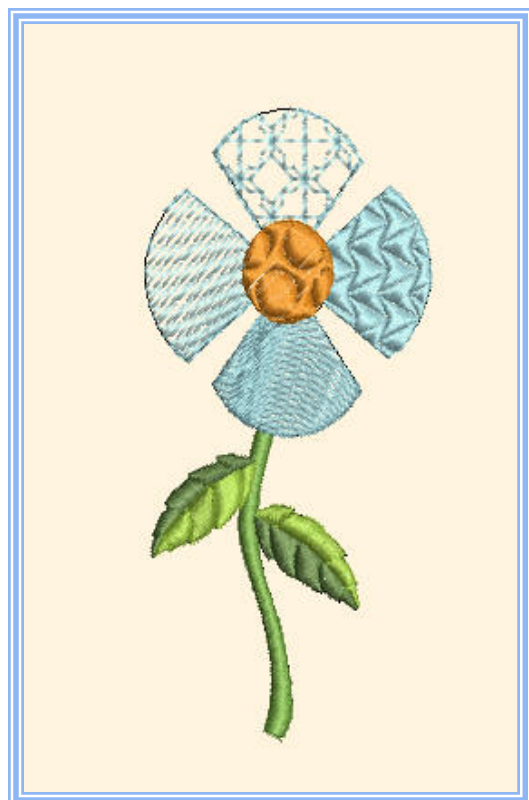


Decorative Effects with Exploration Software

Created by Paula Harmon

EXPLORE the possibilities!



Explore the possibilities with *Explorations* Software. Use the *Stitches N Effects* and *Decorative Effects Modes* to create a variety of decorative and textural effects. Change a few stitches or stitch angles and take a design from flat to FABULOUS. In this lesson, take a simple flower and turn it into a WOW design!

Software Recommendations

- ⇒ *Explorations Classic* or *Galaxy* is recommended in order to complete this lesson in its entirety.
- ⇒ The *Reshape Option* (standard in *Galaxy*, an option that can be added to *Classic*) is used to change stitch angles in this lesson. While it is not mandatory to have *Reshape*, it enhances the functionality of the embroidery program!

A Lesson in Stitches N Effects

Create a New Project with Flower 01

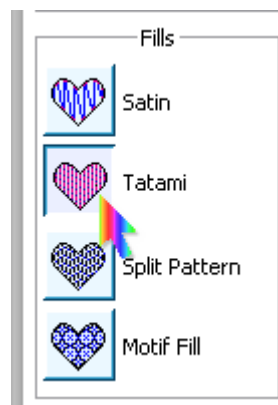
- Create a new project and name it *See Through*.



- Open the *Cookie Cutters Mode*. Locate the folder named *Flowers*. Click and Drag *Flower 01* onto the workspace.
- Click *Edit and Select All*. Click on the *Stitches N Effects Mode*.



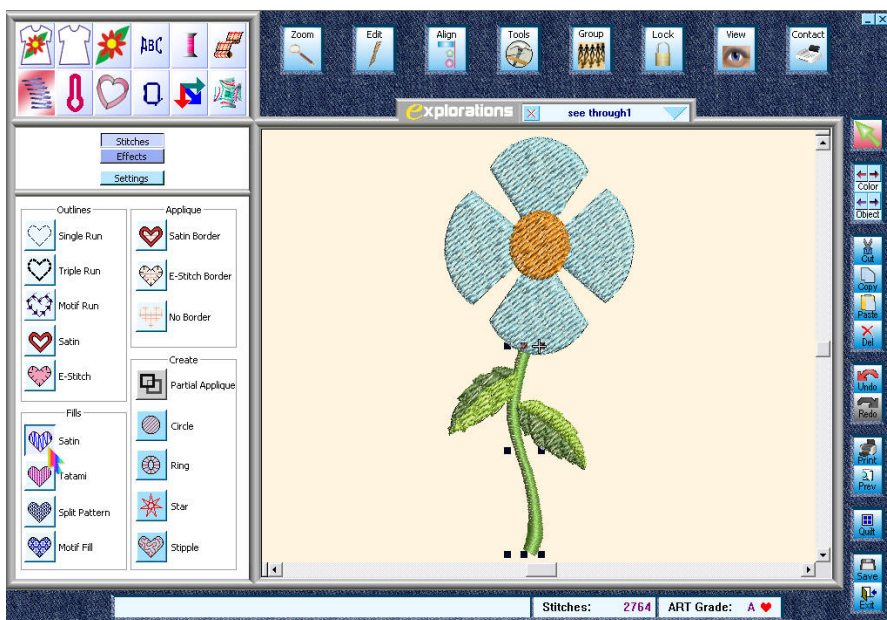
- Click *Tatami* under the *Fills* area.



