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Artistic Software

Work Sheet 35

Embellishing Designs with the Knife Tool SQ 14 Hoop MC15000

The Knife tool is a great tool to get to grips with, and as with most of the Artistic Tools can be used in many different ways to embellish your designs.

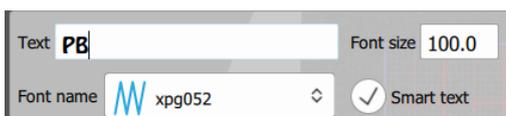
The main rule when using the knife tool is, it must have an open section like a cut piece of string with two cut ends, the two cut ends should always start and finish outside your objects to use with the knife.

The knife tool can also be used with the 'freehand draw' tool, alternatively you can draw your own shapes and use the knife to cut so that you have the two cut open ends you require. It can also be used when you bring in Symbols from the 'Insert Symbol' Option.

It is also possible once the drawn line or inserted symbol has been placed, to copy and use it again so that it makes the cut piece look as though it is a continued part of the design but in a different section.

Firstly, we can practice on Lettering, you will need a bold font and it will need to be resized to fit your hoop.

Select Font – xpg 052, text size 100, change the fill in 'Properties' to step and 'Break Apart'.



Give the two letters a different colour.

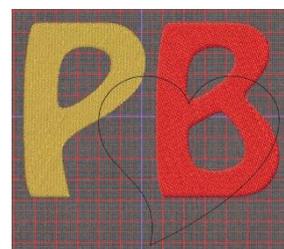
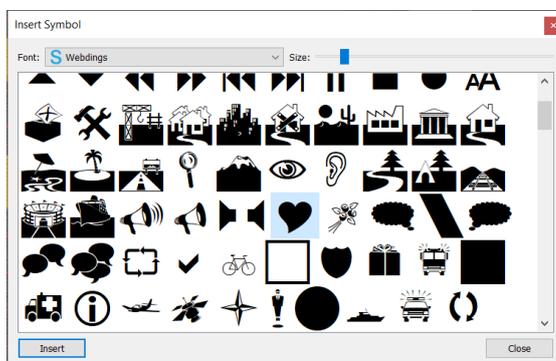
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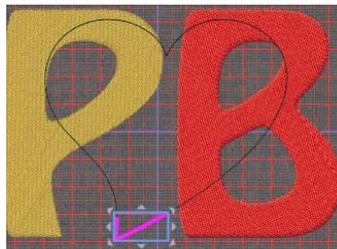
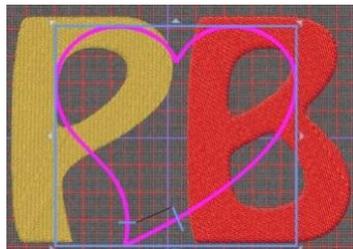
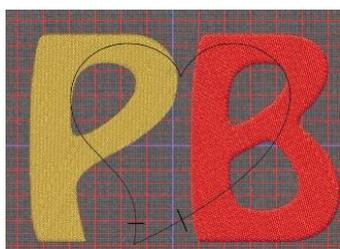
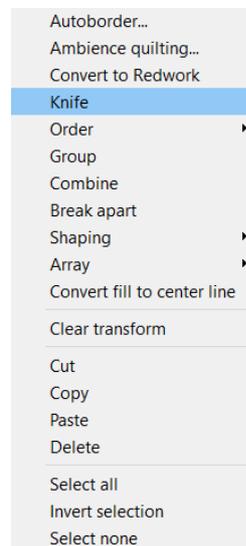


Next, scroll to 'Tools' Insert 'Symbol'. With Webdings font selected, scroll and select the 'Heart' as shown here.

Delete the Fill Part of the Heart, position your Heart at a point that suits you and rotate if you wish to.



Using the freehand tool draw two lines across the line of the Heart as shown below. Select the Heart and the two drawn lines and Right Click, scroll to 'Knife', and Click once. The section cut on the Heart shown below is the point at the bottom of the Heart. This will now become a separated part of the Heart, leaving you with the open line as mentioned at the beginning.



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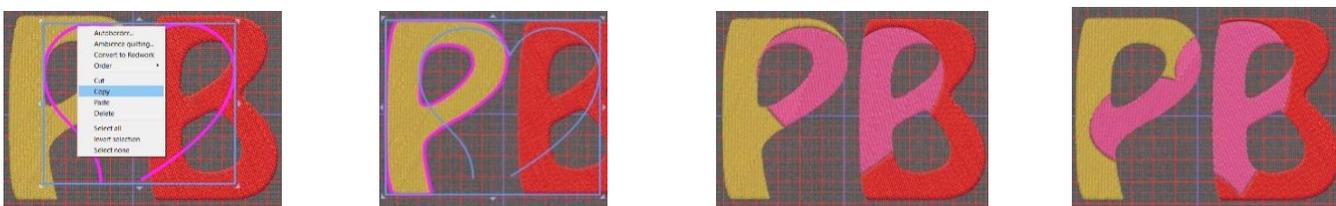
Select the Heart and make a copy, as shown in the first image below.

