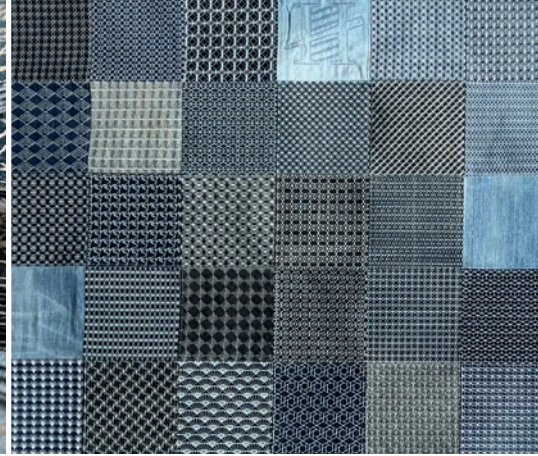
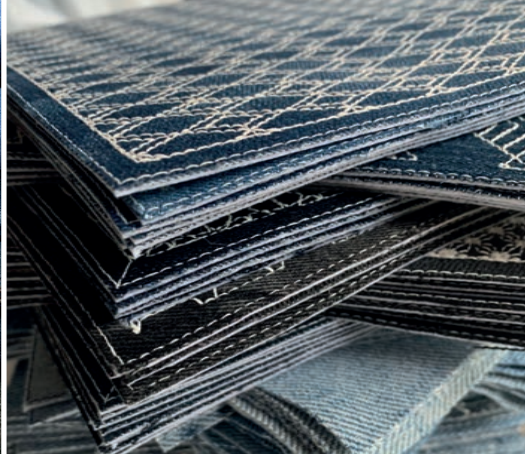


# Upcycled Denim Quilt with Sashiko Motifs

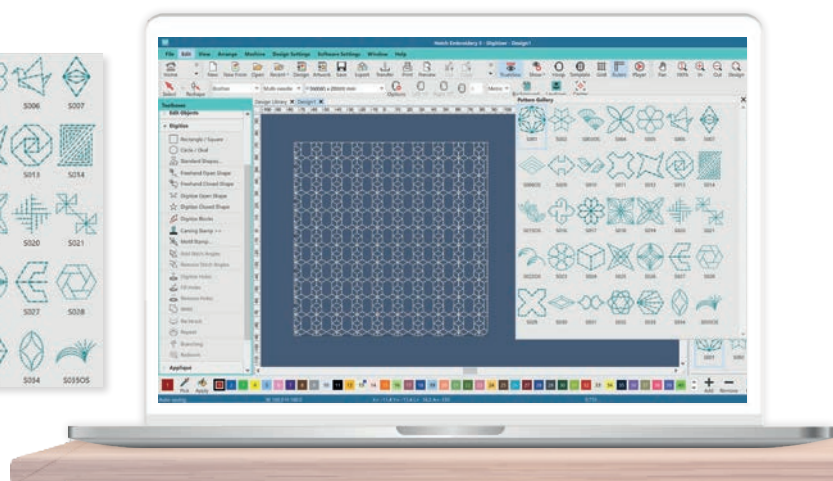
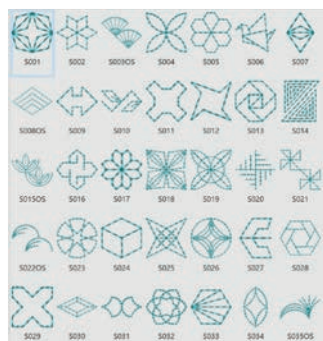
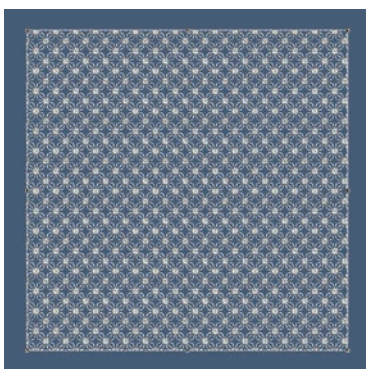
Minimum software requirement  
*Hatch Embroidery Digitizer 3*





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# Quilt Overview

## Details

Add more character to your room with this upcycled denim quilt that can be used as a decorative bed throw or wall-hanging. The beautiful Sashiko motifs provide an interesting handcraft-like feature.