- Notice that the entire cookie cutter has now been filled with a *Tatami* (step) *Fill*. This design is okay at this point, but could be greatly enhanced.
- Click *Group and Ungroup*. Up to this point, the entire design is seen by in the software as one unit instead of being seen as the parts that make up the design. By ungrouping it, each individual object can be changed independently.

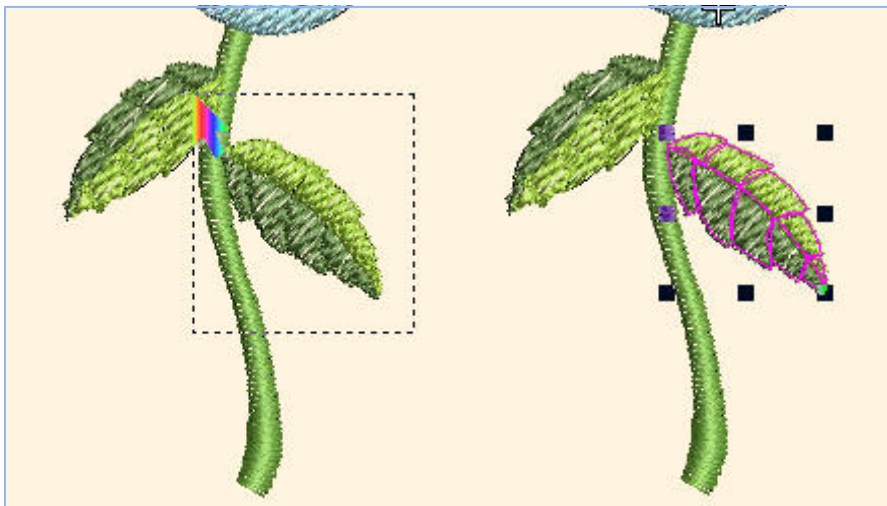
Altering Stem Fill

- Start with the stem. The stem will be more attractive as a *Satin Fill*. Click on the stem to select it and simply click *Satin* in the *Fills Box*.



Altering Leaf Fills

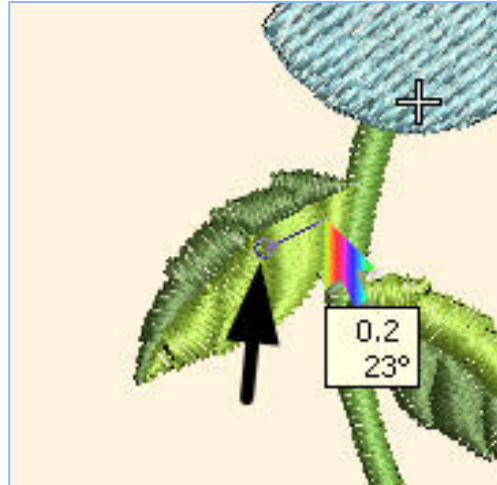
- Proceed to the leaves. The leaves will also be prettier as satin stitches. *Tip:* When choosing *Satin Stitch Fills*, many machines have trouble processing satin stitches that are wider than 10mm (1/3 inch) as the machine thinks it might be a jump stitch. Also, satin stitches that are too wide can catch and pull out of a design.
- To change the leaves to satin stitches, place the mouse to the lower right hand side of the leaves to the right of the stem. Hold down the mouse button and drag a box around the leaves on the right hand side.
- Click on *Satin* in the *Fills Box*. Repeat for the second set of leaves to the left of the stem. Start drawing a box to the lower left hand side of the leaf for easiest results.



