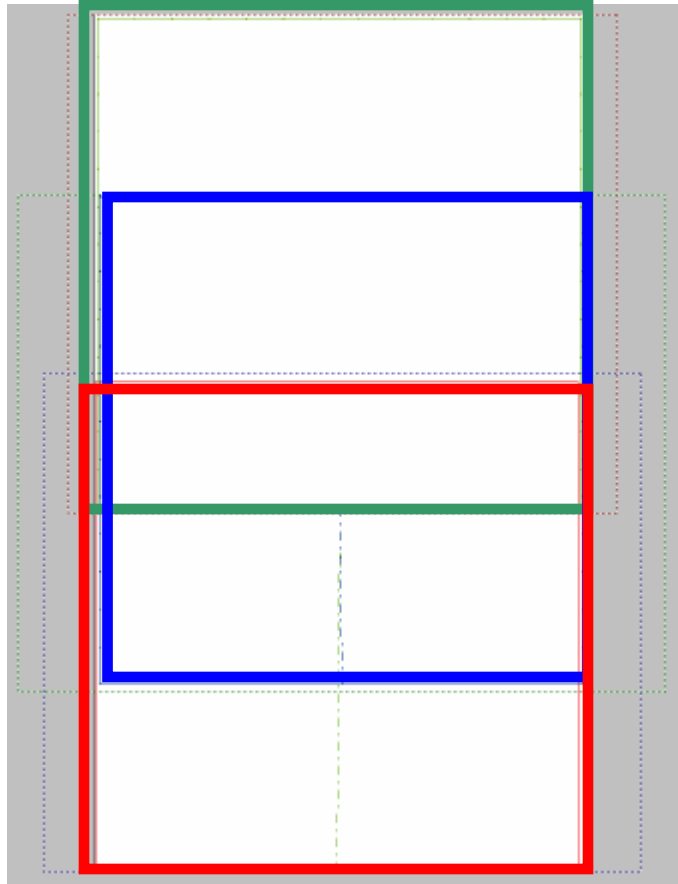


- Select the shape with the Select Tool  and adjust the shape by dragging the corner boxes.
- Once you're satisfied with the shape go to File/Save as and save as a basting file in your machines format. For example 4x4basting.pes.
- Create the remainder of your hoop basting stitches in the same manner but changing the Option/Design Page Property drop down box to the desired hoop size.

Note: You can create basting stitches for all your hoops; however the overlap hoops – those marked with an asterisk in the example below – will need basting stitches for each designated area.



Shown below is an example of how to add basting stitches to overlap hoops. I have used the 100x172 (4 x 6 ½ inches) overlap hoop which has three sewing areas. Designs need to be split for this hoop. You will need three sets of basting stitches as well – one for each area of the hoop. I have defined the areas by changing the color of the basting stitches – for viewing purposes – to green, red and blue.



You can see in the above example that three 100x100 or 4x4 sets of basting stitches are used in this hoop. This is only for the overlap hoops.

Saving the basting stitches in the memory of the machine.

Once you have saved the basting stitch files in your machines format its time to pop them into the memory of the machine.

- Go to File/Write to Card/Current design or use your normal method of saving a design to your machines media.
- Save the design.
- Remove the media (floppy disc, USB data stick or Programmable Card) from the computer and place it in your machine.
- Turn the machine on.
- Open the basting stitch design from the card or disk.
- Move through to the Sewing Menu and select the Memory – usually it appears as a pocket.
- Save in a spare memory space.
- When you want to insert the basting stitches use the Embroidery Edit function to open your design and then recall the basting stitches.
- Happy embroidering.

If you like this tutorial there is a number of other “For Sale” tutorials of mine available through the Secrets of Embroidery web-site that you might like to look at. I write step by step tutorials for PE Design/Palette and also for the Embird Suite of programs.

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About the Author



Carolyn Keber

Carolyn has been involved with sewing since 11 years of age. After selling her successful sportswear manufacturing business in 1995 she took up her love of hobby sewing again and discovered the joy of machine embroidery.

As technology improved and machine embroidery became computerized Carolyn embraced this new hobby, but was frustrated by the lack of instruction available. She solved this problem by teaching herself the programs and now teaches others who require her help. She gets a great amount of pleasure out of helping others learn such a wonderful hobby.

Carolyn lives in Auckland, New Zealand with Philip, her husband of 38 years and all her machines. Carolyn and Philip have three grown children and one adorable grandchild - Ben.

Carolyn is very pleased to have been joined by her daughter Julie (mother of Ben) who is now also writing "Help" tutorials for the computer.

For more information on Julies tutorials click on the link below.

Julie Keber

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This booklet is published by Secrets of Machine Embroidery.

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