

Contents of StitchCraft Help

StitchCraft is a program you can use to create cross stitch, tapestry, knitting and sewing patterns.

This demonstration copy of StitchCraft has limited Help files, full versions of StitchCraft include comprehensive on-line Help. Click on the 'Introduction' or 'How To' icons below to access a topic area. To learn how to use Help, press F1.



EPS or WMF?

There are several advantages and disadvantages for both Metafiles and Encapsulated Postscript. Firstly Metafiles cannot be used on the Apple Macintosh system, also they have a size limit and can become unstable when outputting multiple pages on a single piece of film. However Metafiles can be printed out from Windows on any desktop printer, unlike EPS which needs a Postscript printer to produce a legible image. Metafiles take up less room in your document than EPS files. Because Encapsulated Postscript is a language in itself and can be interpreted by nearly all bureaus, PC and Macintosh alike, we recommend that EPS be used by default for exporting charts.

Exporting to Apple Macintosh.

If you export your chart as an .EPS file, it will be useable on the Macintosh system. As with exporting in .WMF, the charts will not be able to be edited, apart from sizing and rotating, once they have become .WMF or .EPS files. Using .EPS, StitchCraft files can be imported into DTP programs on the Mac and printed. Alternatively you can provide your bureau with an EPS format by printing to file in your Windows DTP program. See your DTP program manual for more information (this method is more clumsy).

StitchCraft and DTP

StitchCraft can be used in conjunction with Aldus PageMaker, Ventura Publisher, Quark XPress, Microsoft Publisher and any other desktop publishing (DTP) programs that read Windows Metafile (.WMF) or Encapsulated Postscript (.EPS) format. Once placed in a DTP file, StitchCraft charts will appear as graphics: they cannot be edited. However, they can be resized and rotated. They can also be augmented with text and you will have greater flexibility when devising user keys, and so on.

A word of warning: exported charts will require more RAM and disk space than their SCC file and will significantly increase the size of your DTP file. If you are producing a lengthy document such as a book, you may need to break it up into manageable sections.

The method by which you drop a StitchCraft chart into the DTP program depends on the format in which you exported it. If you selected the Clipboard option in the Export Format dialog box, then simply select Paste to drop the chart into your document. If you exported it as a .WMF or .EPS file, you will need to Place or Import the file into your document.

Instead of creating a user key as part of your chart, you can create a separate chart which contains a sample of each symbol and serves as a key to your main chart.

There are several advantages:

- * this key can be positioned away from the chart
- * the two charts can be different grid sizes
- * explanatory text can be longer and in a variety of fonts.
- * text manipulation can be done in the DTP program which has more features for working with text and fonts.

You will need to import such user keys separately from the chart to which it refers (see appendix for examples).

DTP files containing .WMF StitchCraft charts can be printed on any standard printer, though they will take longer to print than a document containing text only. Files containing .EPS StitchCraft charts can only be printed on a Postscript printer (level 1 or 2). When printing a chart, especially one with a grey grid on a standard printer (e.g. 300 dpi laser) from a DTP program, the quality of the printout will be inferior to printing directly from StitchCraft. The exported files are designed for high resolution output of 1200, 2400 or 4800 dpi. If you are sending the DTP file to a bureau for outputting, state clearly that it contains a Windows Metafile or Encapsulated Postscript. If your bureau uses PC equipment, they should not encounter problems. However if your Bureau uses Macintosh equipment, you must export in .EPS not .WMF format or they will not be able to print the charts.

See:

[Start Exporting](#)

[Bureau Separation](#)

[EPS or WMF?](#)

[Exporting to Apple Macintosh](#)

Dither Options

In a chart there are a limited number of thread colors which can be used, therefore the colors in the image cannot be perfectly matched with thread colors. Dithering is a process whereby different thread colors are used in adjoining cells to simulate the required color from the image. The result is that a dithered chart generally looks better, but is harder to sew, since there are more single stitches.

There are three options for dithering colors in the Auto Conversion process.

- * Dither All - this option gives the most accurate conversion of a photograph.
- * Dither Flesh - this option dithers only the flesh tones in the image.
- * No Dither - this will produce a chart with no dithering at all. The chart will generally have larger blocks of color. It is not normally appropriate for photographs, but tends to work well with watercolor images and other drawings where there are fewer colors in the original image.

Note: When using 'Dither All' or 'Dither Flesh', do not select 'Remove single stitches'.

Bureau Separation

Once you have exported a chart to a DTP program, you can then send it on floppy disk or by modem to an image bureau for high resolution output. Accurate color separations can also be made.

Grey Grids

If you are exporting a chart with a grid we recommend outputting at 2400 dpi, 130 or 133 screen lines per inch. This will ensure consistency in the thickness of the grey lines (see fig. 10.5).

Four Color process

Following your specifications, a bureau can produce four pieces of film that combine to represent the charted colors. These separations can then be used for commercial printing in process colors and will give you a chart which closely matches the colors you have selected from the thread library, color wheel, RGB, or CMYK.

Note: It does not matter how you have specified the thread colors they will automatically be separated into CMYK when required.

If your chart has a complex color scheme, or if your magazine or book would benefit from a more colorful chart, consider exporting it with black symbols on color blocks. This will convey the image while providing stitchers with sufficient detail to distinguish colors. We recommend a setting of about 50% color wash to maintain legibility of the symbols. Before the bureau produces film, it is advisable to print a full color proof on a desktop color printer. This proof can be done from StitchCraft or from the DTP program.

Note: Again that if printing from a DTP program an .EPS graphic will not print out on non-postscript color printers.

Clipboard

A temporary storage location used to transfer data between charts and applications.

Introduction

StitchCraft is a charting aid for any craft based on a counted grid, whether it be cross-stitch, tapestry, rug hooking or knitting.

For information on starting StitchCraft see [Starting up StitchCraft](#).

For more information on the different Editions of StitchCraft see [StitchCraft Editions](#).

StitchCraft can be used for:

Designing

- designing new images
- creating a library of motifs and borders
- plotting charts from [scanned](#) images or computer generated graphics

Publishing

- revising old charts
- producing high quality printouts or film
- incorporating charts into a desktop publishing application

Prototyping

- producing overlays for screen printing tapestries
- generating charts for knitting machines

To make charting easy and efficient, StitchCraft has a wide range of features:

- * thread libraries of major brands of stranded cotton and tapestry wool
- * ability to automatically match nearest catalogue number to any desired color
- * ability to select any color by thread catalogue number
- * over 100 basic symbols, with over 1000 possible variations
- * four styles of backstitch lines
- * a wide range of grid styles and combinations
- * a full set of design tools, including backstitch, halfstitch, centermarks and text
- * three viewing modes: by colors, symbols, or symbols with a color wash as a background.
- * flexible viewing and printing sizes
- * ability to move, copy, mirror and rotate sections of a chart
- * ability to change symbols and/or colors at any stage
- * ability to save cutouts as library files
- * ability to chart over images such as scanned photographs, paintings or old charts
- * ability to automatically convert a scanned image to a chart
- * various output options for printing and exporting into a DTP program
- * complete mouse control and user-friendly layout

Starting up StitchCraft

If you are at the Windows desktop, double-click on the StitchCraft icon. This will be in the StitchCraft group.

If you are in File Manager (a Windows-based application) you can load the StitchCraft program by double-clicking on a StitchCraft chart file (ie. one with a .SCC extension). This will load both the program and the chart selected.

StitchCraft can be run concurrently with other Windows-based applications, such as PageMaker and Ventura. Also, if you have sufficient RAM you can run two or more StitchCraft windows at the same time, allowing you to move quickly between different charts. This has obvious advantages when you want to copy a section from one chart to another. See your Windows manual for assistance on switching between Windows and application programs.

Viewing by Material Count

1. From the Screen menu, select Material Count.
A sub-menu will appear.
2. Highlight the most suitable option.
The chart will approximately match
the size you have chosen.

This grid size will now appear each time you select True Size from the Screen menu, until you specify a new material count. Note that this feature has been designed for standard sized screens, rather than large format screens.

Custom Grid

When you select Custom Grid from the Grid Type fly out menu, the Grid options dialog box will appear.

You can now specify the thickness and shade of standard, 5th, 10th and Centre lines separately. Border and Backstitch shade and thickness values can also be set from here. In the dialog box there is an option for solid lines, and Grid type and color can also be specified. You can use the Default option button to reset all values to the default, as set in the Preferences dialog box.

Color Wash (Symbol on Color)

When viewing, printing (or exporting - Publisher only) your chart in symbols on color mode, you may wish to vary the amount of color showing through beneath the symbols. This is done using a 'Color Wash'. You can specify as a percentage the amount of color showing when viewing, printing or exporting in symbols on color mode.

Auto Markings

Use the Auto Markings command to specify whether you want a Border, Center Arrows and Center Lines to appear on your chart. When you click on the Auto Markings command, a fly out menu will appear listing these three options, a tick will appear beside each option if it is turned on.

Crop

Use the Crop command to crop the chart to the present cutout size.

1. Define a section of the chart with the Cutout tool.
2. From the Edit menu, select Crop.
The area around the defined section will disappear and the chart will be reduced in size.

Flip

Use the Flip command to flip the selected cutout either horizontally or vertically (see 'Manipulating sections of the chart' in Chapter 5 of your manual).

To flip a cutout

1. Define a section of the chart with the Cutout tool.
2. From the Edit menu, select Flip.
A sub-menu appears.
3. Select the appropriate option.
The contents of the cutout will be flipped within the defined area, as shown in Figure 5.3.

Note: if no selection is made with the Cutout tool, activating the Flip command will flip your whole chart.

Mirror

Use the Mirror command to mirror the selected cutout, creating two facing images (see 'Manipulating sections of the chart' in Chapter 5 of your manual).

To mirror a cutout

1. Ensure that there is space clear for the mirrored image; it will only fill the space available and will overwrite any existing stitches.
2. Define a section of the chart with the Cutout tool.
3. From the Edit menu, select Mirror.
A sub-menu appears.
4. Select the appropriate option.
The contents of the cutout will be duplicated as shown in Figure 5.4 on the next page.

Note: if no selection is made with the Cutout tool, activating the Mirror command will double your whole chart.

Rotate

Use the Rotate command to rotate the selected cutout.

To rotate a cutout

1. Define a section of the chart with the Cutout tool
(if the cutout is not square ensure that there is space available for the rotated image).
2. From the Edit menu, select Rotate.
A sub-menu appears.
4. Select the appropriate option.
The contents of the cutout will be rotated,

StitchCraft Editions

Home Edition

The Home Edition offers you the ability to create your own charts for Cross Stitch, Tapestry and Rug Hooking. It is licensed for Home use only and printed charts will be labelled with "StitchCraft Home Edition". The Home Edition covers the basics of designing your own charts in an easy to use layout.

Designer Edition

The Designer Edition is for Professional Designers and serious Enthusiasts - those who would like extra design power and a licence agreement which enables designs to be sold commercially. It includes many extra features & functions in the same easy to use layout as the Home Edition.

Publisher Edition

The Publisher Edition of StitchCraft has it all, the easy to use layout of the Home Edition, the creative power of the Designer Edition, and the ability to incorporate StitchCraft charts into Desktop Publishing applications. Charts can be easily exported for high resolution output. The Publisher Edition is ideal for those who want to publish StitchCraft charts in books & magazines.

