

What's new in PM Stitch Creator 3.0

Convert Pictures to Stitch Patterns with More Ease and Precision

Improved Conversion to Thread Colors

The improved conversion algorithm developed for Stitch Conversion Wizard assures better color matching of original image colors to thread brand catalogue colors and minimizes conversion artifacts such as color 'orphans' or mismatching color spots in the areas of uniform color.

The fine tuning of the conversion method used by the program can be done with new **Converting Options dialog** accessible through menu Settings. This dialog allows you to change several conversion parameters:

Brightness – increase/decrease visual brightness of converted pattern

Contrast – increase/decrease visual contrast of converted pattern

Simulate Hand Drawing – switch on/off simulation of effect of picture being manually painted before conversion to thread colors

Click **Apply** button to immediately preview results of changed parameters on converted pattern. If **Rebuild Thread Table** checkbox is checked, the complete palette of thread colors which program suggests for the picture will be recalculated.

Support of the Most Recent Color Charts of Major Brands

PM Stitch Creator 3.0 offers colors from the most complete color charts of major brands such as DMC, Madeira, J&P Coates, Anchor available by the date of release. In addition program offers several new instruments to manage thread colors more effectively:

Brands Manager

This new dialog available through menu **Options** allows you to view, edit, and create new brand palettes which are used by the program. When you choose existing palette in **Brand** listbox, all colors from the palette with their names and catalog numbers are shown on the dialog. You can select any color and edit or delete it. Click Edit to change floss **Name**, **Color**, or **Catalog Number**. In the same manner you can define properties of new floss color when you click **Add Floss** button. Color for the new floss can be defined either using standard Color dialog with its R,G,B values, or by picking up color from the pattern using Color Picker.

You can create new brand and define all colors for this brand using **New Brand** button on Brands Manager dialog.

Custom and Mixed Colors

To add custom color to current project palette use **Add Custom** button on **Floss Colors dialog** which appears when you run Settings-Floss Colors command or convert image using Stitch Conversion Wizard.

Custom Thread dialog will allow you to define color, name, and catalog number for custom color. You can either define custom thread color by clicking on **Result Color** box or generate new color as a mixture of arbitrary number of colors available in brand palettes:

Check '**Mix new color from brand colors**' and click **Add** button to add any thread from any available brand to the mix. Once you have multiple threads selected for the mix, click **Generate Descriptive Name** button – this will create descriptive name for new mixed thread which will consist from brand names and catalog numbers of threads used in the mixed thread.

Click OK to add new color to current palette.

Wizard

The most convenient tool to convert your picture to the cross-stitch pattern is **Stitch Conversion Wizard** which can be launched using menu **Help – Wizard**. The Wizard also starts by default on program start up. New features of the Wizard will make your work even more productive:

- **Live preview** – is available on all steps of the Wizard. Simply choose preview mode in Preview listbox of the Wizard dialog and click **Apply** button to see resulting pattern with current settings on program workspace;
- **Before** and **After** picture displays on Adjust and Filter steps of the Wizard will give you more control when you prepare picture for conversion using Crop, Rotate, or adjustment filters;
- **Hand Draw** filter – added to the Filter step of the Wizard allows you to convert your picture to an imitation of artistic painting before conversion.
- **Control color conversion accuracy** – the last step of the Wizard – Floss color dialog allows you to test how your final pattern will look like with different color conversion settings. You can choose different brand palette in **Use Flosses from Brand** listbox, set maximum number of colors to be used in the pattern, click **For Picture** in Optimize box to calculate colors which better match original picture colors, add or remove color from project palette, and click **Apply** to immediately preview the result of current palette settings on program workspace.

New Powerful Tools for Pattern Design

Layers

PM Stitch Creator 3.0 allows you to do complex composition of patterns much in the same way as you do graphics composition in professional image editing application – with the help of layers. Portions of the pattern can be put on separate layers and they can be independently positioned, resized, and rotated. New **Layers Palette** allows you to select layer for editing and provides tools to sort, show/hide, and delete layers.

Layers are particularly convenient for working with motifs and text.

Text Layer

Whenever you add text to the pattern, it is placed on separate editable layer. This means that text is not permanently embedded into the fixed spot on the pattern, but you can edit text on a later stage – choose new position for the text, change contents of the text layer, font, filling and anti-aliasing options and new **Text Effects**

French Knot and 10 New Stitch Types

With PM Stitch Creator 3.0 you can create patterns using 25 different stitch types and a French Knot – a decorative stitch made by looping the thread two or more times around the needle, which is then inserted into the canvas.

New Backstitch Types

To facilitate contouring of patterns PM Stitch Creator 3.0 adds new types of Backstitch: **Short Backstitch** allows you to draw continuous backstitch as if you draw it with a pencil, so

that you can contour areas with single stitch accuracy. To enhance visualization of backstitches you can now draw with both standard and **Double Backstitch**.

Motifs

PM Stitch Creator 3.0 comes with the extendable collection of Motifs – clipart-type elements of stitch projects which can be used for complex compositions, decorations, and **Borders**.