Altering Leaf Fills...continued on next page.

Altering Leaf Fills - continued

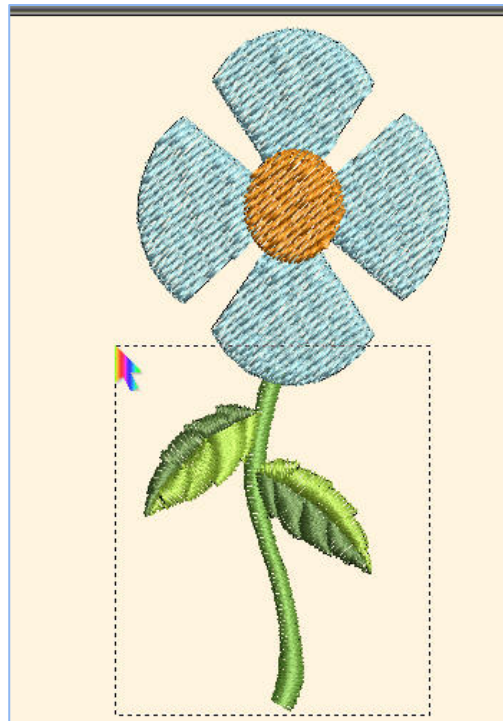
- To make sure the satin stitching will not be wider than 10mm, click on *Tools* and *Measure*. Locate the area that has the widest satin stitch. Click the mouse on one edge of this stitch and then drag the mouse following the stitching line to the other side of the satin stitch. (In the photo, the first click is at the end of the black arrow.) *Do not click again on the other side.* Clicking again will simply move the first measuring reference point.
- A small *Mouse-Over Box* that will display:
 - a) the *width of the measurement*, expressed in inches or mm, depending on computer settings,
 - b) the *angle of the stitch*, shown in degrees.
- The example shown is expressed in inches measuring .2 inches. This translates to 2/10 of the inch or roughly 5mm which is well within the most machines capabilities. Measurements of more than .5 inches (1/2") may be too large for most machines to handle.
Tip: Do a test sew out to determine a specific machine's capabilities.



Adding Underlay Stitching

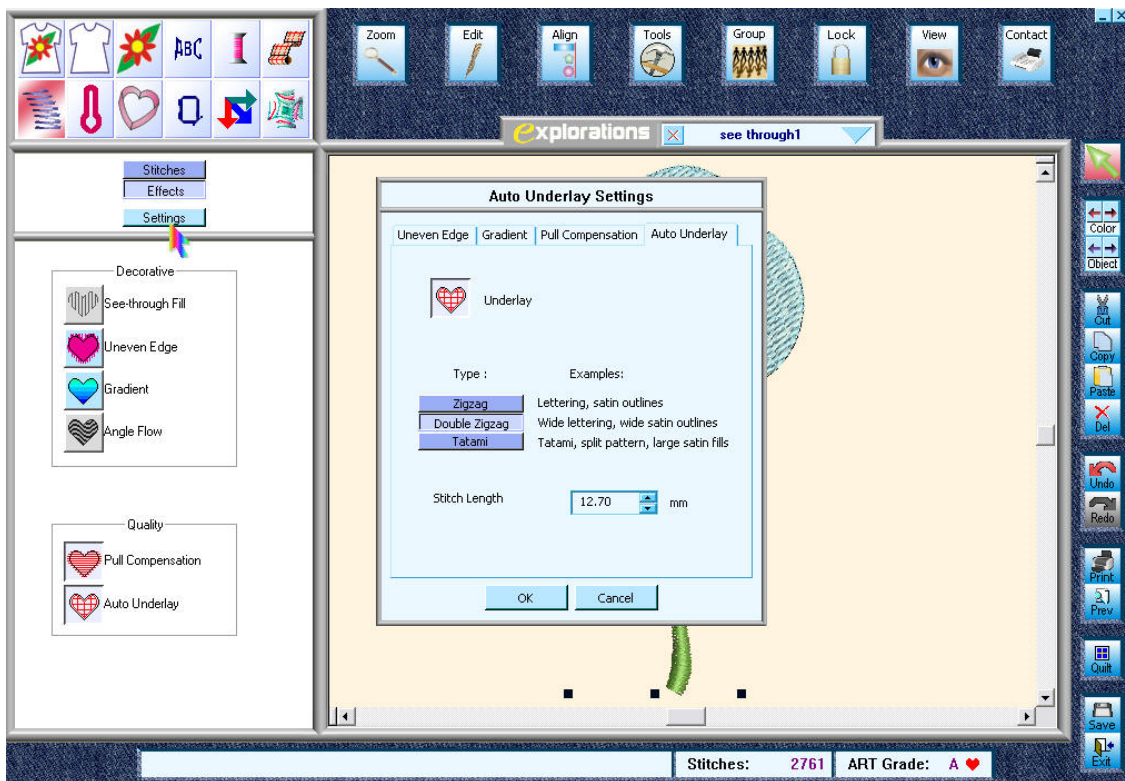
- *Explorations* does not automatically assume that an underlay is required under every area of a design. *Underlay Stitching* is a foundation of stitching that will hold fabric and stabilizer together as well as being a foundation in which to build stitching. *Underlay Stitching* is recommended under the stem and leaves. Click and drag a box around the leaves and stem starting at the lower right hand side of the design until all the leaves and stem are enclosed.