Zoom In Tool

[Alter Symbol](#)

Use the Alter Symbol command to change the shape, shading, or color of a specific entry on the symbol section of the Palette.

Also see:

[Altering Symbols](#)

Alter Palette

Use the Alter Palette command to:

- * add a new palette entry (or entries) which should then be allocated a color and symbol
- * delete an existing palette entry or entries (if any charted stitches will be deleted by this action, a warning notice appears)
- * change the sequence of entries on the Palette (this will not affect any stitches)
- * swap the position of two entries on the Palette (this will not affect any stitches)
- * merge a palette entry into another one (this will convert the relevant stitches).

Also see:

[Manipulating the Palette](#)

Match Colors

Use the Auto Match Colors command to match every color on your Palette to a thread color in a particular brand of commercial threads. You must choose one brand from the available range.

Also see:

[Matching Thread Colors](#)

Auto Match Symbols

Use the Auto Match Symbols command to match heavy symbols with dark colors and so improve the chart's appearance when viewed in symbol mode. You have the choice of matching colors to the default range (the clearest and most common symbols) or to the range you have selected (rearranging the symbols in your existing Palette by weight).

Also see:

[Altering Symbols](#)

Auto Minimize Palette

Use the Auto Minimize Palette command to reduce the Palette to those symbols/colors which have been used on the chart. A warning notice will appear, stating how many entries will be removed from the Palette.

Also see:

[Manipulating the Palette](#)

Grid Start

When working on two or more charts that make up one large design, (eg. a double page spread in a book), you can use the grid start command to start the numbering on your second or third chart, at the place where the previous chart finished. In doing this, the numbering will relate to the finished design as a whole, rather than each section having numbering that starts from 0,0.

To specify the grid start:

1. From the Chart menu select Grid Start...
The Grid Start dialog box appears.
2. Specify whether the numbering is aligned to the top left or bottom left.
3. Specify the horizontal and vertical offset of the grid (eg. if you want the first vertical stitch to be 6, the vertical offset should be 5).
4. Select OK.

Save Palette

Use the Save Palette command to save a modified palette for use with another chart.

Also see:

[Saving a Palette](#)

Stitches



- * Stitch Pencil
- * Half-stitch Pencils

You can use the Stitch Pencil to draw stitches one at a time or in freehand shapes and lines.

To draw stitches on your chart:

1. From the Palette, select the symbol/color you want to use.
2. From the Toolbox, select the Stitch Pencil and move the pointer into the charting area.
3. To draw single stitches, click the mouse button on a chart cell. To draw an area of stitches, press the mouse button and drag the pointer.
4. Release the mouse button to stop drawing.

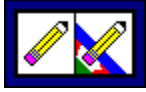
Half-stitches are occasionally used in designs and can be accurately represented on this program by using the Half-stitch Pencil. If you are working in color mode, the half-stitch will appear as a triangle of color . If you are working in symbol mode the half-stitch will appear as a miniature symbol in the appropriate corner with a slash dividing the cell . The different tools allow you to specify in which half of the cell the stitch will appear.



To draw a half-stitch:

1. From the Palette, select the symbol/color you want to use.
 2. Double-click on the Stitch Pencil to view all the Stitch options.
 3. Select the appropriate Halfstitch Tool and move the pointer into the charting area
 4. Click the mouse button on the appropriate chart cell.
- The appropriate half of the cell will be filled, either with a color or with black.

Stitch Erasers



- * Stitch Eraser
- * Color Stitch Eraser

The Stitch Eraser deletes all stitches that it touches. You can erase small or large areas easily by changing the tool width.

To erase an area of stitches:

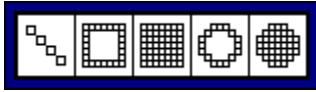
1. In the Linesize box, select the tool width you want to use.
The larger the tool width, the larger the Eraser pointer.
2. From the Toolbox, select the Stitch Eraser and move the pointer into the charting area.
3. To erase single stitches, click the mouse button on the unwanted stitch. To erase an area of stitches, press the mouse button and drag the pointer across the unwanted stitches.
4. Release the mouse button to stop erasing.

The Color Eraser works in the same way as the Stitch Eraser, but will only erase stitches in the symbol/color currently selected.

To erase stitches in a specific color:

1. From the Palette, select the color/symbol you wish to erase.
2. In the Linesize box, select the tool width you want to use.
The larger the tool width, the larger the Color Eraser pointer.
3. Double-click on the Stitch Eraser to view the hidden icons.
4. From the Toolbox, select the Color Eraser and move the pointer into the charting area.
5. Click the mouse button on a single unwanted stitch or drag the pointer across an area of stitches; only those in the specified color/symbol will be erased.

Stitch Shapes



- * Chain
- * Box
- * Filled Box
- * Circle/Ellipse
- * Filled Circle/Ellipse

Chain

The Chain tool allows you to draw a continuous sequence of stitches quickly and accurately.

To draw a chain of stitches:

1. From the Palette, select the symbol/color you want.
2. From the Linesize box, select the tool width you want.
The larger the tool width, the thicker the chain.
3. From the Toolbox, select the Chain tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
4. Press the mouse button to anchor one end of the chain and drag the mouse: a flexible line will stretch from the anchored point.
5. When you are satisfied with the length and position of the flexible line, release the mouse button; a sequence of stitches will be pasted in place.

Note: To draw a perfectly straight horizontal, vertical, or diagonal chain, hold down the SHIFT key as you drag the flexible line: the chain will jump to the closest angle.

HINT If you accidentally release the mouse button too soon use Edit/Undo to remove the mistake.

Also see:

[Box](#)

[Filled Box](#)

[Circle/Ellipse](#)

[Filled Circle/Ellipse](#)

Box

The Box tool allows you to draw a square or rectangle of stitches quickly. Note that any box drawn will overwrite any existing stitches in its path.

To draw a box of stitches:

1. From the Palette, select the symbol/color you want.
2. From the Linesize box, select the tool width you want to use.
The larger the tool width, the thicker the border of your box.
3. Double-click on the Chain tool to view further [icons](#)
4. Select the Box tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
5. Press the mouse button to anchor one corner of the flexible box.
6. Holding down the mouse button, move the pointer until the box is the desired size.
7. Release the mouse button; a box-shaped sequence of stitches will be pasted in place.

Note: To draw a perfect square of stitches, hold down the SHIFT key while dragging the flexible box.

HINT If you accidentally release the mouse button too soon use Edit/Undo to remove the box.

Filled box

The Filled Box tool allows you to draw filled boxes or squares of stitches quickly. It operates in the same way as the Box tool

Circle/Ellipse

The Circle/Ellipse tool allows you to draw a circle or oval of stitches quickly.

To draw a circle or ellipse of stitches:

1. From the Palette, select the desired symbol/color.
2. From the Linesize box, select the desired tool width.
The larger the tool width, the thicker the circle or ellipse.
3. Double-click on the Chain tool to view further icons.
4. Select the Circle/Ellipse tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
5. Press the mouse button to anchor one corner of the flexible ellipse.
6. Holding down the mouse button, move the pointer until the ellipse is the desired size.
7. Release the mouse button; an oval sequence of stitches will be pasted in place.

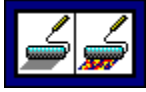
Note: To draw a perfect circle of stitches, hold down the SHIFT key while dragging the flexible circle.

HINT If you accidentally release the mouse button too soon use Edit, Undo to remove the mistake.

Filled circle/ellipse

The Filled Circle/Ellipse tool allows you to draw a filled circle or oval of stitches quickly. It operates in the same way as the Circle/Ellipse tool

Rollers



- * Paint Roller
- * Variegated roller

Paint Roller

Use the Paint Roller to fill in any closed shape or area with the selected symbol or color. The symbols in the boundary can be different to that used as a filler, or they can be the same.

To fill in a closed area with the Paint Roller:

1. Ensure there are no gaps in your boundary.
2. Select the symbol/color you want to use in the fill.
3. From the Toolbox, select the Paint Roller.
4. Position the pointer in the closed shape and click the mouse button.
The area will fill with the selected color/symbol.

If the shape being filled has any breaks in its border, the filler will leak out and fill all blank cells in the chart. If this happens, wait for the color to stop leaking and select Undo from the Edit menu (or press CTRL + BACKSPACE). It is a good idea to save your work before using this tool!

Also see

[Variegated roller](#)

Variegated Roller

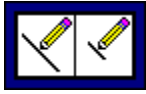
Occasionally, a design calls for an area of randomly colored stitches. Use the Variegated Roller to fill in any closed shape with a random arrangement of selected symbols or colors.

To fill in a closed area with the Variegated Roller:

1. Create a boundary of stitches and ensure there are no gaps in it.
2. Double-click on the Paint Roller to view the hidden icons
3. Select the Variegated Roller; a dialog box appears.
4. Specify the colors/symbols you wish to use by nominating their location on the Palette (eg. dark grey/cross is No. 2).
5. Specify the percentage in which each one should appear. If your selections do not add up to 100%, the unspecified percentage will remain in the background color.
6. Position the pointer in the closed shape and click the mouse button. The area will fill with the selected colors/symbols.

If the shape being filled has any breaks in its border, the filler will leak out and fill all blank cells in the chart. If this happens, wait for the colors to stop leaking and select Undo from the Edit menu (or press CTRL + BACKSPACE). To avoid any problems, save your work before using this tool.

Backstitch



- * Backstitch tool
- * Half-backstitch tool

The Backstitch tool can be used to draw backstitching or other lines on your chart. Where a backstitch pattern changes course, draw the pattern as a series of separate lines. Lines drawn with this tool will always start and end on the corner of a cell.

To draw a line:

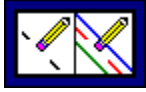
1. From the Palette, select the color you wish to use.
2. From the Toolbox, select the Backstitch tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
3. Press the mouse button to anchor one end of the line and drag the mouse: a flexible line will stretch from the anchored point.
4. When you are satisfied with the length and position of the flexible line, release the mouse button.
5. If you want a series of lines, repeat steps 3 and 4.

Note: To draw a perfectly straight horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line, hold down the SHIFT key as you drag the flexible line.

HINT Backstitching slows down the speed at which StitchCraft works, so it is wise to leave any backstitching until the end.

The Half-backstitch tool works in the same way as the Backstitch tool, but allows you to draw lines which start and end between gridlines.

Backstitch Erasers



- * Backstitch Eraser
- * Color Backstitch Eraser

The Backstitch Eraser deletes any lines which start or end in the area it touches. You can erase small or large areas easily by changing the tool width.

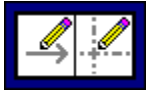
To erase a line:

1. In the Linesize box, select the tool width you want to use.
The larger the tool width, the larger the Eraser pointer.
2. From the Toolbox, select the Backstitch Eraser and move the pointer into the charting area.
3. To erase a single line, click the mouse button on the end of the unwanted stitch. To erase an area of backstitch lines, press the mouse button and drag the pointer across the ends of the unwanted lines.
4. Release the mouse button to stop erasing.

Note: If several lines end at the same location, clicking on that area will erase them all. To erase such lines selectively, consider clicking on the other end of the unwanted line.

