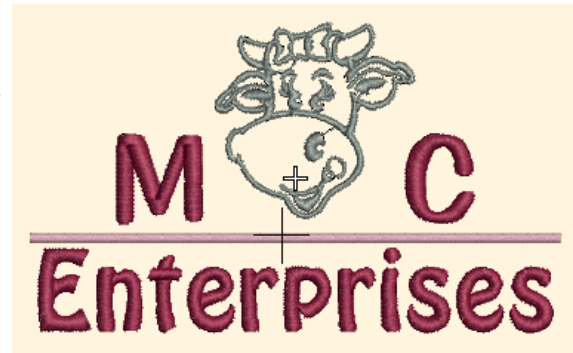


What's my line? By Martha Sheriff

Many years ago, before OESD was OESD, we were a gift shop called Uniquely Yours Monograms and More. It was just the three of us, Mary, Phil and me and we soon discovered that we had something special. It was innovation, drive, creativity and vision. We started making designs for a small commercial machine that not too many people knew how to make designs for. Our number one selling design was, believe it or not, a straight line...just a plain satin stitched straight line. The reason is that it wasn't available anywhere else. We found out that it was a vital part of embroidery designing.

There are a multitude of uses for this wonderful design. I use it extensively for placement. It can be used to accent lettering or to separate lines of lettering in a logo as in the example below. Use two for seaming, use several for cross hatching or a candy cane looking stripe. With Explorations having that straight line in the Shapes folder of the Cookie Cutters, you can use it for all of the above and many more uses.

For placement it can be invaluable at getting the design in exactly the right location on your garment or project. In putting a design on a napkin corner for example, all we have to do is start a new project. The first thing you want to add to your project is the cookie cutter of the straight line in the Shapes folder.

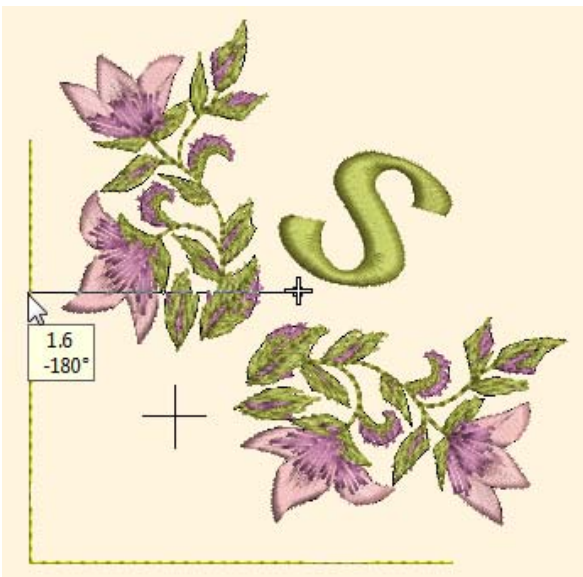
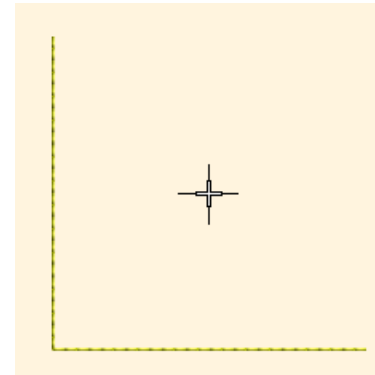


Click on Stitches 'n Effects and with the line selected, click on single run.

Click on Edit, Duplicate (or press Ctrl D).

Click on Edit, Rotate right 45, and then click on Edit again and rotate right 45 again. Either press Ctrl A or Edit and Select All.

Click on Align and click on Left, Click on Align again and click on bottom. Click Group, and Group.

