



**Auditioning Designs** for use on a block or other area of a quilt, using Quilt Path.

**Challenge.** A customer brought me a quilt that contained 70 Ohio Stars. It also had hand applique around the entire border, so she rightly wanted a custom quilt job. The Ohio Stars were only 6” square and they had sashing around them.

Computerized quilting offers designs galore, especially for custom jobs. But I find myself spending as much time researching designs as I do stitching the quilt. I didn’t know what pattern to use on the Ohio stars. So here’s how I narrowed it down.


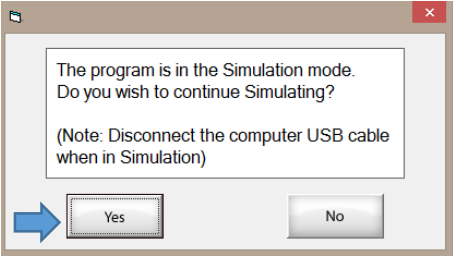

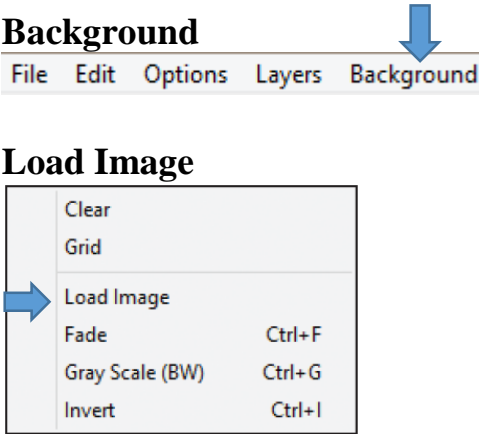
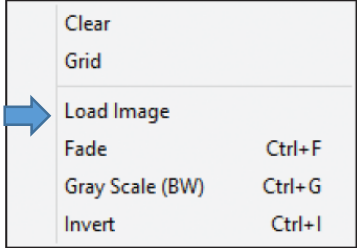

There may be other ways to do the same thing, but this worked for me.



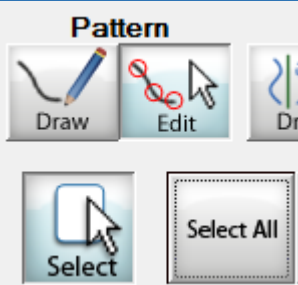

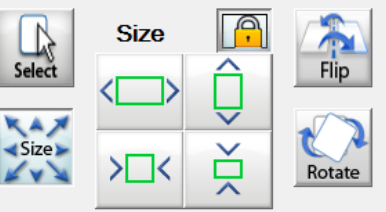
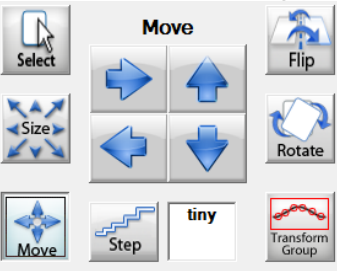
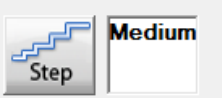
*I know someone makes software especially designed to audition designs, but I didn’t have the software and wanted to use what I had. I figured there had to be a way to do this in Quilt Path, so I experimented. Although this method can be a bit tedious, it does provide an excellent opportunity to become familiar with some of the features in the Pattern CAD area of Quilt Path.*

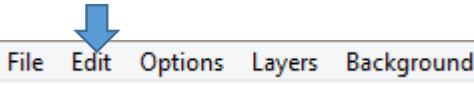
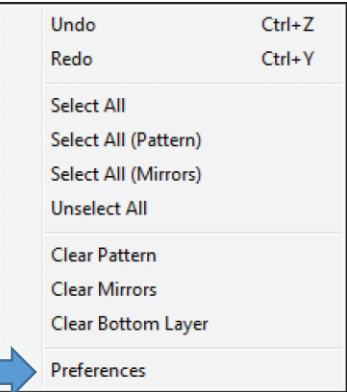
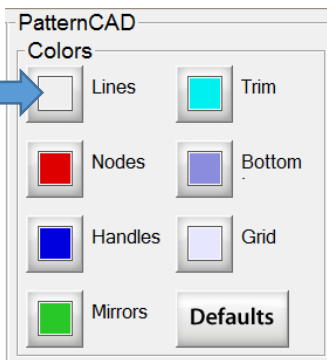
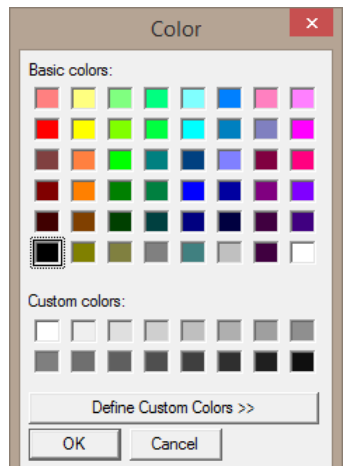