The Color Backstitch Eraser works in the same way as the Backstitch Eraser, but will only erase lines in the color currently selected.

Centermarks



- * Arrow Pencil
- * Centerline

When printing or exporting a chart, you are given the option of automatic arrows to indicate its center. However, if you have split one chart into sections, or if the center of your chart is not the centre of your design, you may wish to place arrows manually. The thickness of arrows drawn with the Arrow Pencil is set in the Options command of the Print and Export menus. Remember to turn off the automatic arrows before you print .

To manually draw arrows on your chart:

1. Calculate the position on the chart where you require the arrow(s).
2. From the Toolbox, select the Arrow Pencil and move the pointer into the charting area.
3. Press the mouse button to anchor the base of the arrow's shaft.
4. Drag the pointer to where the arrow head should appear and release the mouse button.

When printing or exporting a chart, you are given the option of automatic centermarks to indicate its centre. However, if you have split one chart into sections, or if the center of your chart is not the center of your design, you may wish to place these lines manually. The thickness of lines drawn with the Centerline tool is set in the Options command of the Print and Export menus. Remember to turn off the automatic centermarks before you print .

To manually place centerlines on your chart:

1. Calculate the position on the chart where you require the center lines.
2. Double-click on the Arrow Pencil to view the hidden icons.
3. Select the Centerline Tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
4. Press the mouse button to anchor the base of the vertical line.
5. Drag the pointer to where the vertical line should end and release the mouse button.
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 for the horizontal line.

Centermark Erasers



Use the Centermark Eraser to erase manual arrows or centerlines.

To remove a centermark:

1. From the Toolbox, select the Centermark Eraser and move the pointer into the charting area.
2. Click the mouse anywhere on the arrow or centerline you wish to remove.

Borders



- * Freehand Border
- * Box Border
- * Elliptical Border

The Freehand Border tool allows you to manually place a border (ie. a thin line) around a chart or around a label. A border line is different from a backstitch line: it will only travel along gridlines, it cannot be colored or dot-dashed, its printed thickness is set separately from that of backstitch. If you are charting a knitting pattern, you might want to 'crop' the grid around the shape of a sleeve and draw a border round the edges (see the section on charting knitting patterns in 'Advanced Charting Methods' and the sample knitting design in the appendices of your manual).

To manually draw a border:

1. From the Toolbox, select the Freehand Border tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
2. Press the mouse button to anchor one end of the line and drag the mouse: a flexible line will stretch from the anchored point. It will only travel along a vertical or horizontal path.
4. When you are satisfied with the length of the flexible line, release the mouse button.
5. Draw connecting lines until the border is complete.

You might want to have a border surrounding the grid section of your chart, but not surrounding the label which contains the key to thread colors and so on.

To manually place a rectangular or square border:

1. Double-click on the Border tool to view the hidden icons.
2. From the Toolbox, select the Box Border tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
2. Press the mouse button to anchor one corner of the box and drag the mouse: a flexible box will stretch from the anchored point.
3. When you are satisfied with the size and position of the flexible box, release the mouse button.

The Elliptical Border operates in the same way as the Box Border. The thickness of borders drawn with the Border Pencil is set in the Options command of the Print and Export menus.

Border Eraser

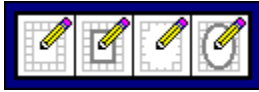


Use the Border Eraser to erase manual borders.

To remove a border:

1. From the Toolbox, select the Border Eraser and move the pointer into the charting area.
2. Click the mouse anywhere on the border you wish to remove.

Label Tools



- * Box Label
- * Box Label /Border
- * Circle/Ellipse Label
- * Circle/Ellipse Label/Border

The Label Pencil allows you to place an area of solid white on your chart so that text placed on it will be more legible. You can choose whether or not this label has a border line around it by selecting the appropriate icon from behind the Label Pencil: the second and fourth tools will draw labels with borders.

To draw a rectangular or square label:

1. Double click on the Label Pencil in the Toolbox to view hidden icons.
2. Select the appropriate Box Label tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
2. Press the mouse button to anchor one corner of the flexible box.
3. Holding down the mouse button, move the pointer until the box is the size you want your label to be.
4. Release the mouse button.

To draw an elliptical label:

1. Double-click on the Label Pencil in the Toolbox to view the hidden icons.
2. Select the appropriate Elliptical Label tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
3. Press the mouse button to anchor one corner of the flexible ellipse.
4. Holding down the mouse button, move the pointer until the ellipse is the size you want your label to be.
5. Release the mouse button.

Note: You can draw a label over existing text or stitches; they will be visible through the label although the gridlines will not.

Label Eraser



The Label Eraser is useful for removing labels which are in the wrong place or which are the wrong size.

To remove a label:

1. From the Toolbox, select the Label Eraser and move the pointer into the charting area.
2. Click the mouse anywhere on the label you wish to remove.

Text



The Text tool allows you to write text (such as the name of the design or designer) or construct a user's key on a section of the chart. Default text is written in Times Roman with a letter height of two cells but you can vary the font, size, style or color of text to be written.

Font options are determined by your printer and the version of Windows in which you are operating. If you are running Windows 3.1 or higher, you will have additional options of true type fonts (marked with TT in the font list). It is preferable to use true type fonts because they can be resized without any problems. See your Windows manual for more information on such fonts.

Letter height can be any size between one-cell and twenty-cells-high. The height includes leading (ie. the space between lines). Text can be written in one of four colors: black, red, blue or green. Style options include normal, bold, italic or underlined. Various combinations of the last three options are possible.

The above mentioned options (fonts, letter height, text color and style) are selected from the option box. A sample box in this dialog box shows the specified format; to view further sample letters or the number 0 to 9, use the scroll bar at the right of the sample box.

To write text on your chart:

1. From the Toolbox, select the Text tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
The pointer will appear as an I-bar.
2. Point with the base of the bar to where you want your text to appear and click the mouse button.
The Text dialog box appears.
3. Select the desired font, letter height and color from appropriate lists.
4. Click on the appropriate box(es) in the Style section.
5. Click in the Text section and start typing.
To correct errors, use the BACKSPACE key.
6. Select OK.

To add another line of text, reposition the Text pointer in the appropriate cell and click the mouse button.

When you review the charted text, you may wish to make some changes.

To edit text already placed on the chart:

1. From the Toolbox, select the Text tool.
2. Move the pointer to the text which needs to be edited.
The pointer will change to a T-arrow when it locates text.
3. Click the mouse button anywhere on the text.
The Text Options dialog box appears.

4. Click anywhere in the Text area and edit as desired.
5. Make any desired font, height, color or style changes.
6. Select OK.

Cutouts



With the Cutout tool, you can define a square or rectangular area of your chart which can then be cut, copied, pasted, manipulated or saved. The cutout can be very small, as large as the drawing area, or the whole chart.

To define a rectangular or square cutout:

1. Ensure that the section you wish to define is within the charting area.
2. From the Toolbox, select the Cutout tool and move the pointer into the charting area.
3. Press the mouse button to anchor one corner of the flexible box.
4. Holding down the mouse button, move the pointer until the box encloses the area you want to define.
5. Release the mouse button.
The cutout remains highlighted by a thick line.

You can now use commands from the Edit menu to cut, copy, paste, manipulate and save the cutout.

To undo a selection, choose Deselect from the Edit menu or click on another tool.

Stitch Size

Use the Stitch Size command to set the width of the stitch tools: a sub-menu offers a choice of size 1 (narrow) to size 8 (broad).

Also see:

Tool Width

Eraser Size

Use the Eraser Size command to set the width of the eraser tools: a sub-menu offers a choice of size 1 (narrow) to size 8 (broad)

Also see:

Tool width

View

Use the View command (in Screen menu) to select a specific viewing size. This may be a quicker alternative to using the Zoom In and Zoom Out icons and is the only way of making the chart fill the whole screen. From here you can also specify your viewing preferences - whether or not you want to see the grid, rulers, cursor position etc.

Also see :

[Viewing sizes](#)

Viewing sizes

To change the viewing size:

1. From the Screen menu, choose View...
2. Click in the button beside the preferred view and select OK. Alternatively, you can use the Viewfinders to zoom in and out between the three most useful sizes: large edit, small edit, and whole chart.

To zoom in:

1. Click on the zoom-in icon; a magnifying glass will appear.
2. Position the magnifying glass on the section of the screen you wish to enlarge, and click.

Alternatively, double-clicking on the zoom-in icon will return you to your last zoomed-in position.

To zoom out:

Click on the zoom-out icon and viewing size will automatically change.

Cross stitch and tapestries are stitched on even weave material with a specific number of threads per inch or centimetre. StitchCraft lets you view your design according to various common counts for Aida fabric which is measured in inches. If you are using linen or canvas, you will need to estimate the number of stitches per inch and choose the closest measure offered. Using this feature, you can foresee how a design will appear when stitched, see: [Viewing by Material Count](#).

Calibrate

Use the Calibrate command to correctly set the brightness and contrast on your monitor. For more information, see 'Screen quality' in the Appendix on Technical Specifications of your manual.

Material Count

Use the Material Count command to set the size for True Size, which allows you to view your design at the size it will be when stitched.

To view the chart according to the material count:

1. From the Chart menu, select Material Count.
A sub-menu will appear.
2. Highlight the most suitable option.
The chart will approximately match the size you have chosen.

This grid size will now appear each time you select True Size from the Screen menu, until you specify a new material count. Note that this feature has been designed for standard sized screens, rather than large format screens.

Grid Type

Use the Grid Type command to change the shape and weighting of the gridlines on your screen. The options are:

- * ten square grid - a heavy line every tenth gridline
- * five square grid - a heavy line every fifth gridline
- * plain square grid - all gridlines equally weighted
- * dot grid - dots in place of solid gridlines
- * knitting grid - stretches the grid horizontally to show knitting pattern distortion.

Palette Display

Use the Palette Display command to remove or replace the following:

- * the entry numbers of the Palette (useful as a reference when manipulating the Palette).
- * the color section of the Palette.
- * the symbol section of the Palette.

To add any of these to the screen or to remove them, simply select the relevant item from the sub-menu.

Import Menu

One of the most valuable features of StitchCraft is the facility for importing an image which can be either placed behind a grid and then charted over, or automatically converted to a chart by StitchCraft.

Importing an image

The import can be a scanned image (a photograph, a hand-drawn picture, an old chart) or one created in a graphics program such as Paintbrush. You can import an image via the clipboard or direct from a bitmap file (you will be asked to specify the source).

To import from the clipboard

To import from a bitmap file

Also see:

Charting over an image

Auto Conversion

Removing the import

To Import from the Clipboard

1. While in your graphics program (such as a paint or scanning program), copy the desired image to the Clipboard using Edit, Copy.
2. Activate the StitchCraft window.
3. If you wish to fill only a part of your chart, select the Cutout Tool and use it to define a suitable area for the import. If no cutout is selected, the import will fill the whole chart.
4. From the Import menu, select Import. The Import Format box appears.
5. Click on the Clipboard option button.
6. Select OK.

If you have selected a cutout and the image to be imported does not neatly fit those proportions, StitchCraft will ask if you wish to stretch the image or would prefer the image to be placed in the top-left of your chart, as large as possible while retaining its proportions.