This project uses features that are only available in the Digitizer level. We used motifs that were inspired by traditional Japanese embroidery, and you can find in the Sashiko category in Hatch (Hatch Embroidery 3 and later releases). This type of traditional embroidery is commonly used for decorative as well as functional reinforcement of patches that have been added to cloth and clothing as well as to increase warmth.

The instructions guide you through making the quilt with recycled denim with a simple backing for a clean and professional finish.

## Fabric suggestions

The quilt is compatible with woven fabrics such as mid-weight denim.

We recommend that you take advantage of recycled denim from old jeans or clothes for an interesting modern upcycled look. For contrast try to find different colors of denim. For this project the Hatch/Wilcom Team donated their old jeans and denim clothes. You could ask your friends and family to donate their jeans and denim clothes.

Use a backing fabric that is a similar weight to the top of the quilt in this case a similar weight to denim. You could use fleece if you are going to use it for bedding or just plain cotton fabric for a wall-hanging.

*Tip: For stretchy denim use iron-on interface and cutaway stabilizer.*



## Notions

Coordinating embroidery thread. If your denim or fabric is light in color you could use a dark cotton or lighter cotton like white if your denim or fabric is dark in color.

Sewing thread to sew the quilt together will also be required.

## Equipment

- A machine hoop

The size of the hoop will depend on the size of your individual squares. Our squares are 17cm x 17cm (approx. 6.7" x 6.7") which includes a 1cm seam allowance. Please note: the hoops you have available will dictate the square size.
- Rotary cutter
- Ruler (that you can use as a guide to when cutting)
- Cutting mat
- Pins

## Sizing

You will want to define the size based on the measurements of the final quilt that you want to create which may depend on the size of the bed and how you want it to sit or the size of the area of wall you want to cover.



For our project we decided to make our wall hanging 10 squares wide by 10 squares in height. With each square in the design measuring a finished size of 15cm x 15cm (6 in. x 6 in.). Therefore, the overall finished size dimensions of our quilt were 150cm x 150cm (60 in. x 60 in.)

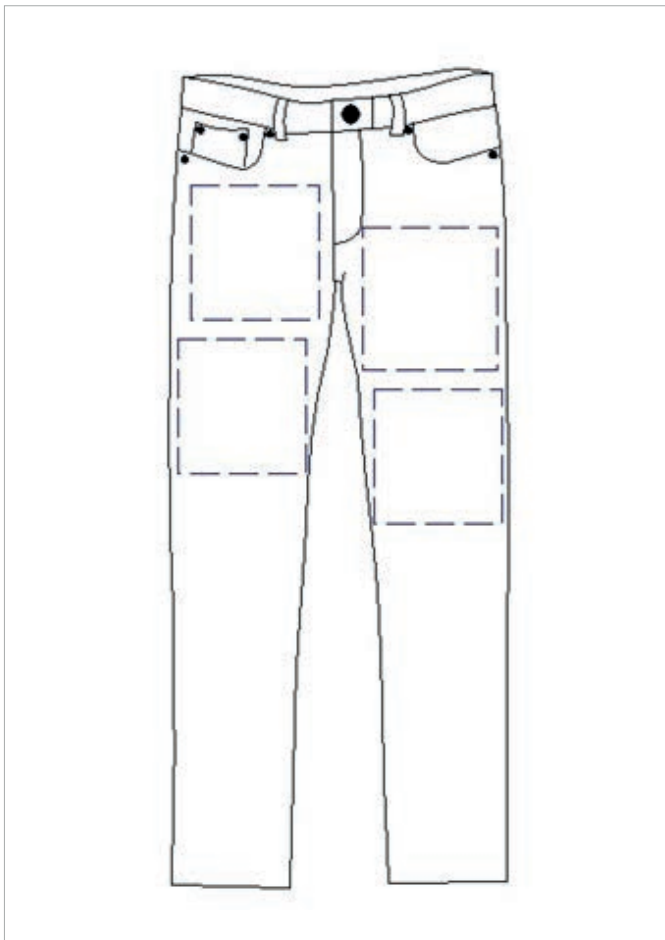
## Cutting your fabric

Wash and dry your fabric, so it doesn't shrink after the quilt has been assembled. Also, give your fabric a good press before cutting.

It's best to cut the squares as big as you can for ease of hooping. Depending on the size of the squares, you will need to make sure there is enough fabric for a seam allowance of at least 1 cm. Please note this means ensuring you have at least 2cms more than your desired finished square dimensions e.g. for 15cm x 15cm squares the cut pieces should be at least 17cm x 17cm (approx. 6.7" x 6.7").