Select the first letter and the open-Heart outline as shown in the second image below. With both parts selected right click and scroll to 'Knife' Click once and the first letter will have part of your Heart cut away.

Paste the copied Heart again onto your letters, this time select the second letter and the open Heart. Again, right Click, scroll to 'Knife' and Click once. The second letter will now have part of it cut away with the Heart shape within its shape.

At this stage you can give your Heart parts a different colour as shown below.

Confirm your sequence when completed.



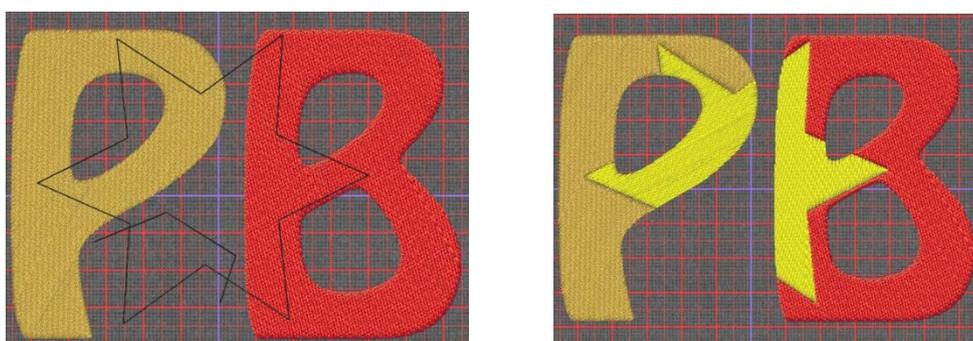
Try using different shapes to create similar effects, for example try a star shape.

When you become more confident try this.

Select the cut piece or shape with open points and select both letters, and then right Click and scroll to 'Knife'.

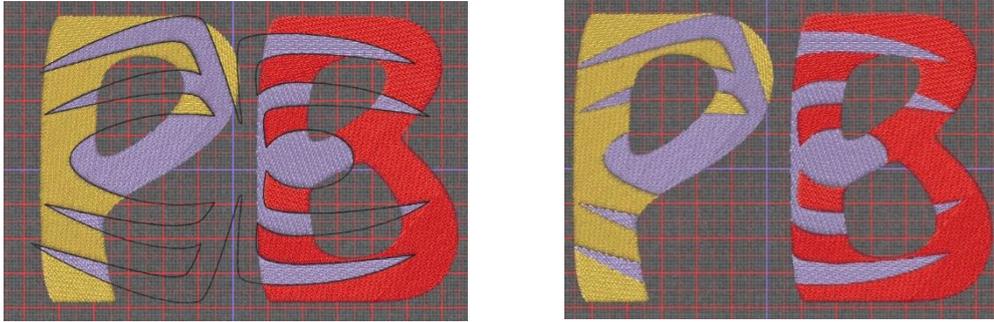
The cuts will be created in both objects instantly, change the colours to suit your project.

Any drawn shape can be used. Be sure to delete the fill and draw your two lines across the shape to create two open ends within your shape to use for cutting with the 'Knife' Tool.



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Below, the Spider is one of the symbols from Webdings, it has been placed over the text and re-sized to suit, we have cut two parts of the leg to the left side and ensure it is over the shape. The spider has been placed only to show its position for reference. This has been removed in the image to the right below.

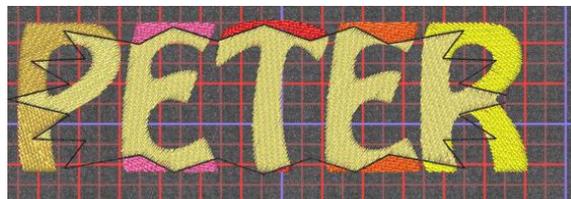


Below we have used a different shape again and placed it over the name, deleted the fill and re- sized the shape to suit. We have kept the shape over the letters to show how this has been completed.

You can either do one letter at a time until you are confident. Be sure to Copy/Paste the cut outline each time so the position is kept exact.

Or you can select the cut line shape and select all letters and Click the knife once to get the result faster. Change the colours to suit your design.

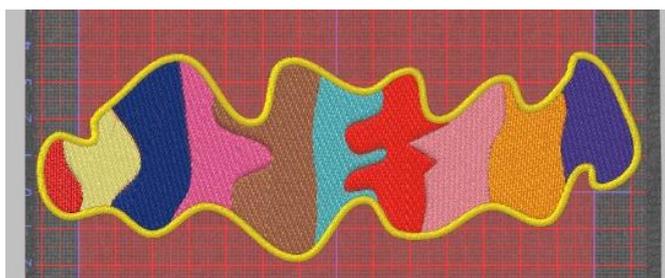
Samples shown below.



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You can also freehand draw your shape and lines if you wish to.

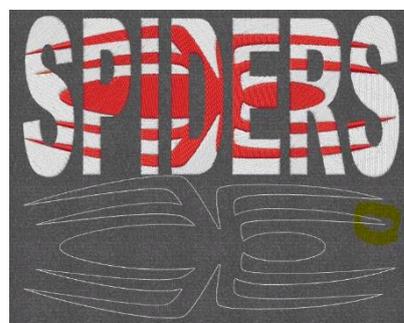


Try this, Draw one line across the outline select both right Click and 'Knife' the section can also be used for cutting parts.