To import a bitmap file

1. While in your graphics program (such as a paint or scanning program), save the file in a bitmap format, with a *.BMP extension.
2. Activate the StitchCraft window.
3. If you wish to fill only a part of your chart, select the Cutout Tool and use it to define a suitable area for the import. If no cutout is selected, the import will fill the whole chart.
4. From the Import menu, select Import.
The Import Format box appears.
5. Click on the Disk file option button.
6. Select OK.
The Open File box appears, with a directories list.
7. Double-click the directory that contains the import file.
All files with a *.BMP extension will appear in the file list.
8. Double-click on the file that you want to import.

If you have selected a cutout and the image to be imported does not neatly fit those proportions, StitchCraft will ask if you wish to stretch the image or would prefer the image to be placed in the top-left of your chart, as large as possible while retaining its proportions.

Charting over an Image

You can now chart over the image using the tools as usual. Work in the symbol mode (rather than color) so you can see which areas have been charted. Remember to save your chart as usual, to protect your work.

HINT Unlike normal charting, where backstitch is drawn last to avoid slowing the program, you should backstitch over an import first. Otherwise, you won't be able to see where backstitch lines are required.

StitchCraft even helps you to select appropriate colors for charting any section of the import. Simply click the right-hand button of the mouse on a cell of the import and StitchCraft will highlight the closest color available from your Palette. Double-click the right button on that cell and it will automatically select that color.

Alternatively, you can build up a palette by matching selected colors in the import itself. StitchCraft will identify the predominant color in a specified cell of the imported image and let you add it to the Palette. You can then use the Auto Match command to match the whole Palette with thread colors from a commercial range.

To match colors in an import:

1. Hold down the INSERT key.
2. Click with the right-hand mouse button on a cell of the import and release the INSERT key.
The Alter Color dialog box appears, with a color in the sample box.
3. Select OK.
This color will be added as an entry to the Palette.
4. Repeat for as many cells as required.
5. From the Palette menu, select Auto Match Colors.
6. Click on the option box for the desired brand of threads.
7. Select OK.
Each color in the Palette will be matched to a thread color in that range.

It would be impractical to match every cell of the import: you may end up with a chart using hundreds of different thread colors. The charter must decide how many different colors they wish to use and where variations are most important.

Removing the import

To view your progress without clearing the import (which is a permanent step), you can elect to view the import only, the chart only, or the two combined.

To change the import view:

1. From the Screen menu, select View.
The View dialog box appears and, if an image has been imported, the relevant options will appear in the bottom left of the box.
2. Select the appropriate import viewing mode.
3. Select OK.

When you have completed your chart, clear the import by selecting Clear Import from the Import menu.

Only one imported image can be used at a time. However, once an import is cleared, you can import another image and proceed as outlined above. This allows you to build up a design using imported images as elements in a collage.

If you wish to retain an import you can save it as a *.BMP file from your painting or scanning application. Alternatively, you can save it as a *.CLP file from the Clipboard Viewer.

Preferences

The Preferences dialog box gives the ability to specify the start-up settings for StitchCraft and the default settings for each new chart.

There are several settings:

- * Autosave - lets you specify whether autosave is off, auto or remind. You can also specify the interval between autosave actions.
- * Chart size - enables you to set the size for each new chart created in StitchCraft.
- * Markings - enables you to specify whether each new chart has centrelines, centre arrows or a border.
- * Grid - lets you specify values for type, color, shade & thickness of grid on each new chart. The Grid section also contains options for solid lines, knitting grid and count from bottom.
- * Thread - enables you to select the brand and type of thread for each new chart. Alternatively you can select under the Palette heading; the StitchCraft default palette, the previously saved user palette, or you can save your current palette as the default.

To set your Preferences:

1. Select Preferences... from the File menu.
2. Specify your preferences.
3. Click OK. Each new chart you start will now have the preferences you have selected.

Clear Import

Use the Clear Import command to permanently remove an imported image from the screen.

Also see:

Import menu

Export Menu *(only available on Publisher Edition)*

Use the Export menu commands to output charts in a format suitable for use in a desktop publishing program.

There are several decisions to be made before you export a chart. As when printing, you specify desired gridline widths, chart size, and whether or not registration marks are to be added. You should also specify the format of the export.

Select from one of the following commands:

Start Exporting

Export Format

Export Layout

Start Exporting

Use the Start Exporting command to:

- * specify the export format
- * specify the export layout
- * specify the export options
- * view a summary of the current export settings
- * export the current chart.

1. From the Export menu, select Start Exporting.
The Export dialog box appears.
2. Select an Export Type and change Layout & Options if desired.
3. Select OK.

Before exporting, you can change the color of the gridlines or choose to have no gridlines at all. You can also choose between the various chart types: symbol chart, color chart, symbols on color, symbol overlays , color overlays or tapestry overlays (optional extra).

see:

- Export Format
- Export Layout
- Export Options
- StitchCraft and DTP
- Printing in color

Color Overlays

Of use if you are publishing a chart in color blocks with only a few colors (e.g. a knitting pattern). This option will output each of the palette colors separately for printing on separate overlays. If more than 4 colors are used it may be cheaper to use 4 color separation methods and print in 4 color process (see [full color separation](#)). Unlike Tapestry overlays, Color overlays fit together without any overlap.

Export Format

Use the Export Format command to change the format in which a chart will be exported, either to the Clipboard or to a file.

There are two reasons you may wish to export StitchCraft files into another format: to improve reproduction quality, and to incorporate charts into a document, such as a book. Two Export formats are available from StitchCraft - EPS and WMF (see EPS or WMF?). Exporting in either format enables a bureau to separate the chart for commercial printing using process colors. Even if you only require monotone output (ie black symbols on a black grid), a bureau can output at a much higher resolution, giving you a clearer, sharper image. StitchCraft charts exported in EPS or WMF format can also be imported into desktop publishing packages such as Aldus Pagemaker, Quark XPress and Ventura Publisher, where they can be enhanced. Charts exported in EPS format can also be used on the Apple Macintosh system, see Exporting to Apple Macintosh.

By default, a chart will be exported to the Clipboard in WMF format. If you require an EPS or WMF file instead, you must specify this before exporting.

1. From the Export menu, select Export Format.
The Export Format dialog box appears .
2. Click on the appropriate option button.
If you select one of the Disk File options, an Export File dialog box appears, and you must allocate a file name.
3. Select OK.

Export Layout

Use the Export Layout command to:

- * specify a height or width for the exported chart
- * specify the gridsize of the exported chart.

1. From the Export menu, select Export Layout.
The Export Page Layout dialog box appears.
The default setting is a grid size of 10 cells per inch (10 count).
2. You can adjust the exported chart size by width, height, grid size or count.
3. Enter the desired size in the appropriate section of the Measurements box and StitchCraft will adjust any other affected measurements.
3. Select OK.

The chart size will then be displayed in the Chart section of the Export dialog box.

Export Options

Use the Export Options command to change the line thicknesses and shades of gridlines, centermarks & backstitch. If you were charting manually on paper, you would choose graph paper with an appropriate line thickness and weighting. StitchCraft has these same options: line thickness and shade can be adjusted and every 5th or 10th gridline can be accentuated to make the chart easier to use. You can also adjust the thickness and shade of any centermarks, border and backstitch.

To change line thicknesses:

1. From the Export menu, select Export Options.
The Export Options dialog box appears.
2. Use the scroll bars to choose from the five shade and nine thickness settings for the appropriate lines. A sample appears at the right of the scroll bar. If you are dissatisfied with the changes made, click on Default to revert to original settings. You can also specify a solid grid, which will change all shades to 100%.
3. Select OK.

Start Printing

Use the Start Printing command to:

- * specify the print output (color/mono, symbols/blocks, etc)
- * specify gridline type (black/color/none)
- * view a summary of the current print settings
- * print the current chart.

also see :

[Printing in Color](#)

Printer Setup

Use the Printer Setup command to change the target printer.

Also see:

[Changing Printers and Printer Options](#)

Page Layout

Use the Page Layout command to:

- * change the margins on the page
- * specify a height or width for the printed chart
- * specify the gridsize of the printed chart
- * specify the chart's position on the page.
- * specify the number of pages in Tile, if the chart is to printed over more than one page.

Also see:

[Specifying Printed Size and Position](#)

Print Options

Use the Print Output command to:

- * change the line thicknesses of gridlines, centermarks, backstitch
- * add or remove automatic centerlines, arrows, borders, or registration marks.

Also see:

[Gridline Options](#)

Rulers and Co-ordinates

Along the top and left-hand side of the chart is a Ruler marking the width and height count. This can be very useful if you are working on a large chart, and need to know which section you are currently viewing. It is also a useful reference when you wish to add or delete columns or rows and need to specify position.

A box indicating the co-ordinates of the pointer position is another feature offered. The Ruler and the Co-ordinates Box are both optional.

To add or remove these items:

1. From the Screen menu, select View.
The View dialog box appears.
2. Click on the appropriate check boxes.
3. Select OK.

Using help

StitchCraft online Help is a convenient, quick way to look up information about a task you are performing, a feature you would like to know more about, or a command you want to use. Help is available at almost any time.

Contents:

The contents help menu contains all help information accessed through branches of main headings. Within contents you may also use the browse buttons (<< or >>) which allows you to look at the following page(s).

Search:

The Search feature is an efficient way to find the information you need. When you have a topic you want help with, you can select or type it in the Search dialog box so that Help can find the information for you.

Context Sensitive:

When you select Context Sensitive from the Help menu bar, a pointer with a question mark will appear. The pointer will move with your mouse and allow you to click on any command or parts of the screen that you want help on.

Help from Dialog Boxes:

When a dialog box appears, pressing F1, will activate a Help window for that topic. For more details in using help in general, press F1 now.

Creating a Simple Chart

With the default chart on the screen, you are ready to start basic charting.

Select a tool

Select a tool width

Select a symbol / color from the Palette

Draw your chart

Correct any errors

Save your work

Select a Tool

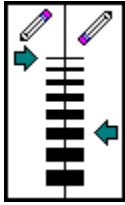
Before you begin working in the charting area, you need to select the tool you want to work with. This can be done from the Toolbox at the left of the StitchCraft window or from the Tools menu. The Stitch Pencil is always selected by default when you start StitchCraft or when you open a new chart.

To select a tool:

Point to the tool you want to use and click the mouse.
StitchCraft highlights the selected tool in the Toolbox.

Each tool works slightly differently, but the basic technique is to select a tool, move to the charting area and click on the cells which you want to modify.

Selecting Tool Width



The Linesize box in the lower-left corner of the window displays the available widths for drawing and erasing. You can set different widths for drawing and erasing: you might prefer to keep the drawing tools precise and the erasing tools broad. You can change these widths at any time when charting.

The arrow on the left of the width bars indicates the coverage of any pencil tool you select. For example, if you are drawing stitches with the Stitch Pencil, the drawing width determines the size of the pencil stroke and so the number of stitches that will be filled in.

The arrow on the right side of the width bars indicates the coverage of any eraser tool you select. Use a wide tool width for covering or erasing large areas of the chart quickly. You might want to experiment with how different tool widths work with different tools so that you can use them most effectively.

To change the width of the drawing tools:

Click the mouse to the left of the desired width bar.
An arrow appears to the left of the drawing width you selected.

