How to create a ExpressDesign

By Janie Lantz

Project Description

Welcome to our educational blog on **mySewnet ExpressDesign: Zippy Zebra**! Whether you're a beginner or an experienced embroiderer, this guide will help you navigate the powerful features of mySewnet™ Software, available in both Gold and Platinum levels for Windows and Mac.

Here is everything you need to complete this project.

- mySewnet™ Software 🖱️
- Gold or Platinum Level
- Windows and Mac Version (Mac specific instructions in green)

Part 1 Beginner Level: ExpressDesign Into Hoop

1. Open mySewnet™ Embroidery 🖱️.
2. Select Blank Canvas **(Blank Project, then click Next in Mac)**.
3. Change the Hoop to **Universal 260mm x 200mm**, **Rotated,** and click **OK**.
4. Select the Create tab (✧ **in Mac Control Panel)**.
5. Select Express Design 📱, ExpressDesign Into Hoop.
6. Select Create Express Embroidery.
7. Click **Next / Continue**.

8.   Select **Load a Picture** 📂 (**Select File in Mac**).

9.   Browse to **Samples \Embroidery\Pics**.

     If you don't have the samples, you can download them under your personal Dashboard at https://www.mysewnet.com/.
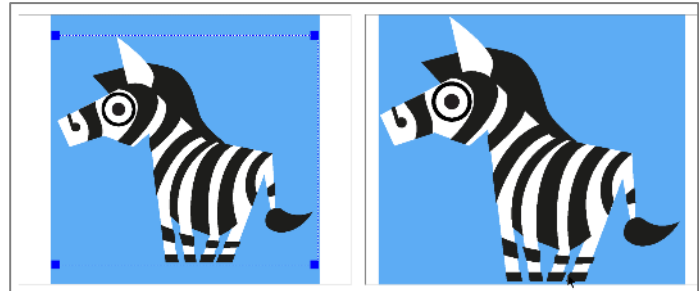
10.   Select **Animals 7**, the Zebra.

11.   Click **OK / Open** to open it in the ExpressDesign Wizard / **Assistant**.

12.   Click **Next / Continue**.

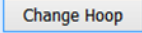13.   Adjust the corners of the crop box (shown below) to remove most of the excess blue background.

     TIP: Click Automatic in Windows to crop initially, then adjust further as needed.

14.   Click **Next / Continue**.

Windows:

Select **Enter Design Size** so you can select a Hoop and the exact size of the embroidery in Height or Width.

- Click Change Hoop **Change Hoop** .
- In Hoop Type, you can select from many different machine brands and hoop sizes!
- In Hoop Type, change Hoop Group to **Universal**, and Hoop Size to **200mm x 200mm - Universal Square Hoop 3** (or the hoop of your choice, for your specific machine).
- In Orientation, select **Natural**.
- Click **OK** to close Hoop Selection.
- In Enter Design Size, change <u>Size</u> to **152mm**, and select **Width**.
- Click **Next**.

Mac:

- Adjust the Height or the Width to the size you prefer, and tab with the keyboard key to refresh the alternate measurement.
- Click **Continue**.

15. In Choose Thread Colors, change **Color Selection** to **3** to filter out the extra black shades.

16. Click **Apply** to update.

17. In **Change All Threads To**: Select a thread brand you prefer.

    Thread colors are reduced to three, white, blue and black.

18. Place a **√** beside **Automatically Remove Background Color**.

19. Select **Remove Main Background Only**.

    The Thread Color Preview picture will show a fine cross-hatch where no stitches are to be created.

    The blue background will be removed when you click Next, leaving black and white.

20. Click **Next** / **Continue**.

21. In Fabric and Stitch Type Options, change Fabric to the type of fabric you plan to embroider.

22. Click **Refresh Preview** to update the stitches.

    The Fabric Advisor will automatically calculate the correct amount of Compensation, Underlay or stabilizing stitches, and Stitch Density for the type of fabric you choose!
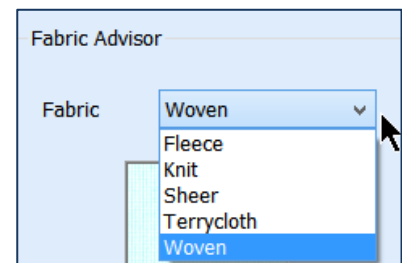
23. Ensure the additional, global, **Design Underlay** option is **unchecked**.

    The appropriate amount of Design Underlay is already added by the Fabric Advisor! The additional Underlay option can be used to create a 'fabric topper' of fill to lock down pile fabrics or prevent contrasting fabric color from showing through fill areas.