Adding Underlay Stitching...continued on next page.



Adding Underlay Stitching - continued

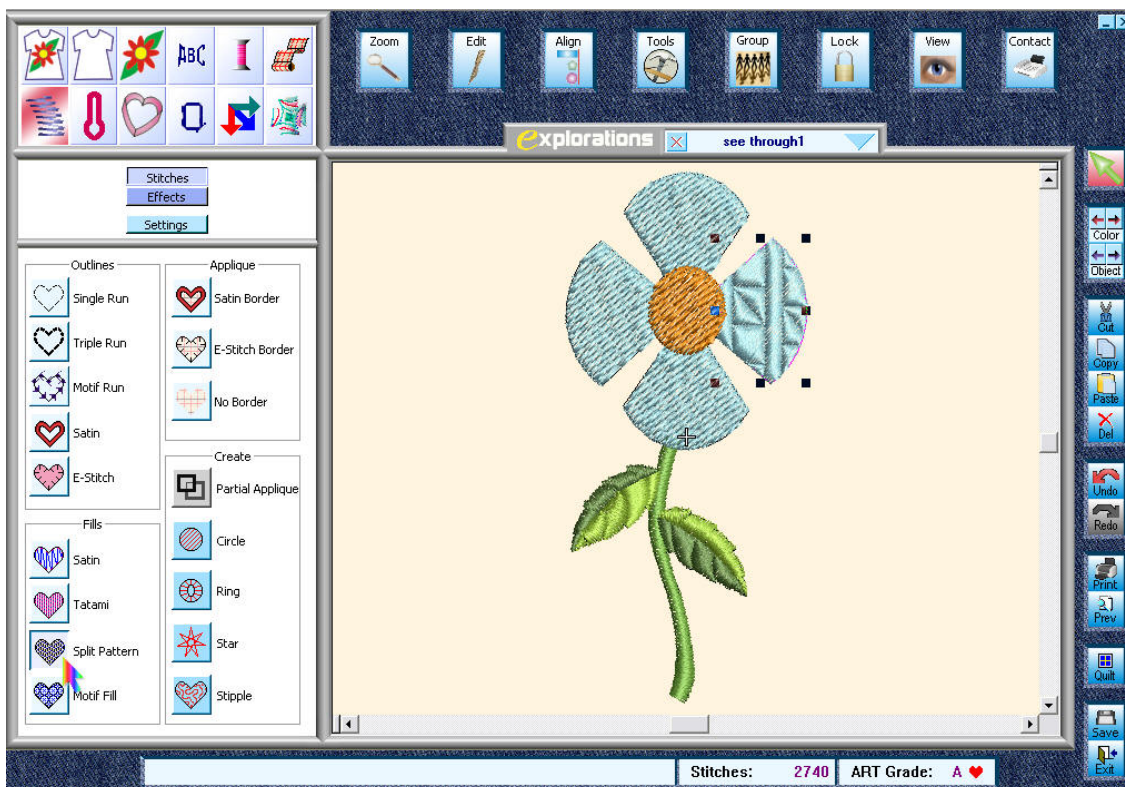
- Click *Effects*.
- Click *Auto Underlay*. The default setting for underlay is *Tatami*. When working with satin fills, use either the *Zigzag* or *Double Zigzag Underlay*. The *Double Zigzag Underlay* is recommended as it gives the satin stitching more dimension.
- Click *Settings*.
- Click the *Auto Underlay Tab* and select *Double Zigzag*.