How many squares you can cut from a pair of jeans will depend on the size of the jeans. We found that on average we could get 4 or more squares that didn't include any existing seams from each pair of jeans.

We wanted to cut as many squares as we could, so we could have an array of colors to choose from for our quilt design. We were able to unpick zippers and back pockets to get more squares.



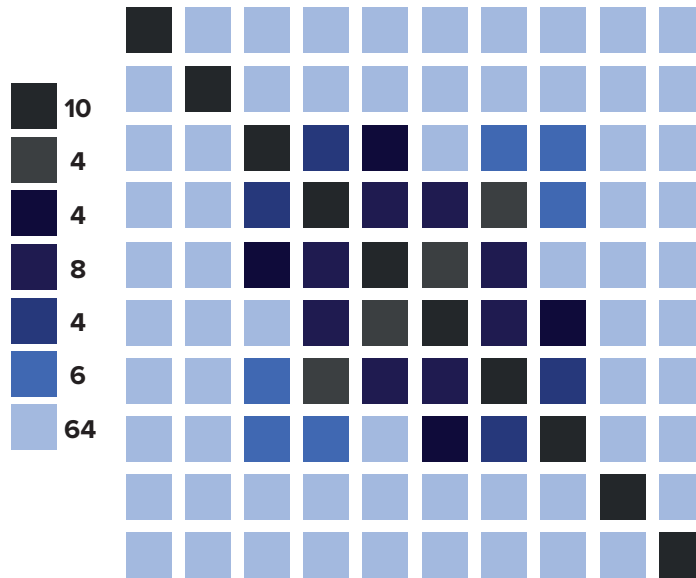
# Instructions

## STEP 1: LAYOUT THE DESIGN

1. Layout the cut pieces or create your layout on paper until you get the look you want.

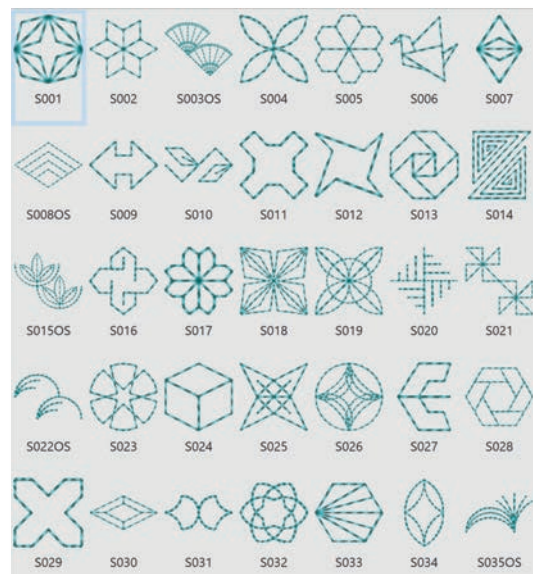
Using the different denim colors, we were able to layout an interesting design effect. We did this on the computer but you could easily do it with pen and paper.

Please note: the numbers provided next to the color blocks on the left are the number of squares we used in the design for each of those colors.



2. Decide which Motif pattern to stitch on which squares. For this project we used all the motifs from the Sashiko Motif category available in Hatch Embroidery 3. There are 35 patterns in this collection. (See motif patterns in red below).

We decided that we would stitch motif patterns on all the dark colour denim pieces using white thread.