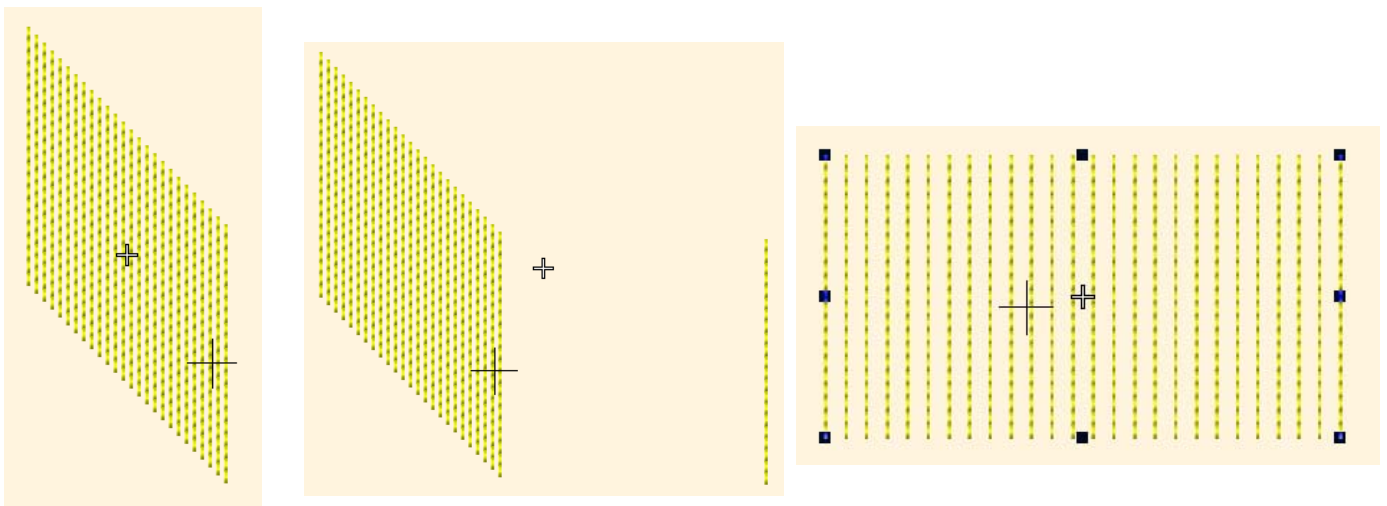


Now place your design the distance desired from the edge of the napkin. HINT: Use the Measure tool to measure vertically and horizontally from the center to the placement lines. When you start to sew out the design, simply hoop the stabilizer of your choice, stick it down somehow, either with a stabilizer that is sticky or temporary spray adhesive.

Another way of using the straight line is to use it as filler or background.

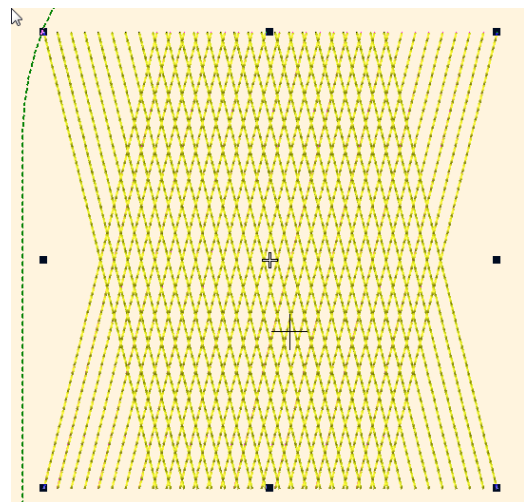
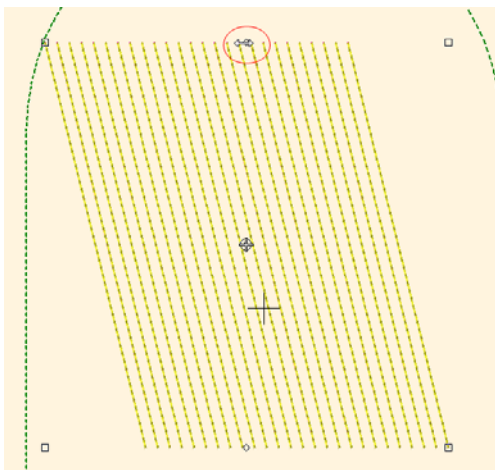
Open a new project and drag the straight line cookie cutter to the workspace. Go to Stitches 'n' Effects and add Triple Run. Press Ctrl D and hold it down until you have several lines on the screen.