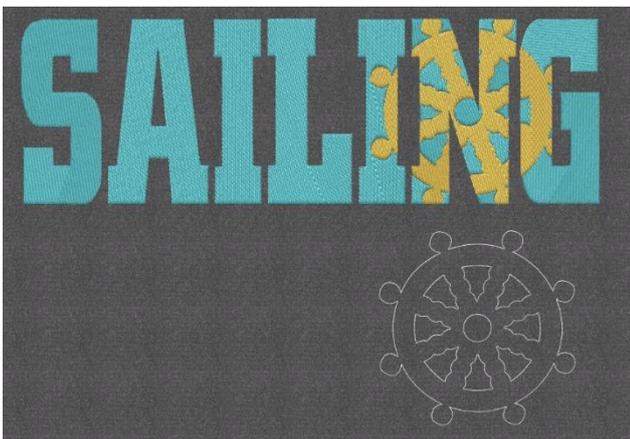
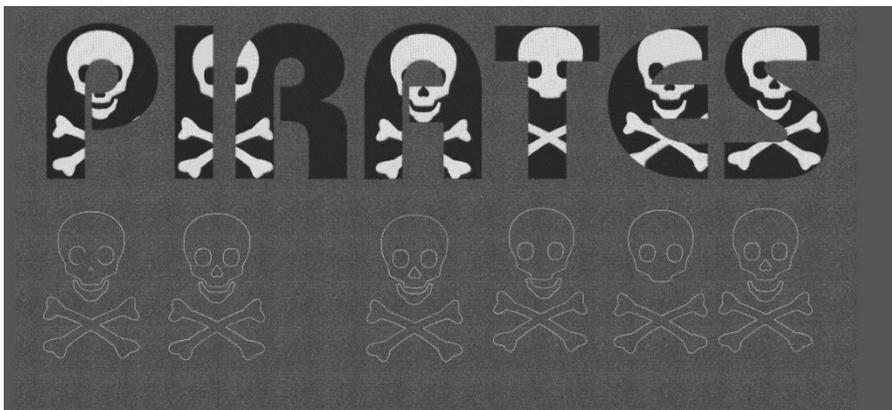
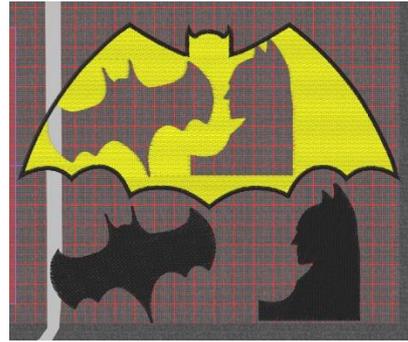
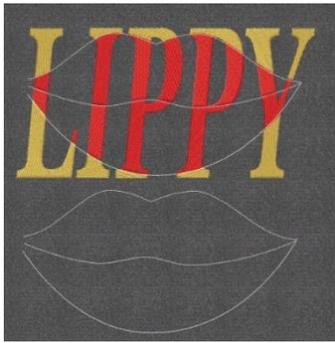
More examples below using 'Insert Symbols'. The image to the right has added detail by Copying and Pasting a second layer onto the yellow and adding the 'Gradient Fill'. The Line detail is showing the cut points on each part to be used with the knife tool.



Various symbols into a Text design. The line stitching shows when each cut has been made into each object to use in the text. This will be deleted as it is not required once completed.



Go ahead... get creative!



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Hints and Tips.

When drawing the cuts into your shape, you must end with an open shape and delete the part not required.

Remember to Copy/Paste if you are doing more than one cut part with the 'knife'.

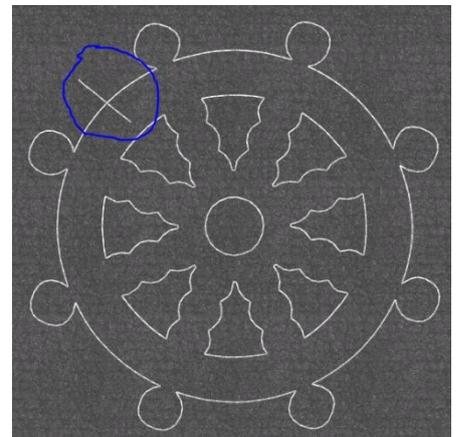
If selecting more than one object with the 'Selection' tool activated, hold down 'Control' on your keyboard and keep clicking each object to add to your selection until ready.

You will see there are no limits to how this works, the possibilities are endless thanks to the power of Artistic Digitizer.

When you are more confident try inserting a single line across the line to be cut and 'Knife', then use the cut line with the 'Knife' to create your own personal design. In some cases you will need to Copy the final cut shape line stitch, to use more than once with various parts of your design.

As long as the line being used with the 'knife' has an open part it will work on your design.

The options are endless using this method.



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