

Linework Designs in Stitch ERA

For this exercise, go to google images, type in “pumpkin_line”. View the large version of the image in your browser. Right click, COPY. Open a new document in Stitch ERA. PASTE the pumpkin image into the SE desktop.

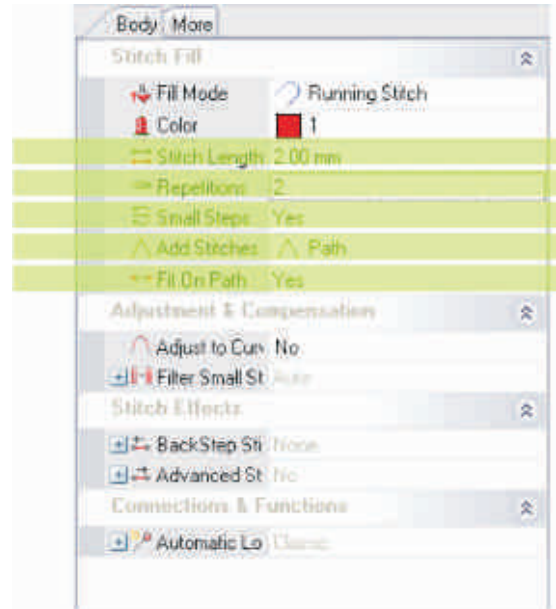
Next, with the image selected, go to your ribbon and select “image to vectors”. On color reduction ribbon, make sure it says 2 colors, then click “filter”. This will redraw a “cleaned” version of the artwork on the right side. Now click “vectorize”. When this is done, click the green checkmark on the upper right to return this vectorized line-art to ERA.

Resize the image to about 1 ½” across (confirm that your zoom is set to 100%) If you wish to Auto digitize, click on “Art to stitch”. In this case, go ahead and choose defaults and click “OK”. Since the outline on this art is so thin, the software will now generate running stitches. Hide your artwork and take a look at your stitch simulation. You may have a sewable file now, but the next steps are designed to take a little more control. Because autotrace has introduced many nodes, there are a few things that we will go over next. The next step is to right click and “explode” this into sections, so that we can edit the properties of the generated stitches.

After you have exploded the sections, with all sections selected, go to your object manager and select path properties. Set this to 1.5 to 2 (length) 2 (repetition) Yes (small steps) and on “Path” (Add Stitches). Do not forget Lock stitches if needed. If you wish to set the entry and exit points on this entire group, you can now branch and enter these, by right clicking, choosing branch and then entering your choices.

If you start with artwork that is less “clean” or that isn’t already line artwork, you either have to take the time to create it, or use the artwork for a template in SE and use your artistic abilities to interpret it. Set your path properties as discussed previously and create an outline drawing using the path tool, looking for opportunities to go from one part of a design to another without “lifting your pencil”. Remember that lines can be traced multiple times going into a section, and coming out the same way. On finer areas, you may have to set shorter stitch lengths or have the software generate needle penetrations on the node. This is all controlled by your inputs and in the settings in the object inspector. Pick starting/ending points, based on where the lock stitches will be least obtrusive or contribute to the efficiency and how the design lays on the fabric.

Go onto the internet and look at examples of simple and complex line work. If you have designs that you’ve purchased, look at the pathing, and understand why certain choices were made in the creation of the design.



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