Motifs are inserted using **Motif Brush**. When you select Motif Brush on Tool Palette or using menu Stitch-Draw-Motif Brush you first will be prompted to select the Motif on **Select Motif dialog**. This dialog displays thumbnails of available motifs for selected **Category**. You can also choose the what color will be used to fill the motif using **Color** listbox:

Original – all motif stamps you insert will be filled with original motif color;

Current – all motif stamps will be filled with the current color;

Sorted – each subsequent motif stamp will have new color from current project palette according to its sorting order;

Random - each subsequent motif stamp will have new randomly chosen color from current project palette

Once you have made your selection on the dialog click OK and start inserting motif stamps by mouse clicks.

To finish inserting motifs click ESC or right mouse button.

You can add custom motif to the library. Select part of the project you want to use as a motif and run menu File-**Save Selection As Motif** command. The **Save Motif** dialog allows you to select (or create new) **Category** for new motif and choose (or type new) **Name** for the motif. New motif will appear under this name and category next time you pick up Motif Brush.

Hint: You can easily prepare custom library of Motifs from any clipart graphics collection. Simply convert any image to stitch pattern using PM Stitch Creator Wizard, then use menu Edit-Select All (or Ctrl-A) and File-Save Selection As Motif commands. Note that for most practical purposes you need small motifs.

Motifs from the library are also used by Stitch-**Border** command.

Blackwork

In addition to Motifs PM Stitch Creator 3.0 also offers an extendable library of Blackwork - projects which contain predefined backstitch patterns. You can use blackwork as a an starting outline for creation of your project.

Blackwork can be inserted using **Stitch-Fill-Selection By Blackwork** menu command. Note that you need to make selection using tools on Selection Bar before applying this command. The **Fill-Selection By Blackwork** command will display the **Select Blackwork dialog** which shows thumbnails of available blackworks for selected **Category**. The dialog also offers you choice of coloring method for backstitches from the blackwork using **Color** listbox:

Current – all blackwork stamps in selection will be made of backstitches of the current color;

Sorted, Sorted Vert, Sorted Horz – Colors of backstitches in each blackwork stamp (or each column, or each row of stamps, respectively) inside selection will be sorted according to the current project palette sorting order

Random, Random Vert, Random Horz - Colors of backstitches in each blackwork stamp (or each column, or each row of stamps, respectively) inside selection will use randomly chosen color from the current project palette

You can add custom blackwork to the library. Select part of the project containing backstitches and run menu File-**Save Selection As Blackwork** command. The **Save Blackwork** dialog will allow you to select (or create new) **Category** for new blackwork and

choose (or type new) **Name** for the blackwork. New blackwork will appear under this name and category next time you run Fill-Selection By Blackwork command.

Border

New **Stitch-Border** menu command creates border filled with selected motif around the stitch pattern. When you run this command you will be prompted to choose Motif and Motif stamp coloring method on **Select Border Pattern** dialog. This dialog displays thumbnails of available motifs for selected **Category**. You can also choose the what color will be used for motif stamps in the border:

Original – all motif stamps in the border will be filled with original motif color;

Current – all motif stamps in the border will be filled with the current color;

Sorted – each motif stamp in the border will be filled with next color from current project palette according to its sorting order;

Random – all motif stamps in the border will have new randomly chosen color from current project palette

Once you have made your selection on the dialog click OK. The border will be inserted as a New Layer which makes it easy to edit border on a later stage of your work.

Advanced Printing Options

New **How to Print dialog** which appears when you click on corresponding toolbar button on run **File-Print Setup** command offers additional printing options:

- **Mark Central Row/Column** to switch on/off double width for central grid lines in printout.

- **Print Grid** to switch on/off printing of cell grid. While in most cases it is more convenient to have pattern printed with grid, you may prefer to not print black grid when you print colored blocks pattern on thermopaper for direct transfer on the canvas.

Click on **Advanced** button on How To Print dialog allows you to set option to include Name of the project, Copyright, Original Image Info, Page Number, and Page Position Mark into printout.

PM Stitch Creator 3.0 allows to print pattern on multiple pages, from 1 page up to 10x10 pages. You can print patterns using printer or export patterns as graphics files using **File-Print-Print To File command**

New function **File-Print-Print Brand** allows you to print table of all colors available in brand catalogue used by the program.

New Interface and Usability Features

Dockable Palettes

All drawing tools are now easily accessible from **Tool Palette**. To enable more rational use of working space in Standard Windows Interface mode Tool palette, Color palette, Stitch Type palette, and Selection Bar are dockable – you can either have them floating or 'dock' them to fixed position as toolbars.

Better Zooming

Default Zoom levels on completion of Stitch Conversion Wizard are changed to optimize visual appearance of the resulting pattern at all viewing modes. New **Fit in Window** zooming mode added to **View** menu

More Interface Appearance Modes

In addition to Graphical and Standard Windows interface modes PM Stitch Creator offers choice of color **Cold** or **Warm** color gamma for graphical mode through menu **Options-Interface-Graphical Interface mode**.

To make working with layers on slower computers more convenient, use Options - **Fast Move Layers** command.