Altering Flower Petals

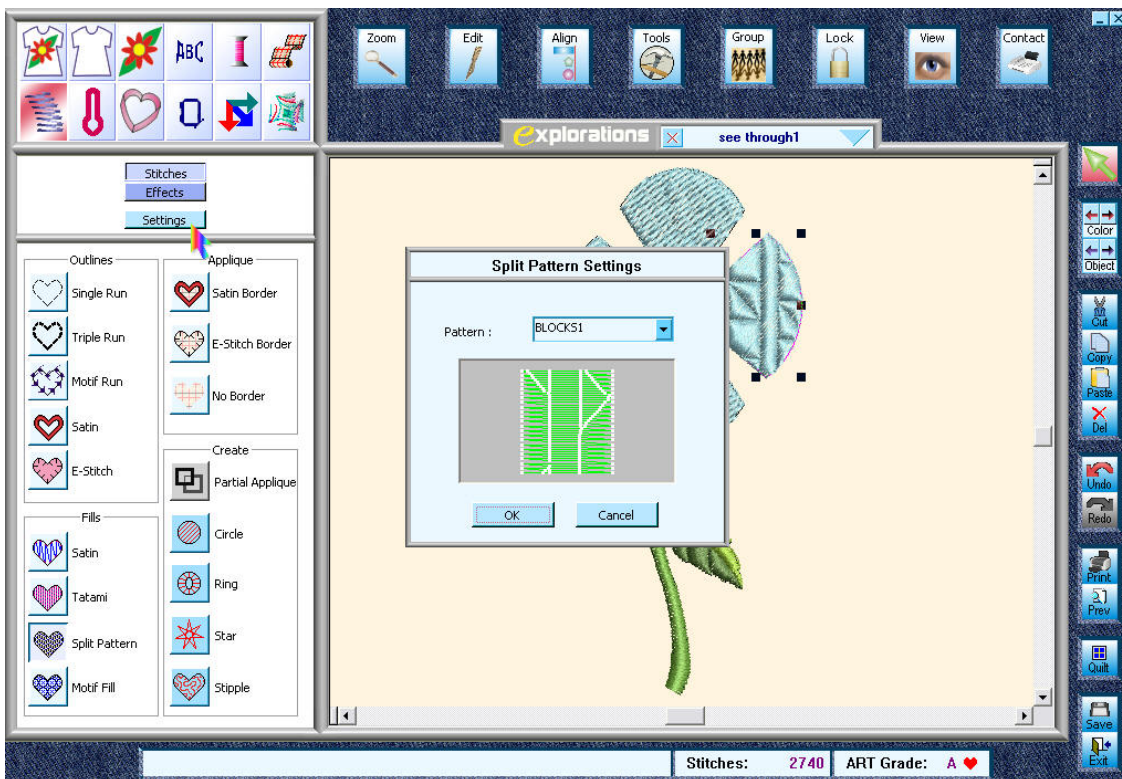
- Next, address the flower petals. There are many, many different effects available to enhance the petals!
- *Explorations* has 50 different *Split Pattern Fills* and 50 *Motif Fills*. *Split Pattern Fills* are made by different size satin stitches that will form a pattern. *Motif Fills* are more open and resemble old fashion Blackwork. Select one of the flower petals and apply a *Split Pattern Fill*.