24. Leave **Preferred Stitch Type** toward 0, or more Fill areas.

25. Click **Refresh Preview** if needed to update the changes.

26. Click **Finish** / **Done**.

    Your embroidery will appear in the selected Hoop in the Design area, with the visible Filmstrip on the left,

    and the Thread colors visible in the Design Panel (*in Mac Control Panel) at right.*

Save a Backup

Save a Working File for Precise Re-Editing.

Back up the design before you make changes, and periodically as you make additional adjustments. Many digitizers use Save As each time they save, adding a Ver1, Ver2, etc. to the file name so they have individual .edo files in multiple steps!

27. Click **Save As** in the Quick Access toolbar in the Main menu.

    ➢ **Click Actions / Save in Mac, or hold the option keyboard key and click File / Save As.**

28. Browse to the preferred folder of your choice.

29. Type **ZippyZebra** in File Name.

    Save As Type is automatically .edo, as you used the ExpressDesign to make your design element.

30. Click **Save**.

Saving a working file (as a special .vp4 file type) to preserve the coding used to create the .edo element (identified by the [symbol] symbol in the Filmstrip) in this embroidery design gives you the ability to change it up, even after the program window is closed. If you later want to edit, change or resize the embroidery, simply Insert the .vp4 file in Embroidery, and make the changes while preserving the high stitch quality of the original file without having to duplicate all the effort!

# Part 2 Intermediate: Editing to Fine Tune Stitches

If you have the Platinum version of mySewnet™ Software, you can Edit in Digitizing to link the .edo element into the Digitizing program, giving you even more fantastic options!

1. **Click** the Filmstrip Frame to select with a highlight, if needed.
2. **Right click** over the selected Filmstrip Frame with the Zebra.
3. Select Edit in Digitizing.

   TIP: Don't click Close in the linking pop-up. Wait until the Digitizing program opens, and the Zebra loads into the work area, which may take a few seconds.

Add Texture to Boost the Zebra's Visual Appeal

4. View with **Life View** 🌈, and then **Cancel** / **Close**.
5. Run **Design Player** ▶ and play through the stitch order.
6. Click **Cancel** / **Close** when finished.
7. Adjust the integrated **QuickZoom Toolbar** [slider] until the embroidery's view nearly fills the work area.
8. Select the **Edit tab** in the Ribbon Bar **(Edit tools are in the Control Panel in Mac)**.
9. In the Edit tab **(Mac Control Panel)**, Hide Object Types tools, **click to select** (highlight) Lines ⬜, Satin Areas ☰, Columns 🖌, and Single Stitches ✎ to hide them.
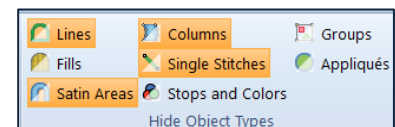
   Clicking the icon toggles it on or off. All objects except Fills should now be hidden.
10. *In the Design Panel, Color Select, **uncheck** the **white thread colors** for white areas in the design. Only the black sections will remain in view.*
11. *Use **Ctrl A** (command A in Mac) to select all the visible stitch objects (should be just black fill areas).*
12. *Hold down the **Ctrl key** (command in Mac) and click the Filmstrip Frame with the color change 🎨 to deselect it, so only Pattern Fill objects remain selected.*
13. ***Right click** over any selected Frame in the FilmStrip.*
14. *Select **Copy**.*
15. *In the Edit tab (Mac Users: Filters Tools in Control Panel) click **Display All Objects** 🔲.*
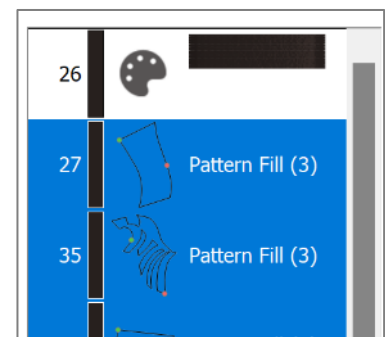
16. *Scroll all the way to the bottom of the Film Strip (some frames will be hidden until you scroll down) and* **click** *the* <u>last Frame</u> *to select with a highlight.*

17. **Right click** <u>over the highlighted frame</u> *and select* **Insert Color Change** *in the pop up menu.*

18. *Select a* **pink** *thread color.*

    TIP: Pink is just for a high contrast while designing. You can change it later.

19. *Click* **OK** *to close Color Selection.*

    Double check that the last Frame (now the new pink thread color) frame is selected with a highlight in the Filmstrip.

20. **Right click** <u>over the last, highlighted Frame</u> *(now the pink thread, as the selection moves to the newly inserted thread color) in the FilmStrip.*

21. *Select* **Paste** 📋 *.*

    The copied sections of pattern fill will paste as a Group after the selected frame in the Filmstrip and are selected in the Filmstrip with a highlight.