To change the width of the eraser tools:

Click the mouse to the right of the desired width bar.
An arrow appears to the right of the eraser width you selected.

Using the Palette

Charts for cross stitch or any counted craft indicate to the user which color thread or yarn is used where. StitchCraft offers a choice of 50 basic colors and each color is represented by a corresponding symbol and allocated a number; these color/symbol combinations make up the Palette which runs across the bottom of the StitchCraft window. The Palette sometimes extends further than the screen can display; to view the extra symbols/colors, click on the scroll bar below the Palette.

The Selection box to the left of the Palette shows the symbol or color that is currently selected. The option buttons between the Selection box and the Palette switch your chart view from symbols to colors or vice versa. The Selection box will indicate which viewing mode you are currently in.

When you start up StitchCraft, the selected symbol/color is box/black (the combination at the extreme left of the Palette). If you use the drawing tools, the stitches will appear either as a box symbol or as a black square. You can select a different symbol/color at any time and so build up a chart of different symbols/colors.

To select a different symbol/color:

Point to the desired symbol or color in the Palette and click the mouse. The Selection box show the symbol or color you have selected.

HINT Double-clicking the right-hand mouse button on a particular cell of your chart will select the symbol/color already used in that cell.

Drawing a Chart

To draw with any selected tool, simply follow these steps:

1. Click on the Stitch Pencil in the Toolbox.
2. Move the pointer to the charting area.
3. Click on the cell where you require a stitch in the selected color/symbol.
A symbol (or block of color) will appear in that cell.
4. Repeat the last step in another cell, or drag the pointer across several cells.

Correcting Any Errors

If you make a mistake while charting, you can use the Undo command on the Edit menu to make simple corrections. 'Undo' reverses your very last action, whether it was an addition or an erasure.

Undo will not have any effect if your last action was to select a tool, use the scroll bar, or resize the window. Once you do any of these and you wish to edit your work, you must use an eraser tool or restore the version last saved.

Also see:

[Using the Erasers](#)

Saving your Work

The File menu contains two different commands for saving chart files: Save and Save As. Use the Save command to save changes to an existing file. Use the Save As command to name and save a new file or to save an existing file under a new name. When you are charting a design - especially a large design - you should save the file often.

To save an existing chart file:

From the File menu, select Save (or press CTRL + S).

To save a new chart, or an existing chart under a new filename:

1. From the File menu, select Save As.
A Directories list box appears.
2. Select the directory in which you want to save the file.
3. Move to the Filename text box and type the name you want to assign to the file (up to eight characters with no spaces).
4. Select OK.

As a precaution against losing important work, StitchCraft has an Auto-save function. By default, a reminder box will appear on screen after a gap of 10 minutes, asking if you wish to save. You can change the frequency of the reminder, save automatically without an option, or turn Autosave off altogether - see [Saving Automatically](#).

Editing your chart

One of the strengths of StitchCraft is the ease with which you can edit your work. When charting manually, a series of changes may mean starting afresh; with a computer it can simply mean a few adjustments.

This chapter contains information about features to help you review your work and make improvements.

Reviewing charts

Opening an existing chart

Using the eraser

Manipulating sections of the chart

Identifying stitch colors

Choosing an unused symbol/color

Reviewing charts

The characteristics of each chart file are summarized in a box called File Information. This can be used to learn about a chart on screen or about one you are considering opening. It contains:

- * the file name and date it was last saved
- * the width and height of the chart
- * the palette size and number of entries used
- * the number of color separations used
- * a text box in which you can store notes about the chart

You can enter text only for a chart that is currently open; you are restricted to viewing it when the file is unopened.

For information on a chart currently on screen:

1. From the File menu, select File Info.
The File Information box appears.
2. To enter text, click in the text area and type.
Text wraps automatically; do not press ENTER until you have completed your text message.

For information on files not yet opened:

1. From the File menu, select Open.
The Open File dialog box appears
2. Click on the appropriate file in the Files list box to highlight it.
3. Click on the Info option box.
The File Information box appears.
4. When you have finished viewing the information, click OK.

At any stage of charting, you can recall a list of the last five charts opened and, if you wish, open one of them. If you do so, the recalled chart will replace your current chart on screen.

To recall a recently used file:

1. From the File menu, select Recall.
A sub-menu appears, listing the last five files used.
2. Click on the file you wish to recall.

Opening an existing chart

You can open a chart at any stage. If you attempt this while working on another chart, StitchCraft will ask you if you wish to save the chart currently on screen. StitchCraft only runs one chart at a time. (If you wish to run two charts concurrently and have sufficient RAM, you can start up another version of the StitchCraft application in Windows and then jump between the two versions using ALT + TAB.)

To open a chart:

1. From the File menu, select Open.
The Open File dialog box appears.
2. Move to the Directories list box.
3. Double-click the directory that contains the file you want to open.
4. Move to the Files list box and scroll through to find the file you want.
5. Double-click the filename or choose OK.

HINT If you have a long list of files, you can click on the first one and then type the first letter of the required file to jump down the list.

Using the Eraser

It is a simple matter to correct an error or to make changes to your chart using the eraser tools. StitchCraft has several eraser tools, each with a different function:

Stitch Eraser By dragging the pointer over your chart, you can remove all the stitches your eraser touches.

Color Eraser If you wish to erase stitches selectively, use the Color Eraser. This works in the same way as the Stitch Eraser but will only erase stitches in the symbol/color currently selected.

Backstitch Eraser Deletes any lines which start or end in the area touched by the pointer as it is dragged.

Color Backstitch Eraser If you wish to erase backstitches selectively, use the Color Backstitch Eraser. This works in the same way as the Backstitch Eraser but will only erase lines in the form/color currently selected.

Centermark Eraser Deletes centermarks (arrows or centerlines) which have been manually placed when you click on them using this tool.

Border Eraser Deletes border lines clicked on using this tool.

Label Eraser Deletes labels when you click on them using this tool.

When using any of these tools, you can erase large or small areas easily by changing the eraser width in the Linesize box.

HINT To erase text, use the Text Tool to select the text, and delete by backspacing or highlighting and deleting.

Manipulating sections of the chart

You can use StitchCraft to create your own library of motifs, alphabets and borders using the cutout tool and save command. In addition, designs which contain symmetrical motifs or repeated patterns can be charted quickly using cutouts. Once you have charted a basic section, use the cutout tool to highlight it and then select the desired command from the Edit menu to either copy, move, crop, flip, mirror, or rotate it. See below for more detail on any of these functions.

A warning: you might select a cutout which does not completely contain all the elements included in it - such as a backstitch line that starts inside the cutout but ends outside of it. If you then instruct StitchCraft to manipulate the cutout, the program must decide how to treat those half-in/half-out elements. If proceeding means you will lose any information, StitchCraft will provide a warning.

To move a cutout

To copy a cutout

To delete within a cutout

To crop around a cutout

To flip a cutout

To mirror a cutout

To rotate a cutout

To move a cutout

1. Define a section of the chart with the Cutout tool.
2. From the Edit menu, select Cut.
The contents of the defined section will disappear.
3. If necessary, scroll to the section of the chart where you wish to paste the cutout.
4. From the Edit menu, select Paste.
The pointer will change to a paste icon.
5. Click with the pointer on the top-left cell of the desired pasting area.
The cutout will fall to the right of this cell and below it.

To copy a cutout

1. Define a section of the chart with the Cutout tool.
2. From the Edit menu, select Copy.
The contents of the defined section will remain unchanged.
3. If necessary, scroll to the section of the chart where you wish to copy the cutout.
4. From the Edit menu, select Paste.
The pointer will change to a paste icon.
5. Click with the pointer on the top-left cell of the desired pasting area.
The cutout will fall to the right of this cell and below it.

To delete within a cutout

1. Define a section of the chart with the Cutout tool.
2. From the Edit menu, select Delete.
The contents of the defined section will disappear, but the dimensions of the chart will remain the same.

Identifying stitch colors

Sometimes, different shades of the same color are difficult to identify on a chart when viewed in color mode. If you want to ascertain which color you have used without changing to symbol mode, simply click on the stitch with the right-hand button of the mouse. The appropriate entry on the Palette will 'reverse out', making it easy to identify. If this is also the color you currently have selected, the Sample Box will also 'reverse out' for as long as you hold down the mouse button.

Alternatively, if you are uncertain which color is currently selected, click with the right-hand mouse button on the Selection box and the appropriate entry on the Palette will be highlighted with a border.

Choosing an unused symbol/color

When you want to select a new symbol/color but are unsure which have been used, you can refer to the Palette Info dialog box. This gives details of each palette entry, including the frequency of use on the chart.

To identify unused palette entries:

1. From the File menu, select Palette Info.
The Palette Information box appears.
2. Scroll down until you find an entry with '0' in the No. of stitches column.
3. Select OK.

Printing a Chart

When you are satisfied with your chart, you will need a print-out for the stitcher or knitter's reference. The quality of your print-out will depend on the type of printer you have installed: a dot-matrix printer will produce draft-quality and a 300 dpi laser printer will cope well with small charts printed in a large format. If you want professional quality output, you will probably need to take charts on disk to a bureau, for printing on a 1200 dpi imagesetter.

When printing, you have various options regarding will take you through those options.

Changing printers and printer options

Gridline options

Centermarks and other options

Specifying printed size and position

Printing in color

Printing and saving specifications

Changing Printers and Print Options

StitchCraft prints your charts on the default printer selected in Windows. If you have other printers installed and assigned as active printers, you can make any of these the default printer using the Printer Setup command on the Print menu.

To change printers:

1. From the Print menu, select Printer Setup.
The Printer Setup dialog box appears with a list of all the active printers.
2. From the Printer box, select the name of the printer to which you want to change.
3. Select OK. StitchCraft automatically prints to the newly selected printer.

If you have created a chart that is wider than it is high, changing the page orientation will make better use of space, particularly if you wish to print the chart as large as possible. By default, one copy will be printed; this can be changed as you require.

To change the orientation, number of copies or print scale:

1. From the Print menu, select Printer Setup.
The Printer Setup dialog box will appear.
2. Click on Setup...
A dialog box for that printer will appear.
3. In the Orientation box, click on the desired option button (portrait or landscape).
Enter the desired number of copies in the Copies box.
Enter the desired scale in the Scaling box.
4. Select OK.
5. Select OK in the Printer Setup dialog box.

Gridline Options

If you were charting manually on paper, you would choose graph paper with an appropriate line thickness and weighting. StitchCraft has these same options: line thickness and shade can be adjusted and every 5th or 10th gridline can be accentuated to make the chart easier to use. Sample gridline settings are shown in Appendix X. You can also adjust the thickness and shade of any centermarks, border and backstitch.

To change line thickness

To print color gridlines or no gridlines

To Change Line Thickness

1. From the Print menu, select Print Chart.
The Print Chart dialog box appears.
2. Select Options from the Printout section.
3. Use the scroll bars to choose from the different shade and thickness settings for the appropriate lines.
A sample appears at the right of the scroll bar. If you are dissatisfied with the changes made, click on Default to revert to the original settings.
4. Select OK then proceed to print.

By default, the gridlines will be printed in black, but you can choose to print them in a color (red, green, or blue) or to print no grid lines, or the border only. Selecting a color will only have an affect if you are printing to a color printer or in symbol overlays or tapestry overlays.