Move one of the lines over to the edge of the hoop as shown. Click on Edit, Select All. Click on Align, Top. Click on Align, Space Horizontally. To alleviate some major jump stitches during the final sew out stage, hold down the Ctrl key and select every other line and then click on Edit, Mirror Vertically. (You'll thank me for that one later!) Click on Edit, Select All. Click on Group, Group.

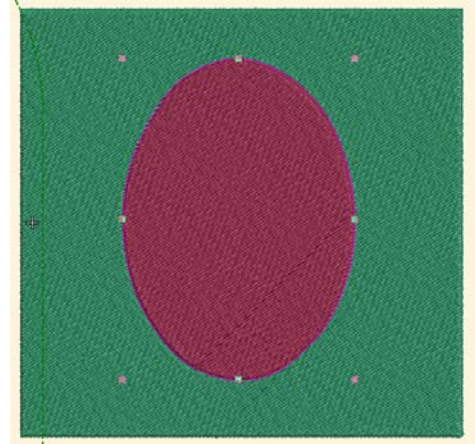


Click and drag the top center handle to make the lines longer. Click on the lines again and angle the lines to one side using the skew tool.

Click on Copy, Paste. Click on Edit, Mirror Horizontal.



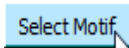
To make an oval drag the rectangle or square from the cookie cutters over to the workspace. You will want to make the square large enough to encompass all the lines. Once the square is large enough, **move it over away from the lines**. Add Tatami fill to the square. Drag the oval on top of the square and size it appropriately. Fill the oval with Tatami fill. Select just the oval, click on Tools, Remove Overlaps. Click on Cut. You'll need this oval is just a minute.



Center the square over the lines. Click on Tools, Remove Overlaps. Click Delete to delete the Oval.

Click Edit, Select All. Click Align, click Center.

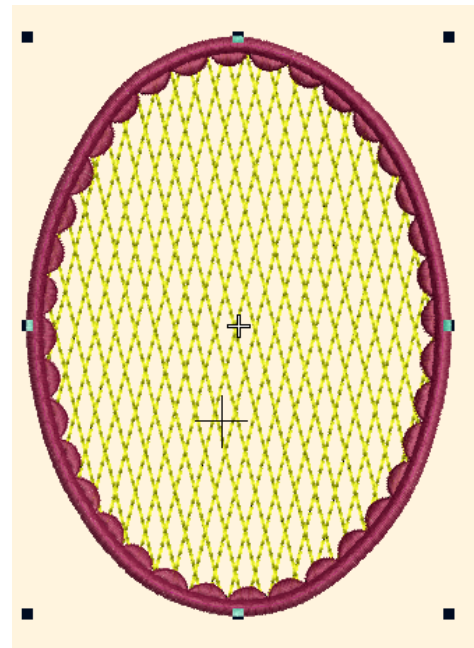
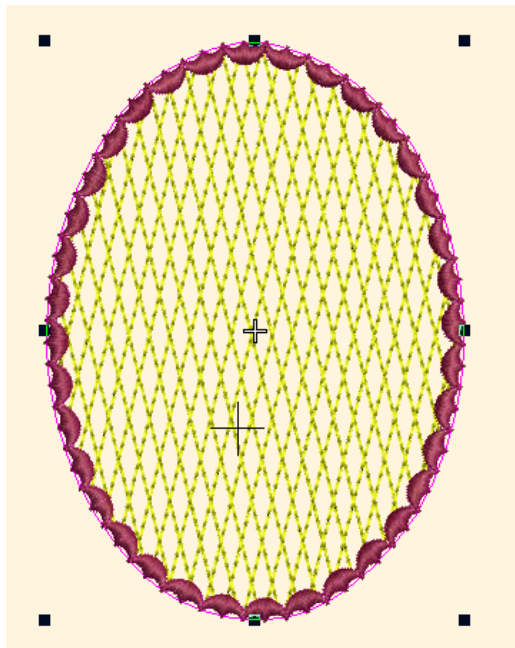
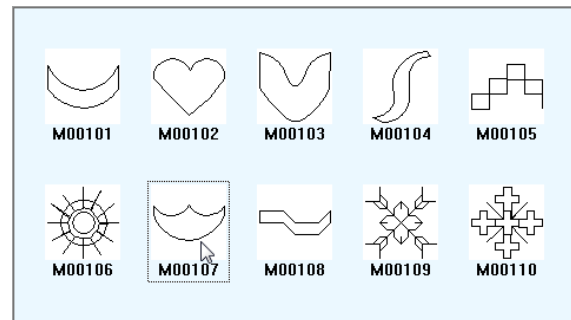
Deselect and just select the oval. Go to Stitches 'n' Effects and click on Motif Run. Click on Settings. Click on