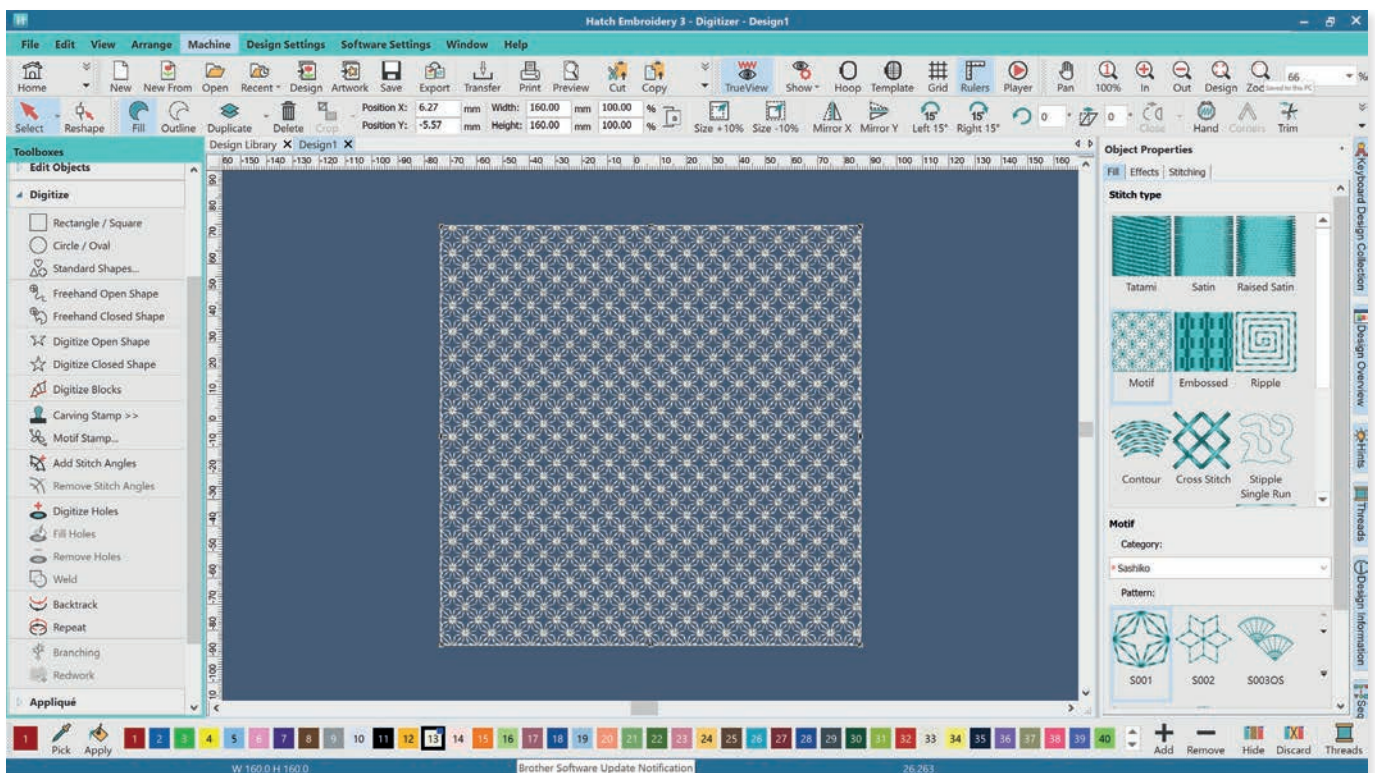


## STEP 2: DIGITIZE SQUARE SHAPE WITH MOTIF PATTERNS

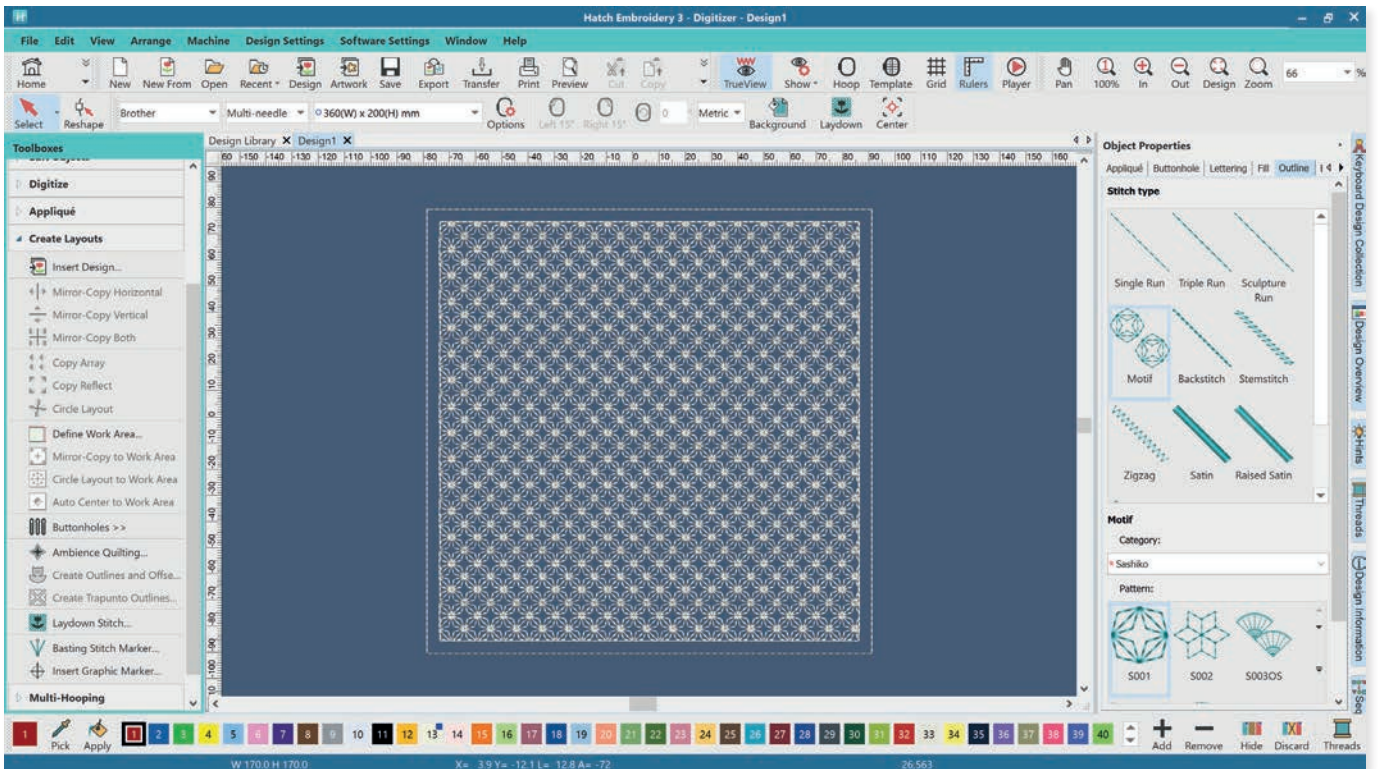
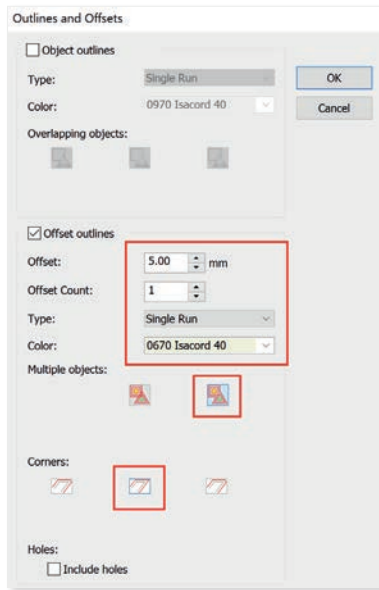
1. Select a hoop that is suitable for your squares.
2. To create the embroidery designs, select Rectangle / Square from the Digitize toolbox. In the design area click a point to place a corner of your square and then with the CTRL key selected, click another point complete the square. Adjust the size by selecting the square and entering the desired width in the toolbar above the design area, and press enter (ensure the width and height are locked so that it is a perfect square).