To Print Color Gridlines or No Gridlines

To print color gridlines follow the following:

1. From the Print menu, select Print Chart.
The Print Chart dialog box appears.
2. Select Options from the Printout section.
3. Click on the Grid Color arrow to view options.
4. Highlight the preferred option.
5. Select OK.

Centermarks and other options

Before printing, consider whether you want StitchCraft to add automatic Centermarks, Borders or Registration marks (for professional printing).

Printing with Centermarks & Borders

To print with centermarks, your chart needs to have them before printing. Print Grid must also be turned on in the Print Chart dialog box. For information on adding centermarks see [Auto Markings](#). The same applies to Borders.

To add Registration marks:

1. From the Print menu, select Print Chart.
The Print Chart dialog box appears.
2. Click on the Registration marks box in the Printout section.
3. Select OK.

Specifying Printed Size and Position

By default, StitchCraft will print your chart centered on the page and sized to fill up the page (allowing margins at each side and keeping the width and height in proportion). You can adjust the printed size by altering the margins, by specifying a height or width, or by specifying a grid size.

To change the printed size:

1. From the Print menu, select Page Chart.
The Print Chart dialog box appears, select Layout from the chart section.
2. Enter the desired measurement in the appropriate section of the Margins box or Chart box and StitchCraft will adjust any affected measurements. The resulting count of cells per cm/inch will appear at the bottom right of the Chart box. If you make an error, click on Default.
3. For large charts you can have StitchCraft tile the chart over several printer pages, see [Print Tiling](#) for more information.
4. Select OK.

Note: To change the system of measurement from metric to imperial (or vice versa) click on the desired option button (cm/inch) in the Printer Page Layout dialog box.

You can also change the position of the chart on the page so that it is not centered on the page.

To change the printed position on the page:

1. From the Print menu, select Page Chart.
The Print Chart dialog box appears, select Layout from the chart section.
2. In the Position box, select the appropriate options.
3. Select OK.

Printing in Color

StitchCraft offers you six types of direct printed output:

- * Symbol charts
- * Color charts
- * Symbols on colors
- * Symbol overlays
- * Tapestry overlays
- * Full color separation

Note: depending on the StitchCraft Edition you are using, and which options it has, not all of these printout types may be available.

To specify the print output:

1. From the Print menu, select Print Chart.
The Print Chart dialog box appears.
2. Click on the Printout Type arrow to view options.
3. Highlight the preferred option.
4. Select OK.

Print Tiling

When printing a large chart, StitchCraft gives you the option of tiling over several printer pages. The number of pages used is displayed as 'Pages in Tile', in the Print Chart and Printer Page Layout dialog boxes.

Symbol Chart

Most likely, you will want to print your chart as black symbols with a grid. This produces a print-out that can be used as is, or used as artwork for a one-color duplication process.

Color symbols

If you have a color printer, you might wish to print your charts with red, green, blue and black symbols. When charting (or after the chart is complete), change specific black symbols into color symbols . Printing with the color symbol option produces a single print-out which could then be copied on a color photocopier, but the process is not practical for a large number of copies.

Full Color Charts

Another option is to print a chart in color mode (rather than symbols) on a desktop color printer. Again, this could be copied on a color photocopier, but color distortion may result and the process is not practical for a large number of copies. This is a good option for producing a few attractive print-outs and for proofing purposes.

Black Symbols on Color

If you are using a color printer, there is the further option of printing black symbols on to blocks of color. This is useful for distinguishing shades of similar colors. If you plan to output charts using this option, avoid using dark colors as the overprinted symbols may not be legible.

Symbol Overlays

A relatively inexpensive way of adding color to a chart is to print overlays of symbols. When charting (or after the chart is complete), change specific black symbols into color symbols . You can then opt to print color overlays and StitchCraft will produce up to four overlays as required to complete the chart. When you take these overlays to a commercial printer, you can choose suitable colors for reproduction.

Tapestry Overlays

This option will produce the Artwork for screen printing of Tapestries. Each separation will show one thread color only, with the necessary overlap (or trapping). This overlap is important as it prevents bare canvas showing through if there is any variation in registration while the job is being printed.

When printing or exporting Tapestry overlays, it is important to first order the colors in the palette in the sequence that they will be printed (i.e. the first color to be screen printed should be palette entry 1). This sequence is usually from lightest to darkest. The reason for this need to order the colors, is so that the correct overlaps can be given to each overlay.

To re-order the palette entries use the palette Move Entry command to move each color to the required position in the palette.

Check with your printing company as to the required overlap, in StitchCraft this is expressed as a percentage of a cell. 0% gives separations that have no overlap at all, 50% will give separations that have an overlap of half a cell.

HINT Make sure you provide your printing company with a list giving the sequence for the separations, so that they can print them in the correct order.

Full Color Separation

If you require accurate separations of the charted colors for commercial printing using process colors, you will need to export your charts to a WMF format . From these, a bureau can produce color separations - four pieces of film that combine to represent the charted colors. These separations can then be used for printing in process colors and will give you a chart which closely matches the colors you have selected from the thread library, color wheel or **RGB** values. This is really only viable for a simple chart in distinct colors; shades of one color may be difficult to distinguish. If your chart has a complex color scheme, consider exporting it with black symbols on color blocks.

HINT Before the bureau produces film, it is advisable to print a full color proof on a desktop color printer.

Printing and saving print specifications

When you select Print Chart from the Print menu, the Print dialog box appears, giving you a summary of the options and settings. If you wish to, you can review and adjust any of the following:

Setup - to change the target printer or page orientation

Layout - to change printed size or position on the page

Options - to change gridlines, centermarks, and so on.

If you are satisfied with the settings, you can proceed to print by selecting OK.

If you save the chart after defining your print options, the current print settings will be saved along with the chart. Use the File menu and the Save command to retain your print settings.

Customizing StitchCraft

There are many ways you can customize StitchCraft to your own needs. These include:

[Adjusting the autosave](#)

[Enlarging the charting area](#)

[Viewing sizes](#)

[Viewing modes](#)

[Rulers and Co-ordinates](#)

[Grid Start](#)

[Grid Styles](#)

[Specifying chart size](#)

[Manipulating the palette](#)

[Altering symbols and colors](#)

[Matching colors with commercial thread colors](#)

[Preferences](#)

Saving Automatically

To avoid loss of large blocks of work through power failure or error, StitchCraft offers a choice of automatic saving facilities. On the default setting, a reminder notice will appear every ten minutes (unless you have made no changes in that time) and will give you the choice of saving or not. You can change this setting by:

- * turning off the autosave altogether
- * having StitchCraft save automatically with no reminder notice
- * changing the timer interval

To adjust the Autosave options:

1. From the File menu, select Autosave.
The Autosave dialog box appears.
2. Select the appropriate mode option button or type the interval length in the Timer box.
3. Click OK.

Enlarging the Charting Area

You can remove the Toolbox, Linesize box, Ruler and Palette from the StitchCraft window to increase the size of the charting area. You can still select different tools, linesizes and palette items by using the menu commands.

To remove various items from the window:

1. From the Screen menu, choose View.
The View dialog box appears.
2. Click in the check boxes beside Tools, Ruler and Palette.
3. Select OK.

To return them to the window, repeat the instructions.

You can also remove sections of the Palette, such as the symbol section (if you only want to work in color blocks) or the number section.

To remove sections of the Palette from the window:

1. From the Screen menu, choose Palette Display.
A sub-menu appears.
2. Select the appropriate entry.

To return them to the window,
repeat the instructions.

Viewing Modes

Charts can also be viewed in two modes:

- * as symbols - essential if your chart will be printed in one color
- * as color blocks - useful for viewing how the stitched piece will appear

To change the viewing mode:

Click on the option button beside the appropriate section of the Palette
ie. the symbol row or color row.

The chart will be redrawn in this mode.

Grid Styles

Your chart can be viewed with different styles of grid. The default setting is a heavy solid line every tenth line, with a dashed line at lines 5, 15, 25, and so on. However, you can choose to have a heavy line every fifth line or all lines of equal weight. If you want to view the effect of your design clearly, you can choose a dot grid. If you are designing a knitting pattern and you wish to see how knitted stitches will distort the design, you can select a knitting grid.

To change the grid type on the screen:

1. From the Screen menu, select Grid Type.
A sub-menu will appear.
2. Select the appropriate sub-entry.
The grid type will change.

Also see:

[Custom Grid](#)

[Grid Color](#)

Specifying Chart Size

When you start up the StitchCraft program, a default chart measuring 100 x 100 cells appears on the screen. To set up a chart to your own specifications, you can either create a new one or adjust the existing one.

To create a new chart:

1. From the File menu, select New (or press CTRL + N).
A New Chart dialog box appears.
2. If you require new dimensions, click on New Size and select OK.
The Resize Chart dialog box appears.
3. Enter the desired width (ie. the number of cells you want across the width of the chart).
4. Tab to the next choice and enter the desired height (ie. the number of cells high).
5. Select OK.

Also see:

[Adjusting the size of an existing chart](#)
[To Insert Columns/Rows](#)

To Adjust the Size of the Existing Chart

To adjust the size of an existing chart:

1. From the Size menu, select Resize.
The Resize Chart dialog box appears
2. Enter the preferred width and height as per the instructions above.

This will affect the chart's right-hand side or base, by either adding more columns/rows there or by deleting some existing columns/rows. If this will result in the removal of columns/rows where stitches have been drawn, a warning box will tell you how many stitches will be affected and you can choose to proceed or cancel the command.

To Insert Columns/Rows

You can also insert or delete columns and rows at particular sites; this allows you to change the size of the chart without affecting the work you have done so far. You will need to calculate the location on the chart where this is required and the number of columns/rows you want inserted or deleted.

To insert columns:

1. From the Size menu, select Insert Column. The Insert Columns dialog box appears.
2. Type the number of the column where you want the first additional column to appear.
3. Tab down and type the number of additional columns required.
4. Select OK.

To add rows, or to delete columns or rows, simply select the appropriate heading from the Size menu and follow the instructions above. A warning box will appear if you have asked to delete rows/columns where stitches have been drawn and you will have the option of proceeding or canceling the command.

Manipulating the Palette

The default palette contains 50 entries in a certain sequence. You can manipulate this to suit your own purpose: the palette can be 'minimized', entries can be added or deleted, and the sequence can be changed.

see:

[Reducing the palette](#)

[Adding and deleting entries](#)

[Moving and swapping entries](#)

[To swap two palette entries](#)

[To merge two palette entries](#)

[Saving a palette](#)

Reducing the Palette

If you find it confusing to work with the whole of the default palette, you can reduce the number of entries so that your options are visible at a glance. StitchCraft has the facility to reduce the Palette to show only those symbols/colors which have been used on the chart.

To reduce the Palette:

1. From the Palette menu, select Auto Minimize Palette.
A warning appears stating how many unused entries will be deleted.
2. Select OK if you are satisfied, or Cancel to escape.

HINT If you know which colors you want to use in your chart, draw a stitch of each color in the top right hand corner where they can be erased later. Then reduce the Palette as above.

Adding and Deleting Entries

Once you have minimized the Palette, you may find you need to add an entry to represent a new color in your design. Alternatively, you might want to add a customized symbol/color. You can add an entry at any position in the Palette at any stage while charting.