Altering Flower Petals... continued on next page.

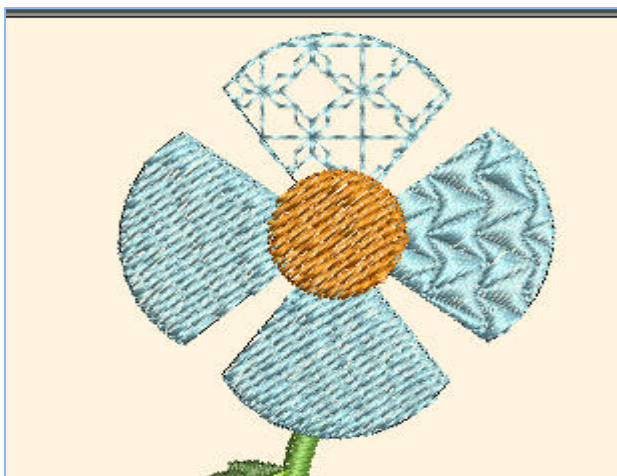


Altering Flower Petals - continued

- Click **Settings**. This will bring a small pop-up box that will allow you to access the other 49 patterns. Use the drop down menu to scroll through each pattern. The small pop-up box shows an example of each pattern. The white dots show where the needle will penetrate the fabric. If you want to see a larger example of the pattern, simply click **OK** to apply it to the design.
- Use the drop down menu and locate the pattern called **ARROWHD** (the patterns are in alphabetical order) and click **OK**.



- Select another flower petal. Click **Motif Fill** in the **Fills Box**. Click **Settings** and **Select Motif** to access the 49 other **Motif Fills**. Locate and select pattern # **MOO114** and click **OK**. Click **OK** again to set the pattern.

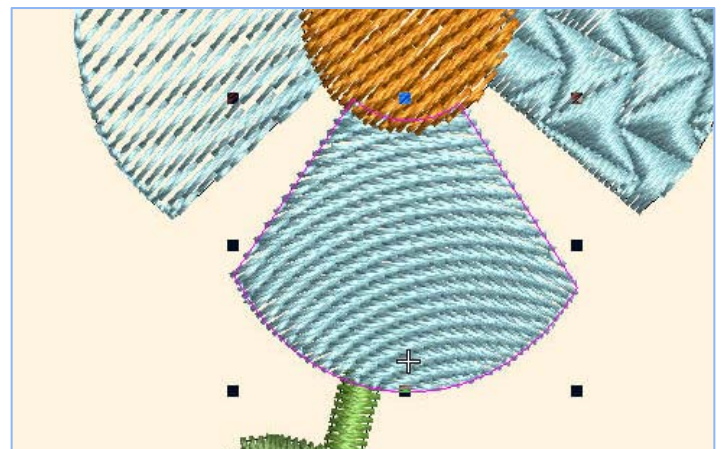
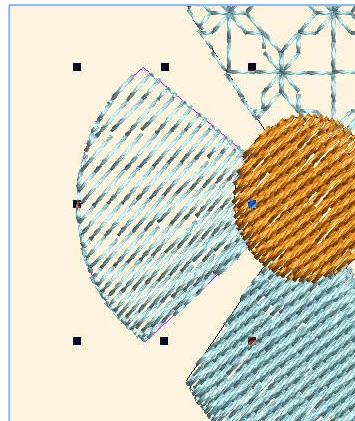
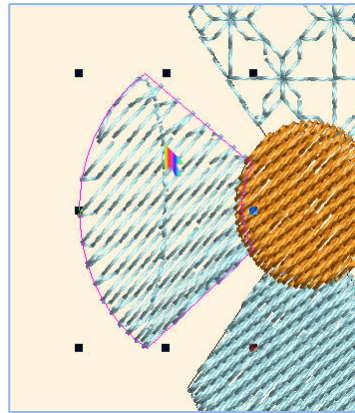


The next steps in this lesson are accomplished using an option called *Decorative Effects*. *Decorative Effects* is a standard option with *Explorations Galaxy* or can be added to *Explorations Classic*. These gorgeous effects can add artistic dimension to any embroidery project! If the *Decorative Effects* option is not available, the lesson can be completed by adding *Motif* or *Split Pattern Fills* to the remaining objects of the flower.

