Converting a vector design for Digital Embroidery: Running 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.

If 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 **running stitch** from the stitch effects menu.

Select the running stitch 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 designs 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.