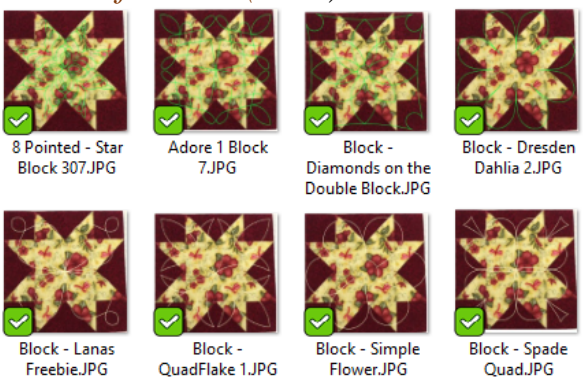
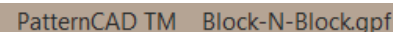






*Ohio Star Quilt with Hand Applique Border*

**Solution – Step by Step Instructions**

Action	Related Action	Comments
<p><b>Take picture</b> or find an image of the block on your quilt.</p> <p><b>Save</b> image where you can easily find it.</p>		<p><i>Once I had the picture on my computer, I used the Snippet Tool to choose only the square block and eliminate the area surrounding the picture. Then I saved it as a .JPG file.</i></p>
<p><b>Open</b> Quilt Path in <i>Simulation Mode</i></p> 	<p><b>Tap</b> Design &amp; Create; Pattern.</p> 	<p><i>You are now in Pattern Cad.</i></p>
<p><b>Pull-Down Menu: Tap</b></p> <p><b>Background</b></p>  <p><b>Load Image</b></p> 	<p><b>Maneuver</b> to location of your block image file, highlight it, and <b>Tap Open</b>.</p> <p><i>Image of one of the 70 scrappy Ohio Star blocks in the quilt.</i></p> 	<p><i>The image of the quilt block will now be in the background and won't be affected by any of the actions that follow.</i></p> <p><i>It's stationary.</i></p>

Action	Related Action	Comments
<p><b>Tap Select Pattern</b></p>  <p><b>Maneuver</b> to the pattern you want to audition.</p> <p><b>Highlight</b> pattern and <b>Tap Open</b></p>	<p>Once the pattern is showing on the screen, <b>Tap</b> button to <b>Deselect Nodes</b>.</p> 	<p><i>Now you have that pattern on the screen with your block image. But we need to do some manipulating.</i></p>
<p><b>Tap Edit, Select, and Select All</b> in that order.</p>		<p><i>Now your pattern is selected to allow you to move, size, flip, or rotate the pattern.</i></p>
<p><b>Tap Size</b> (new tools appear to right) <b>Tap</b> on the <b>Pad Lock</b> to close it.</p>  <p><b>Tap</b> the <b>green boxes</b> to make the design fit the block.</p> 		<p><i>This prevents distortion of the design, so that when you choose to make the design taller, the pattern will also get wider, and thereby stay in proportion.</i></p>
<p><b>Tap Move</b> (new tools appear to right) <b>Tap</b> blue arrows to position the design over the block image.</p> 	<p><i>You can also <b>flip</b> or <b>rotate</b> the design if needed.</i></p> <p><i>You can change the <b>step size</b> by tapping on <b>Step</b>. This will cause your changes to be in larger or smaller increments. In the beginning you may want medium, but as you fine tune, you may want small or tiny steps.</i></p> 	

Action	Related Action	Comments
<p><b>To change the line (<i>thread</i>) color:</b>            Pull-Down Menu: <b>Tap Edit</b></p>  <p><b>Preferences.</b></p> 	<p><b>Tap the Lines box under <i>Pattern CAD</i> to get a display of colors.</b></p>  <p>Then <b>choose</b> a color for the “thread” and <b>Tap OK.</b></p>	
<p><b>Save Design</b></p>  <p><b>My Ohio Star Folder on Desktop</b>  <i>containing saved auditions with different colors of thread (lines).</i></p> 	<p><b>Look</b> at top of screen for name of pattern in use.</p>  	<p><i>Save the design using that same name so you can find the actual design later in Quilt Path.</i></p> <p><i>You might want to create a folder on your desktop to save the different designs.</i></p>

Action	Comments
<p>You can use this auditioning method for other areas of your quilt.</p>	<p><i>I used it to audition designs over a braid quilt that I mounted horizontally, by copying the design and placing them side by side.</i></p> 
<p>You could show or email these designs to a customer if they have asked to participate in the design process.</p> <p><i>Below is the pattern I plan to use. The blocks are only 6 inches square and I have 70 of them to do, all scrappy, so I wanted to keep it simple. There were others that would have worked nicely had the blocks been larger.....and perhaps fewer.</i></p>  <p><i>The pattern is called Dresden Dahlia 2 by Kim Brunner, purchased from Digi-Tech Designs.</i></p>	<p><b>Caution:</b>  <i>What looks good in the block image may not work on the quilt. The size of the block looks different (usually larger) on the screen. So I would suggest that you print your saved designs and take them to the quilt before deciding on which design to use.</i></p>  <p><i>Comparing saved auditions with actual blocks</i></p>

*Have Fun!!!*

*Georgene Huggett*

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