For our project we wanted the finished squares to be 150mm x 150mm, so we set the dimensions to a little over that i.e. to 160mm x 160mm to achieve a seamless motif pattern when we stitched them together.

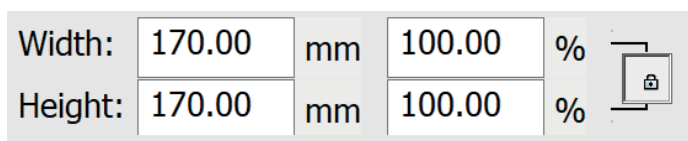
3. Select the square, and from the opened Object Properties docker on the Fill tab click 'Motif'. Select Sashiko from the Category dropdown menu and then choose the pattern you want to use for your square.



- For the cutting line, ensure your square is selected, then click the Create Outlines and Offsets tool in the Create Layouts toolbox. Use the following settings:



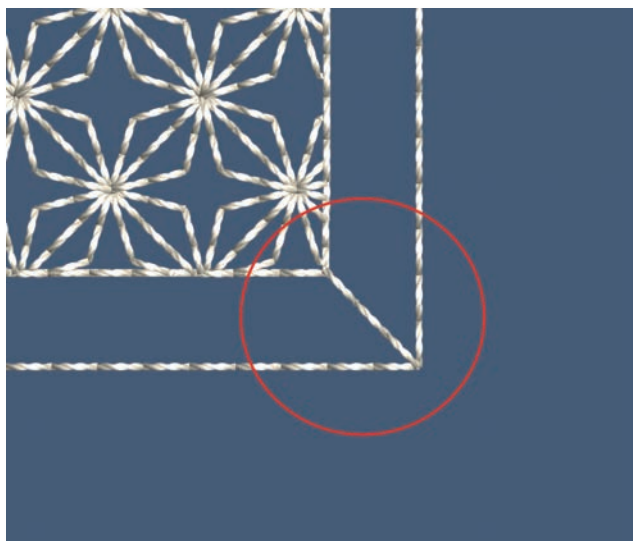
- Select the cutting line that has been created and make sure that it is 170mm by 170mm.



