



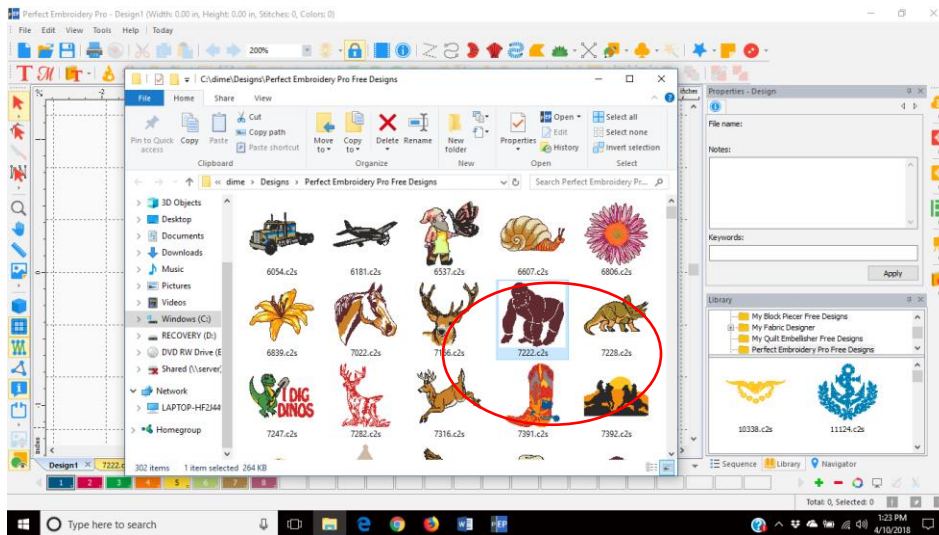
Selecting & Stitching Patches

By Dalene McDonald

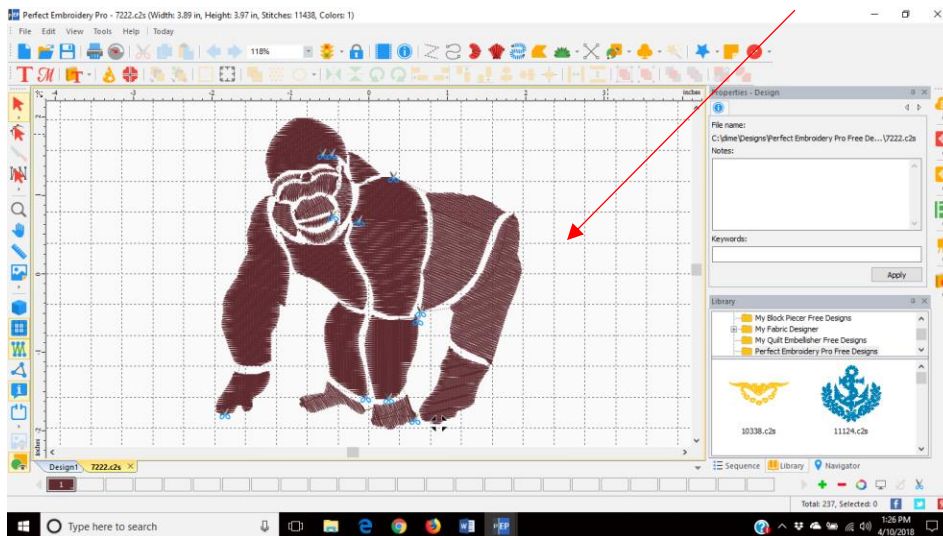
There are a few different things to think about when you select a design to turn into a patch.

First, take a close look at the design. If you have embroidery software, open the design and look at there. Does it look like there will be any places in the design that have blank spots?

Let's look at a design together. The gorilla in the screenshot below is a good example. Do you see the white lines that define the different parts of its body?



It's a little hard to see, so here it is in my software. Do you see the white lines better now?



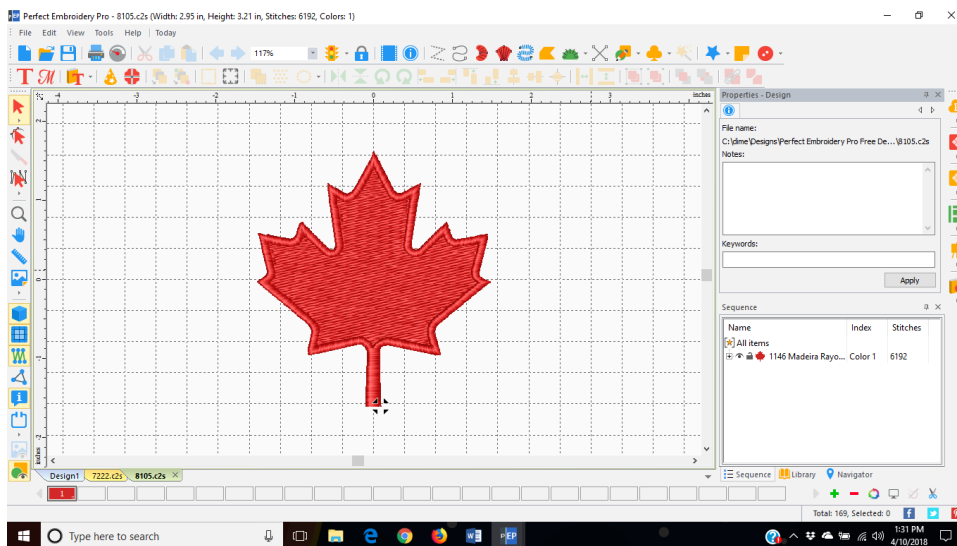


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There's only one color in this design, so I know that the white parts have no stitches in them. If I were to stitch this out on water-soluble stabilizer, it would fall apart after I wash out the stabilizer.

If I REALLY wanted to make a patch out of this, I still can. I could hoop the water soluble stabilizer with tulle or organza that matches the item I want to attach the patch to, wash out the stabilizer, and trim the tulle or organza close to the edge of the design. The other option would be to add the design to an applique shape in your embroidery software or on your machine and stitch the whole thing out on water soluble stabilizer.

Let's look at another design. This one would make a great patch. The stem might need a little extra glue to keep it in place, but there are no empty spaces.



Many appliques would make good patches.

So, look for designs that have fill stitches that fill up the space or are appliques, and have fun making patches!