Select Motif number M000107 and Click OK.

Click OK and the motif will change to the new motif.

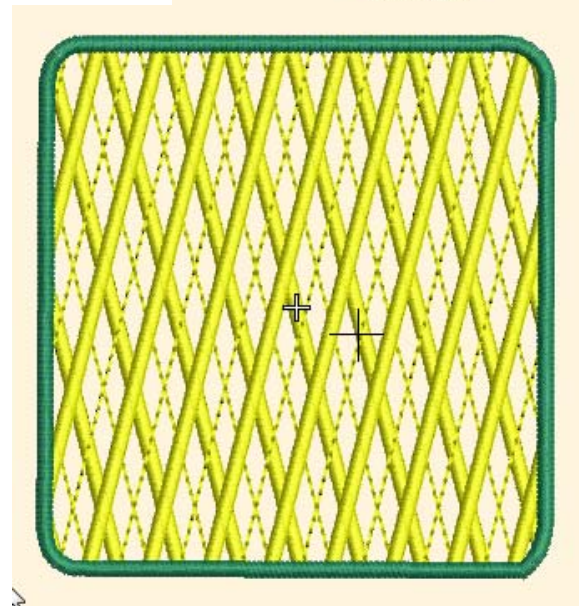
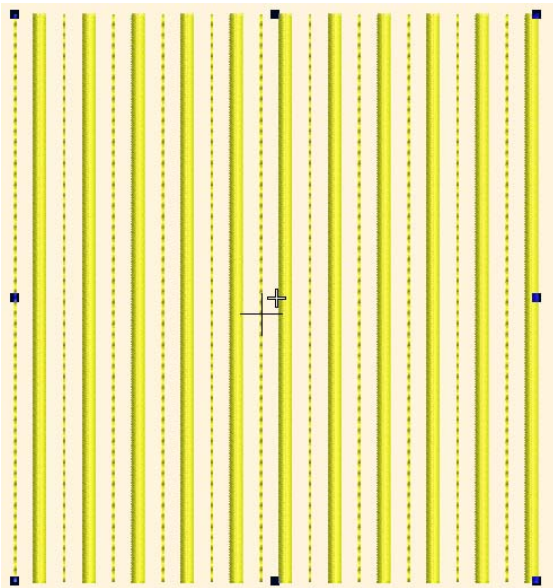
Click Copy, Paste and change the stitches to Satin.



Add a small flower to the oval. For the example shown, I used the stem from PA137, and PA159 from Decorative Pieces—Flowers.



To create an argyle look, instead of making all the lines as a triple run, during the process where you select every other line to mirror vertical, change those lines to satin stitches.



Use your creativity to come up with some more uses for the line. Without having to reshape anything, you've created some unique designs.

Portions of this lesson appeared in Designs Magazine, Vol. 55.