Adding Decorative Effects

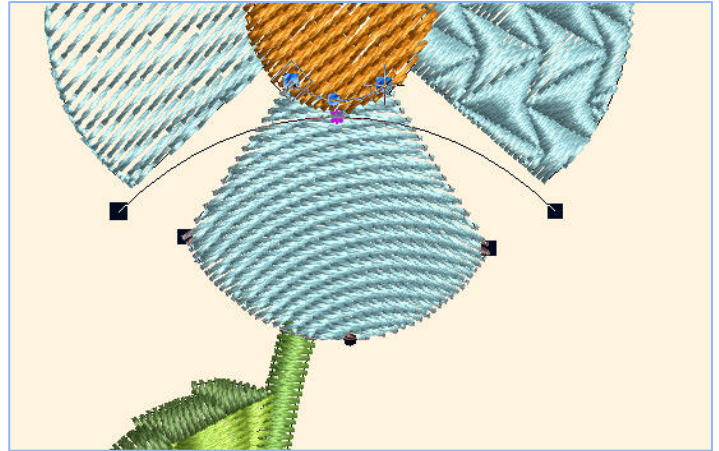
- Select the third petal of your flower. *Decorative Effects* can only be added to a Tatami filled object. Be sure that you select a petal that has a Tatami fill. Click *Effects*. Click *Gradient*. Notice how the fill has now changed to have some areas that are lightly filled and gradually become more heavily filled. In the picture to the right, the upper left hand side has far fewer stitches than the lower right hand side.
- Adjustments to the flow of this fill can be made by clicking *Settings*. Click on the tab called *Gradient Fill*. There are 4 different pattern flow options.
- Notice on the photo, above right, there is a walking stitch that will show through this gradient fill pattern. A walking stitch is created by the software to move from one area of a design to another without creating a jump stitch. To get rid of that walking stitch, simply click *See Through Fill*. The walking stitch is still a part of the design; it has just been moved to the outline of the design so it won't show through the stitching.
- Select the last petal of the flower. From the *Decorative Effects Box*, click *Angle Flow*. Change the appearance/angle of a curved fill pattern with the *Angle Flow Option*. *Angle Flow* can be used to create the effect of movement.

Adding Decorative Effects...
continued on next page.



Adding Decorative Effects - continued

- The angle of this movement can be changed with the *Reshape Option*. (The *Reshape Option* is standard in Galaxy, an option that can be added to Classic.) Click *Edit and Reshape*. Note the appearance of a curved line that is the exact angle of the stitch flow. Also note, additional points can be created along this line. With the click of the left mouse button, the point will be straight. With the click of the right mouse button, the point will be curved. *Tip:* A lot of points are not needed to reshape an object. As a matter of fact, the less points the better.
- To delete any point from the line, simply click on it and then click *Delete*. To make a point the opposite of what it is now, click on the point to select it and then hit the space bar on the computer keyboard. Points can be moved by clicking on them, while holding down the left mouse button, move the mouse. Release the mouse button when the point is in the correct position.
- To change the angle of this line, simply click and drag the center point to another position. *Please Note: It is possible when adding points to the line to get to sharp a curve. You will know if you have created a curve that is too sharp as the reshape line will jump back to its original position.* To Exit the *Reshape Mode*, either hit the escape key on the computer keyboard or click on *Select Arrow*.
- Select the flower center. Apply any of the above techniques for applying a *Split Pattern Fill* or *Satin Fill* to complete the lesson.



ENJOY!