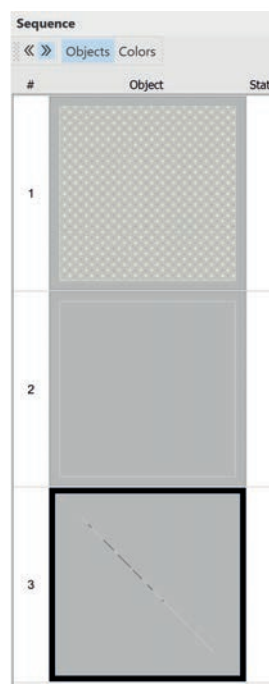


To minimize trims, digitize one travel stitch from the motif fill object to the cutting line then move the travel stitch object between the motif fill object and the motif fill outline object in the sequence docker.

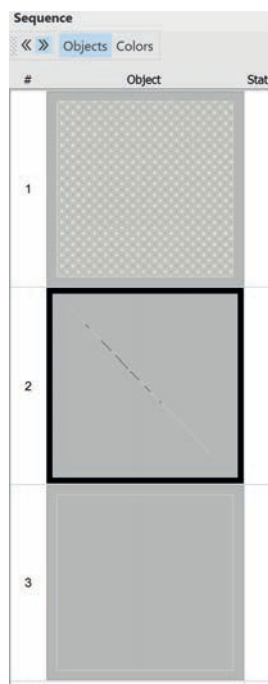
Save the design with a relevant name as an .EMB file e.g. Sashiko\_S001.EMB file



