Converting a vector design for Digital Embroidery: Step/ fill/ open fill stitch

P**rogram**: APS Ethos

Password: Password

To open your design: go to design menu, locate file and open.

Design may open in the **drawing composer** element of the software and will allow you to edit some elements of the drawn design. To convert your vector based design you must change to the **embroidery element** of the software, use the change to punching context icon (top right of the screen).

Select the design using **CTRL + A** or from the **menu - edit and select all.**

At the bottom of the screen you will see the number of vector objects that your design is made up of and the **size of your design.**

Before you assign stitches you must **ensure that the design size is correct.**

To change the design size: go to edit menu and select rescale.

Your design is **currently vector based** and must be converted into an **embroidery object** before you can assign any stitches.

To convert your vector design: This will depend on the final stitch that you wish to use.

> **Satin stitch:** useful for borders around shapes, applique & lettering but can only be used with a shape that is 10mm wide or under.
>
> **Running stitch:** useful for detailed stitching within a design or in place of a satin stitch where the design is too thin ie under 1mm.
>
> **Step/ fill/ Open fill stitch:** used to fill a large area or shape, lettering over 10mm wide and in place of a satin stitch when the area is too large.

When you are converting a design for a running or step/ fill stitch: choose **step convert from outlines.**

This option can be found in the **menu bar under tools - conversion tools.**

This will convert the **vector design** into an **embroidery object** and will allow you to apply your chosen stitch effect

Using the selection arrow, **left click** on the **outside edge of the design**, you will now be able to select a **fill stitch** from the stitch effects menu.

Select the step/fill option and then set this using the stitch selected outlines icon, you will now see the applied stitch effect in your design.

Before exporting your design to the **Brother Digital Embroidery machine**, you must select the **move origin tool** and place the **origin within your design,** use the view menu to zoom resize.

You can now export your design to the Brother embroidery machine for stitching.

Exporting your file: go to **design menu** - export file – and **export as a DST** to the G or J drive

Points to consider

Always resize your design before assigning any stitches, changing sizes after applying stitches will alter the stitch size and cause poor embroidery outcomes.

Setting a base fabric will automatically set stitches at an appropriate density for the given fabric to be stitched. This setting can be found in the design menu under **Set Base fabric**, samples of the stitch density can be found as samples on the wall and used as a guide.

Colours and stitch can be grouped before you export a file, this will quicken the stitch time of your final embroidery.

Keep design simple until you are more confident with the application of embroidery design.

Advanced stitch options available in the **stitch effect wizard tool** allow you to control stitch density/ pitch, stitch length, stitch underlay, curved fills, graduated fills, vector patterns, random edges on a satin stitch, overlaps on corners etc.

Decorative stitches can also be found in the **stitch effect wizard tool** and edited using the same effects as above.