To add a palette entry:

1. From the Palette menu, select Alter Palette.
A sub-menu appears.
2. Select Add Entries.
The Add Palette Entries dialog box appears.
3. Type in the desired position of the first new entry (the default is after the last entry).
4. Type in the number of new entries required at that position (the default is 1 entry).
5. Select OK.
A blank entry will be inserted at the position you have indicated and you will need to allocate a color and symbol to that entry.
6. Double-click on the color section of the blank entry. The Alter Color dialog box appears.
7. Click on the desired hue and saturation on the color wheel. The selected color will appear in the sample box.
8. Double-click on the symbol section of the blank entry. The Alter Symbol dialog box appears.
9. Select an alternative symbol, using the scroll bar to view all the options. Click on the symbol you wish to substitute; your selection will appear in the sample box at the right. If you select a symbol that is already in the Palette, a warning box appears.

To Delete a Palette Entry

1. From the Palette menu, select Alter Palette.
A sub-menu appears.
2. From the sub-menu, select Delete Entries.
The Delete Palette Entries dialog box appears.
3. Indicate the position of the first and last entries you wish to delete. All entries between these two will be deleted. If you only wish to remove one entry, indicate the same entry in both boxes.
4. Select OK.
StitchCraft will warn you if any stitches have been charted in a palette entry about to be deleted.

Moving and Swapping Entries

You may wish to rearrange the Palette so that your most frequently used colors/symbols appear towards the front, or to put them in order of catalog number.

To move a palette entry:

1. From the Palette menu, select Alter Palette.
A sub-menu appears.
2. From the sub-menu, select Move Palette Entry.
The Move Palette Entry dialog box appears.
3. Enter the position of the palette entry you wish to move (or use the scroll bars to locate it).
4. Enter the new position of the palette entry (or use the scroll bars to locate it).
5. Select OK.

You can also swap the position of two entries on the Palette. Note that this will not affect any stitches charted in these symbols/colors.

To swap two palette entries

1. From the Palette menu, select Alter Palette.
A sub-menu appears.
2. From the sub-menu, select Swap Entries.
The Swap Palette Entries dialog box appears.
3. Enter the position of the first palette entry you wish to move (or use the scroll bars to locate it).
4. Enter the position of the second palette entry you wish to move (or use the scroll bars to locate it).
5. Select OK.

Merging Entries

You might find that you have used two different symbols to represent the same thread color or that you want to eliminate a color from the chart. Rather than redraw half the stitches, you can merge two entries into one.

To merge two palette entries:

1. From the Palette menu, select Alter Palette.
A sub-menu appears.
2. From the sub-menu, select Merge Entries.
The Merge Palette Entry dialog box appears.
3. Enter the position of the palette entry no longer required (or use the scroll bars to locate it).
4. Enter the position of the palette entry you wish to merge it with (or use the scroll bars to locate it).
5. Select OK.

Saving a Palette

Once you have modified the Palette for a particular chart, you might want to save it for use with a new chart. Palettes can be saved on their own, independent of the chart; such files can be identified by their *.PLT extension.

To save a palette:

1. From the Palette menu, select Save Palette.
The Save File dialog box appears, with a directories list.
2. Select the directory in which you want to save the file.
3. Move to the Filename text box and type the name you want to assign to the file.
Stitch-Craft offers an automatic extension (*.PLT).
4. Select OK.

Altering Symbols and Colors

Choose from the following to adjust the palette and its colors:

Open a palette

Altering symbols

Altering backstitch format and color

Creating custom colors

Opening a palette

When you create a new chart by selecting New from the File menu, StitchCraft gives you the option of using the default palette, the present palette (ie the one currently on your screen), or of opening a palette that has been saved as an independent file.

To open an existing palette:

1. From the File menu, select New.
A New Chart dialog box will appear .
2. In the Palette section, click on the Open button and select OK.
A Directories list box appears.
3. Double-click the directory that contains the palette you want to open.
All files with a *.PLT extension will appear in the file list.
4. Double-click on the palette file that you want.

Altering Symbols

Having started your chart, you may wish to alter a symbol already used: perhaps two symbols you have used look too similar when juxtaposed or you decide you want a heavy symbol to represent a dark area. Symbols can be altered at any stage of charting.

To alter a symbol:

1. From the Palette, select the symbol you want to alter.
2. From the Palette menu, select Alter Symbol.
The Alter Symbol dialog box appears .
3. Select an alternative symbol, using the scroll bar to view all the options. Click on the symbol you wish to substitute; your selection will appear in the sample box at the right.

StitchCraft offers a default range of fifty symbols. However, there are many more options if you vary the color of the symbol or the shade of foreground and/or symbol. The color of a symbol will be visible on a color monitor; if you choose to print overlays for spot printing it will appear on the appropriate color overlay.

If you wish to create a customized symbol:

4. Select a color from the second column in the Alter Symbol dialog box, and/or select a foreground/background shade combination; your selection will appear in the sample box at the right.
5. Click OK and your new selection replaces the original selection in the Palette.

HINT To move quickly to the Alter Symbol dialog box, double-click on the symbol that you want to alter in the Palette.

Symbols should be selected carefully, keeping in mind their clarity and how they appear in combination with other symbols. The default palette is roughly arranged in order of clarity, with the most easily identified symbols at the far left. Another consideration is whether you want to try and match the dark colors on your design with heavy symbols, so that the finished chart conveys the 'weighting' of the design when in symbol mode. StitchCraft offers a matching feature for symbols: you can choose to match the default range (in order of clarity) or to rearrange your existing symbols in order of weight.

To automatically match symbols:

1. From the Palette menu, select Auto Match Symbols.
The Auto Match Symbols dialog box will appear.
2. Click on the appropriate option button.
3. Select OK.
The palette will be rearranged, either in order of clarity or of symbol weight.

Alter backstitch format or color

Some designs feature backstitching in various thread colors. If there is a chance of confusing these threads, you can distinguish between them by printing backstitching in various colors (if you have the facility for spot printing) or by using different line styles (solid lines, dotted lines, dashed lines, etc) in black. In StitchCraft, each symbol has a linked backstitch format, and you can change backstitch formats just as you can symbols.

To alter a backstitch color or format:

1. Select the symbol (and therefore linked backstitch) that you want to alter.
2. From the Palette menu, select Alter Symbol.
The Alter Symbol dialog box appears .
3. Select an alternative line style from the Backstitch column (and/or an alternative color); the selection appears in the sample box at the right.
4. Select OK.

When you wish to use the new backstitch style, select the linked symbol from the Palette and the Backstitch Tool from the toolbox, then draw backstitches as usual. You will only be able to see the format of a backstitch line (ie whether it's dotted, dashed or solid) if you are viewing the chart in symbol mode.

Creating Custom Colors

Colors can be described according to various models. StitchCraft offers three color models: HSL, RGB and a thread library.

- * HSL defines color as a degree (from 0 to 360) of hue and as a percentage of saturation and of luminosity.
- * RGB defines colors as percentages of red, green, and blue light.
- * The thread library allows you to match a color to an existing thread color in various brands (DMC, Anchor, Coats, Semco, Appleton) or to specify a catalog number and have that color appear automatically.

You can alter the default colors in the StitchCraft Palette at any time when charting. You can create your own colors using the HSL or RGB models, use these to select a matching color from the thread library, or fill your palette by specifying catalog numbers from the thread library.

The accuracy of the colors you see on your screen depends on the type of monitor: for example, EGA and VGA monitors may break up the color into crude blocks (known as 'dithering') while a SuperVGA will display well-mixed colors.

To alter a color by HSL:

1. From the Palette, select the color you want to modify.
2. From the Palette menu, select Alter Color.
The Alter Color dialog box appears.
3. Click on the desired hue and saturation on the color wheel (you can drag the pointer around to view different options). The selected color will appear in the sample box.
4. Use the scroll bar to adjust luminosity. View the affect on the color in the sample box.
The selected values will appear in the hue, saturation and luminosity boxes, which can be adjusted by entering new values.
5. When you are happy with the color achieved, select OK.
Alternatively, you can select Match to have StitchCraft search for the closest color in a commercial thread .

To alter a color by RGB:

1. From the Palette, select the color you want to modify.
2. From the Palette menu, select Alter Color.
The Alter Color dialog box appears.
3. Type required RGB values in the individual red, green, and blue percentage boxes.
The selected color will appear in the sample box.
4. When you are happy with the color achieved, select OK.
Alternatively, you can select Match to have StitchCraft search for the closest color in a commercial thread.

To alter a color by selecting a catalog color:

1. From the Palette, select the color you want to modify.
2. From the Palette menu, select Alter Color.
The Alter Color dialog box appears .
3. Click on the Select button.
The Select Thread dialog box will appear.
4. Click in the button beside the desired brand in the appropriate thread type (stranded cotton or tapestry wool).
You can only select one button at a time.
5. In the Cat. No. box, enter the catalog number for the desired color of thread.
6. Select OK.

HINT To move quickly to the Alter Color dialog box, double-click on the color in the Palette that you want to alter.

Matching Thread Colors

When you have mixed a color, you may want to use the closest commercial thread color. StitchCraft has a library of colors in the major brand ranges: Anchor, DMC, Coats, Semco and Appleton. These colors serve as a guide only, due to the limitations of color reproduction and dye lot differences. For perfect matching, refer to actual thread samples.

To match a color:

1. From the Palette, select the color you want to modify.
2. From the Palette menu, select Alter Color.
The Alter Color dialog box appears .
3. Mix your desired color, using HSL or RGB methods described above.
4. When you are satisfied with the sample color, click on the Match box.
The Match Thread dialog box appears.
5. Click on the desired brand(s) in the appropriate thread types.
If you select multiple boxes, StitchCraft will search through all the selected ranges and choose the single color closest to your sample.
6. If you are satisfied with the matched color, select OK.

HINT At any time, you can find out if a palette color has been matched by choosing Palette Info from the File menu.

To save you the inconvenience of matching each color one at a time, StitchCraft offers the facility for automatically matching the whole color palette to a brand of commercial threads.

To automatically match all colors with one brand:

1. From the Palette menu, select Auto Match Colors.
The Match Colors dialog box appears .
2. Click on the desired brand in the appropriate thread type.
3. Select OK.
The complete color palette will be matched to that brand.

The Charting Area

A blank chart, measuring 100 cells high and 100 cells wide, appears as the default setting. The window only reveals a part of this chart; scroll bars along the bottom and right-hand side of the window enable you to view other sections.

The Pointer

The cursor or arrow on the screen that follows the movement of the mouse and indicates which area of the screen will be affected when you press the mouse button. The pointer changes shape during certain tasks.

Control Menu

The control menu, located in the upper left-hand corner of the window, allows the running application to be rearranged on the desktop.

Main menu

A list of available commands. Menu names appear in the bar near the top of the StitchCraft window. You open a menu by selecting the appropriate name.

The Viewfinder

The Viewfinder allows you to zoom in and out of a chart section.

Toolbox

The Toolbox contains the tools that you use to complete the chart. The tools allow you to place symbols or colors, erase, fill, add lines, add text, and rearrange sections of the chart.

The Palette

The range of 'chart fillers' (ie symbols or colors) immediately available on the screen. The default palette contains 50 entries, but this can be increased or changed in various ways.