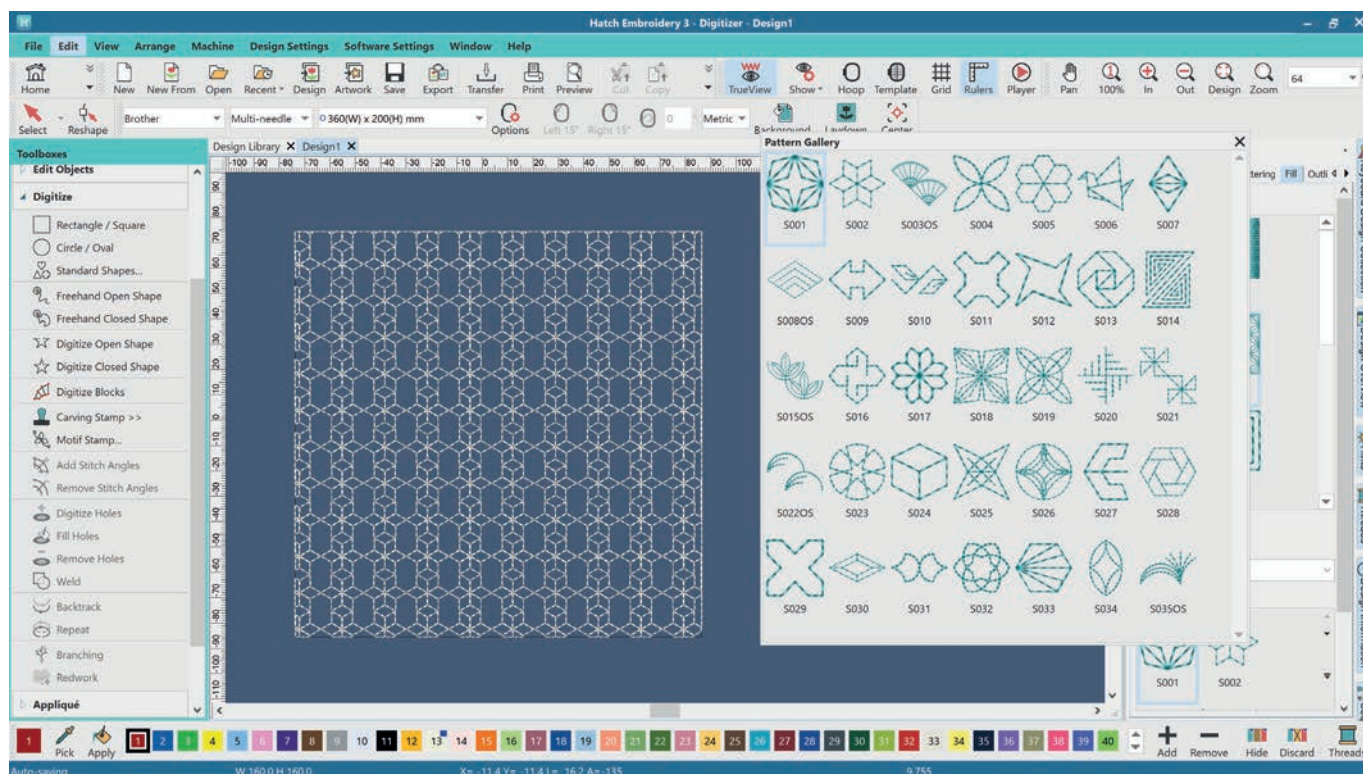
Before move



After move



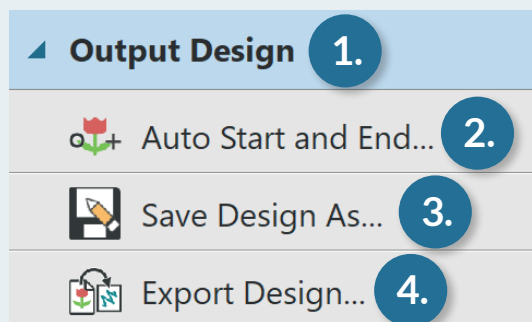
6. Create the other square designs by opening an existing design, as was created in steps 1-3 above. Selecting different Motif patterns and save the new designs with new file names.



### STEP 3: STITCH OUT YOUR SQUARES

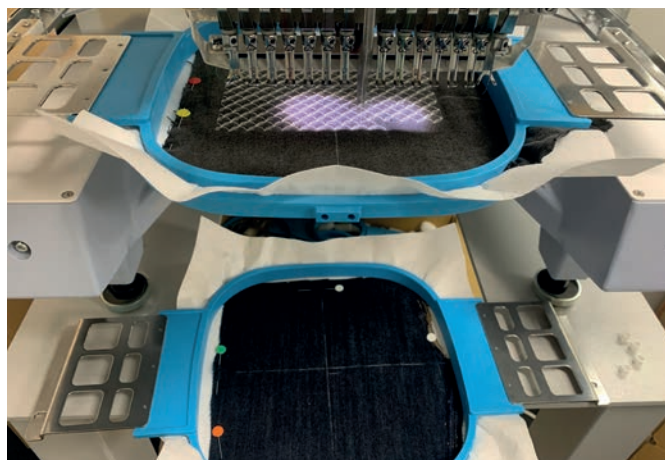
Save your design files as .EMB first, this is your design file format in case you want to make changes to your designs later. After that, you can export your designs as stitch files, so they can be read by your machine using the following steps:

1. Open the **Output Design** toolbox
2. Select **Auto Start and End** and ensure “Auto start at” is at the center of the design.
3. Select **Save Design As** to save design as an .EMB file (this is your working file)
4. Select **Export Design** and save to your machine format (this is your “stitching file” i.e. the file you will use for your machine to stitch).



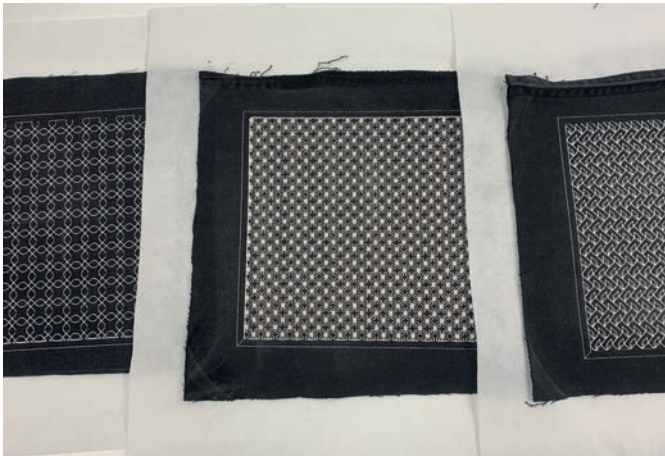
Open your stitch file on your machine.