    Pasting places objects exactly over the originals, as opposed to Duplicate, which offsets them.

22. Select the **Group Frame** below the pink color change in the Filmstrip.

23. **Right click** <u>over the Group Frame</u>.

24. Select **Properties**.

    Properties will allow you to change all the selected frames (of the same stitch type) at once.

    - In the Fill Area and Line properties box, click the drop arrow beside Pattern Fill and select **Spiral Fill** ◎ from the Specialty Fill types.

    - Change **Density** to 12**.**

    - In the Appliqué tab, select **None**.

25. Click **OK**.

26. **Right click** over the <u>highlighted Group Frame</u>.

27. Select **Ungroup**.

    You cannot select individual elements within a Group to edit their points.

    If the cursor shows Box select, right click in the work area to end Box Select.

28. **Uncheck** the <u>black</u> and <u>white threads</u> in the Control Panel.

29. Make sure **Edit Points** 🖉 is selected in the Quick Select toolbar at bottom **(top toolbar in Mac)**.

30. Click in one of the longer areas of pink spiral stripes in the work area, from the central body, to select it.
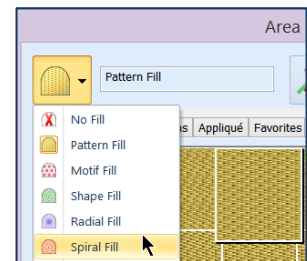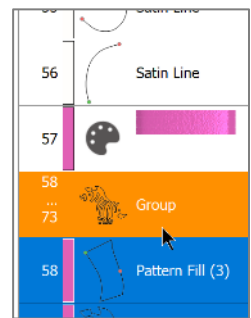
*The area is selected and the adjustment nodes are visible around the stitch object's border.*

31. Click and drag the **Origin marker** to the approximate center of the largest black area in the zebra's body.

    The Origin point is where the spiral pattern originates.

    Tip: Use the Grid to select a point for the Origin marker, and use the same Grid for the other Origin markers as you move them!

32. Select another stripe and move the Origin marker to the same location in the center of the body, so the two origin markers are roughly one over the other.

33. Repeat for all the pink Spiral Fill areas.

    When you align Origin markers, the spirals will all appear to emanate from the same place, making it look like one large area of spiral fill!
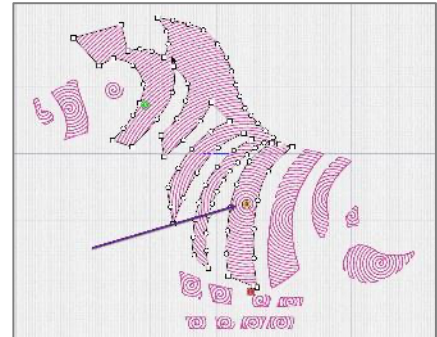
34. In the Edit tab **(Mac Users: Control Panel)**, click **Display All Objects** to make the hidden areas visible.

35. Click **Life View** to see how the design appears when stitched!

36. Click **Cancel** / **Close**.

37. **Close** ✖ Digitizing to link back to Embroidery.

    • **Mac Users: click mySewnet™ Digitizing in the top Menu bar, and select Quit mySewnet™ Digitizing, so the entire window closes.**

38. Click **Save As** to back up the work again.

    TIP: After you complete the design, change the pink thread to white or silver to provide a contrasting stitch over the black areas in your zebra!

Export to Finalize for Stitching

39. Click **Export Embroidery** in the Main menu bar **(Mac Users: Actions / Export in Mac).**

40. In the Export window, click the drop arrow by **File Format** to select the correct format for your embroidery machine.

41. Select **.vp3** as the file type, unless your machine brand uses a different proprietary format.

    Many different formats for most embroidery machines are available!

    Some specific formats have additional settings suitable for the supported machine types.

42. In **Optimize for Sewing,** check or uncheck the preferred settings for finalizing your embroidery.

    Tip: Settings are selected by the need of your designs. For example, Appliqué created with several threads in the same color change would require unchecking ColorSort.

43. Click **OK**.

44. Browse to the preferred folder of your choice.

The File Name will be the same as the .edo file name you previously saved, with Export appended to the end.

Remember, you can open Configure and change the word that is appended to signal a file has been Exported to finalize for embroidery.

45. Click **Export**.

Use Send to mySewnet if you have a mySewnet cloud enabled machine!

TIP: Before using Send, whether sending to a cloud account or to your wi-fi compatible embroidery machine, open Configure and change up the Optimize for Sewing settings first, close Configure, and then use Send!

Embroidery with flat fill textures and simple designs are easy to create with mySewnet™ Embroidery Software's ExpressDesign, but are sometimes low in interest.

Utilize the techniques the unique tools in Digitizing to jazz up your stitches!