The Ruler

The Ruler running along the top and left of the charting area indicates which section of the chart is visible. It is a useful reference when you are adding or deleting columns/rows and need to specify position.

BMP

The automatic extension name for bitmap files.

Bitmap

A computer graphic formed by a series of dots, created in a paint program or scanned from a picture.

Dots per inch (dpi)

A measure of image resolution; the more dpi (dots per inch) the sharper the resolution.

Icon

A graphical representation of various elements in windows, such as applications.

Ram

Random Access Memory; the working memory of a computer, as opposed to the storage memory of the hard disk. When you turn the computer off, all information in Ram is lost.

Red, Green, Blue (RGB)

A color mode that defines colors by their proportions of red, green, and blue.

Scanner

A hardware device that reads information from a photograph or other pictures and converts it into a bitmapped graphic.

Scan

A bitmap created when a photograph or other picture has been read by a scanning device.

Ellipse

A shape with curved edges, such as an oval.

Ellipsis (...)

The ellipsis indicates that a dialog box will appear when that command is chosen. The dialog box will ask you for more information before continuing with the command.

Scroll bar

A bar that appears at the right and/or bottom edge of a window or list box whose contents are not completely visible. Each scroll bar contains two scroll arrows and a scroll box, which enable you to scroll through the contents of the window or list box

Maximize

To enlarge a window to its maximum size by using the Maximize button (at the right of the title bar) or the Maximize command on the Control menu.

Minimize

To reduce a window to an icon by using the Minimize button (at the right of the title bar) or the Minimize command on the Control menu.

Command

A word or phrase, usually found on a menu, that you choose in order to carry out a task.

Dialog box

A rectangular box that appears on screen and either requests or provides information.

File

In StitchCraft, a chart or palette that has been saved and given a name.

The Maximize/Minimize and resize icon

The maximize/minimize and resize icon, which is located in the uppermost right of your screen, offers you the capability to make the window smaller or larger or reduce the StitchCraft program to an icon .

Linesize box

The Linesize box in the bottom left contains different widths for drawing and erasing.

Selection box

The Selection box located left of the palette, indicates to the user what color or symbol is currently selected.

Cell

A square of white in the chart ,used to represent a single stitch in cross-stitch, needlepoint or knitting.

Backstitch

A straight stitch used in cross-stitch designs for outlining or detail; in the StitchCraft program ,this term refers to the lines which represent this stitch.

Centermarks

Marks used to indicate the center of the chart; these can be arrows or intersecting lines.

Copy

To put a copy of the selected cutout on the clipboard so you can transfer it to another location, leaving the original item intact.

Count

The number of threads per inch or centimetre of a particular fabric.

Crop

To trim the area surrounding a selected cutout.

Default

A series of settings that StitchCraft uses automatically unless you specify otherwise.

Directory

A collection of files and subdirectories that are stored at the same location on a disk.

Double-click

To rapidly press and release a mouse button twice without moving the mouse.

DTP

Desktop publishing: the use of the computer to collate text and graphics to produce a complete document.

EGA

Extended graphics adaptor ;16-color, low resolution computer screen.

Export

To make a copy of the chart (with settings) in another format so that it can either be separated by a commercial printer or pasted into a desktop publishing application.

Extension

The period and three letters at the end of a file, used to identify the type of information contained.

Flip

A command which 'turns over' a selected cutout ,either vertical or horizontally.

Font

A collection of characters which form a particular typeface, such as Times Roman or Helvetica; the range available to you will be dictated by your printer.

Halfstitch

A stitch commonly used in cross-stitch designs and which covers a diagonal half of a block of threads.

HSL

A color model that defines screen colors in terms of hue, saturation and luminosity.

Key

A visual guide for the user of your chart, indicating which thread colors are represented by which symbols or chart colors.

Import

A bitmapped image which has been introduced into the StitchCraft program so you can chart over it.

Label

A chart area of solid white for displaying text or simply removing grid lines.

Border

A line which can be used to accentuate the edges of a chart.

Material count

The number of treads per inch or centimetre of a particular fabric.

Mirror

A command which copies a selected cutout and places the second image aside the original as if it is a reflection.

Motif

An identifiable element of a design ,such as heart or bird.

Option button

A small round button that appears in some dialog boxes. Within a group of related buttons, you can select only one.

Orientation

The position of a printed chart on a page; 'portrait' aligns the top of the chart with the narrow edge of the page, 'landscape' aligns the top of the chart with the edge of the page.

Overlays

Versions of a chart that each show only one color from the chart and that can be combined by a commercial printer to create the finished chart.

Paste

To copy the contents of the clipboard into an application. StitchCraft will only paste material generated in StitchCraft.

Registration marks

Marks that StitchCraft can add to your printed page or exported file to show a commercial printer where to align color overlays.

Resolution

The number of dots that make up an image on a screen or printer. The higher the resolution ,the smoother images will appear.

Separation

The process of splitting colors into components which can then be used by commercial printers to reproduce full color charts.

Shortcut keys

Key combinations that act as a shortcut for specific tasks.

Spot colors

A method of assigning colors in a chart so that they can be reproduced with a number of overlays.

Stitch

In StitchCraft ,a single chart cell which has been colored or filled with a symbol.

Super-VGA

A computer screen which can display 256 colors at a high resolution.

True type fonts

Fonts that can be sized to any height and will print exactly as they appear on the screen.

VGA

Video graphics adaptor; a 16-color ,high resolution computer screen.

WMF

A file format known as Windows Metafile. When you export a Stitch Craft file, it is converted into WMF format.

CMYK

A color system that defines colors by percentages of Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black.

Auto Conversion

With the Auto Conversion feature of StitchCraft you are able to convert imports quickly using the Auto Convert command. The quality of the resulting chart will depend on the quality of the original image and it will require some manual work to perfect it, but for complex images it is an efficient method of charting. When using the Auto Conversion facility, it is important to obtain a high quality scanned image. Scan your image at the highest resolution possible to produce a file no larger than 1.2 Mb (perhaps 75 dpi for a large image and 150 dpi for a small one). Save the image to disk using .BMP 256 color format or copy it to the Clipboard.

To automatically convert an image:

1. Size the chart as required using the Chart/Size/Resize commands.
2. Import the image using the Import/Import command.
3. From the Import menu, select Auto Convert.
The Auto Convert dialog box appears.
4. Select the desired thread type and brand.
5. Select the palette source and size.
6. Select any other desired options (more details follow).
7. Select OK. The image will be converted into a chart.

If your import featured a picture or motif on a background and the chart is intended for cross-stitching, delete the relevant background color from the Palette using the Palette/Alter Palette/Delete Entries commands, or use the standard eraser tool.

Palette options

Color Options

Dither Options

Edge detection

Remove single stitches

Controlling color selection

Remove Import

Palette options

Decide whether you want StitchCraft to create a new palette based on the colors in the import (the default option) or if you prefer it to use the existing palette (i.e. the one that is currently at the bottom of the screen).

If you have opted to create a new palette, you must also choose the palette size.

You have a choice of:

- * specifying the exact number of colors you want used - the minimum is two and the maximum is determined by the thread range selected
- * auto small - includes any colors which make up more than 2% of the image
- * auto medium - includes any colors which make up more than 1% of the image
- * auto large - includes any colors which make up more than 0.25% of the image.

The size of palettes created by the auto options will therefore vary from picture to picture.

Color Options

There are three options you can use to specify the type of colors to be used in the chart.

- * Color chart - standard color chart

- * Flesh tones - this option should be selected when an image includes any human faces. When Flesh tones has been activated, StitchCraft will search the image for skin colors and select more of these for the new palette than it would on a standard color conversion.

- * Monochrome - this is for converting a color or monochrome image to a monochrome chart. For example; if a chart using only sepia colors is required, this setting would be selected. It is important to create the palette you desire to use before performing the Auto Conversion. This setting must be used in conjunction with the 'Use current palette' setting in the Palette choice drop down list (see Palette options).

Edge Detection

StitchCraft calculates the closest color to each cell of the import. If a cell contains two areas of color, for example blue and red, StitchCraft will, by default, merge the colors and select purple. If you activate Edge detection, it will calculate whether the cell is predominantly red or blue and select that color. In general, you should use Edge detection if the image has large areas of pure color rather than mottled or dithered colors.

Remove Single Stitches

This option removes all isolated stitches (i.e. those with no other adjoining stitch in the same color) from the converted image, making stitching easier but also simplifying the image. This option would not usually be used in conjunction with the dither option.

Remove Import

This option removes the import after the conversion is complete.

Controlling Color Selection

There will be many occasions when the Auto Conversion process makes decisions which you would not have made when charting. You may, for example, wish to select the colors yourself and let StitchCraft chart from that selection. One approach to auto-converting an image follows:

1. Open a new chart.
2. Import your image.
3. Reduce the Palette (i.e. to nothing).
4. Depress the INSERT key and click on selected areas of the import with the right-hand mouse button.
In this way, you build up a Palette of these selected colors.
NB. Make sure that white is included in the Palette if the scan has a white background
5. Select the Auto Conversion command and select the 'Use existing Palette' option.
6. After conversion is complete, clear the import.
7. Delete the background if required

Grid Color

There are five different grid colors available; Black, White, Red, Green and Blue. When used in conjunction with material color, grid color can be used to improve the legibility of a chart, both on screen and on a color printout.

Scroll Bars

These allow you to view sections of the chart or palette not currently visible.

Repeat

Use the Repeat Command to

View Clipboard

Use this command to view the contents of the Windows Clipboard. The Clipboard will display the last item cut or copied (see your Windows manual for further information on Clipboard).

Paste Options

Use the Paste Options command to

Fly Out Menu

A menu that appears to the side of the currently selected menu, showing further options or commands.

New Palette

The New Palette command enables you to load a new palette into the chart you are presently working on. Any unused palette entries will be deleted, entries that are in use will remain. If you do not want unused entries to be deleted, you should use the Add Palette command instead.

Add Palette

The Add Palette command enables you to add a new palette into the palette you are presently working with. Unlike the New Palette command unused entries will not be deleted.

Zoom Out Tool

Print Palette

Use the Print Palette command to print the palette information from the current chart. The Print Palette dialog box will appear and you can select the target printer and the number of copies. After this you will be asked which pages you would like printed if there are more than one.

Search for Help on...

If you would like Help with a particular subject or command, just enter the word in the Search for Help dialog box and select Show Topics. This will then list one or more topics in StitchCraft Help that are relevant to your entry. You can then select any one of these and click the Go To button to view the topic.

How to use Help

This command will bring up Windows Help - describing the basics of how to use Help.

Context Sensitive Help

This command will change the pointer to a question mark, with which you can click on various areas of the screen and StitchCraft Help will be opened displaying the relevant information.

Sorry ...

This Help topic is not available in this demonstration copy of StitchCraft.

StitchCraft Basics

Basics

[The StitchCraft window](#)

[StitchCraft menus](#)

[Using Help](#)

How To...

This section of Help will show you how to perform various functions in StitchCraft. You can choose from any of the topic areas listed below.

[Create a simple chart](#)

[Edit your chart](#)

[Print](#)

[Import images](#)

[Export charts](#)

[Customize StitchCraft](#)