If the denim pieces are too small for your hoop use a temporary spray to attach the fabric to the hooped cut-away stabilizer. You can also hand-stitch or pin it to your stabilizer.



#### STEP 4: TRIM ALL YOUR SQUARES

When all the square designs have been stitched out, trim all your squares. We used a Rotary cutter here which made this quicker and easier.



#### STEP 5: LAYOUT OUT & ORGANIZE SQUARES FOR SEWING

Once all the pieces have been trimmed, physically arrange your layout.



Then collect the pieces row by row and lay each square on top of each other in the sewing order and label the row with its position in the design e.g. row 1, row 2, etc.



### STEP 6: SEW ROW BY ROW

Sew the squares together in order of the row, with the right-side facing each other and with a seam allowance of 1cm (or about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " ). Tip: keep the label attached to the row.



After the squares for a row have been stitched together, top stitch the seams where the squares are attached. If you have a twin needle, you can do this in half the time!



## STEP 8: ADDING BACKING AND FINISH OFF YOUR QUILT

We used cotton for the backing that was a similar weight to the denim.

We sewed inserts for rods at the top and the bottom of the cotton backing to enable us to hang the quilt on the wall.

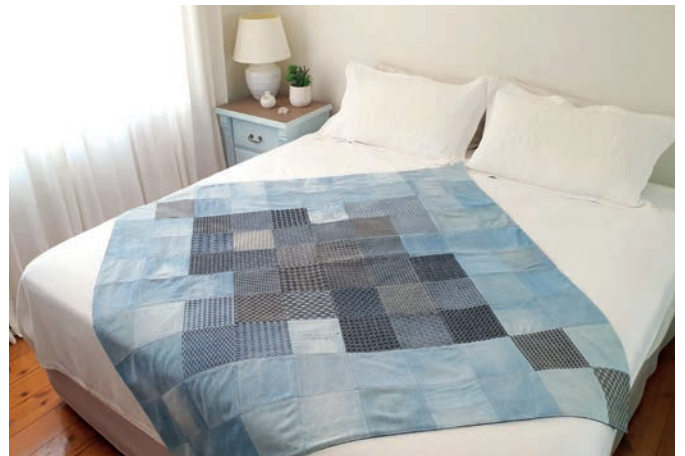
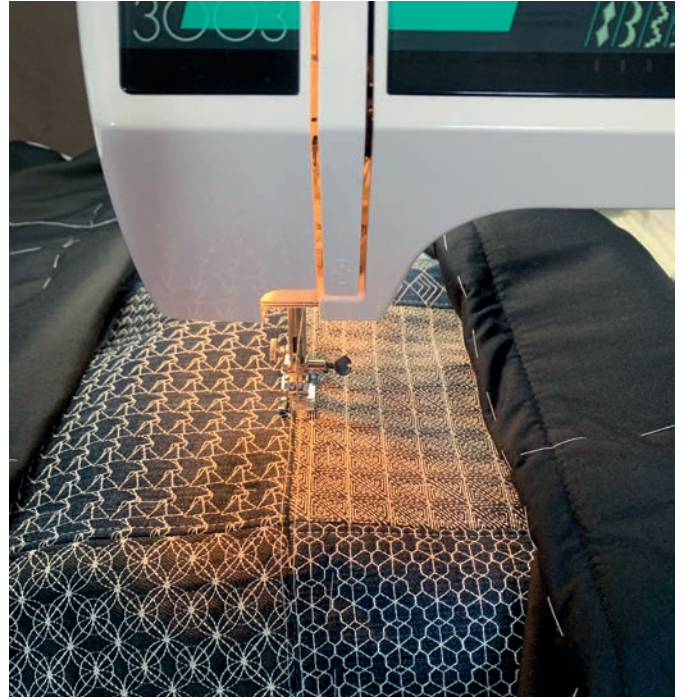


Sew the backing to the quilt with fronts facing and then turn it out (bag it out).

Cut the corners to get a sharp point when you turn it out (bag it out).



Then top stitch around the edges and down the ditch.





# Congratulations

*You have finished your quilt, we'd love to see it!*

Visit our Facebook Group and share your quilt designs,  
and find other great Hatch Embroidery content too.

