Chapter 1

Sequin Embroidery Basics

Some embroidery machines are equipped with devices that can drop sequins onto the garment as it stitches. EmbroideryStudio allows you to digitize sequin designs for compatible machines. There is also a dedicated tool for automatically converting sequin artwork to sequin runs.

This section describes how to set up sequin palettes and how to visualize sequin designs. It explains how to create single-sequin as well as multi-sequin runs. It also covers sequin fixings as well as reshaping and editing.
Setting up sequin mode

Before using the **Sequin** tools, you need a machine format that supports sequin output. You can then set up a dedicated sequin palette from a list of predefined or custom shapes and sizes.

Machine capabilities

Machine capabilities vary widely. Some machines only support single-sequin devices. These may be mounted on the first or last needle, or sometimes both. Some machines support twin-sequin devices. These too can be mounted on first and last needles. Newer machines can support multi-sequin devices. These may perform consecutive sequin feeds – one at a time whilst stitching. Some may allow ‘stack feeding’,
where multiple sequins are dropped and secured with a single fixing stitch.

In summary, the main sequin device configurations include...

- Machines supporting one sequin per device. These feed only one sequin at a time.
- Machines supporting one or two devices per machine head, usually on first or last needles.
- Machines supporting twin-sequin devices with no stack feeding – e.g. Barudan FDR-II Twin Sequin, Tajima TBF, SWF Twin Sequin.
- Machines supporting twin-sequin devices or even double twin-sequin devices with stack feeding – e.g. Dahao.
- Machines supporting multiple sequins per device – four, six, eight, and possibly more sequins – with or without stack feeding.

**Note** An increasing number of machines support multiple decoration types including sequins in combination with chenille, beading, cording, and others.
Sequin machine formats

Before using the *Sequin* tools, you need to choose a suitable machine format. EmbroideryStudio currently supports the following...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Machine format</th>
<th>Sequin capability</th>
<th>File format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barudan FDR-3</td>
<td>Twin</td>
<td>U??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barudan FDR-3 Chenille Combination</td>
<td>Twin</td>
<td>U??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barudan FDR-II Twin Sequin</td>
<td>Twin</td>
<td>U??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barudan FDR-II Twin Sequin Chenille Combination</td>
<td>Twin</td>
<td>U??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahao</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>DST (Dahao)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schiffli</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>ESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWF</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>DST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWF Twin Sequin</td>
<td>Twin</td>
<td>EBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajima</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>DST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajima TBF</td>
<td>Twin</td>
<td>TBF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZSK</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>ZSK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note  For machine formats that have no sequin capability, the sequin palette will display. However, if you attempt to create a sequin object, fixing stitches will be digitized without sequin drops. No sequins appear.

**Dahao machine format**

EmbroideryStudio supports the Dahao machine format which in turn supports multi-sequin devices. Up to eight (8) sequins can be defined per device. The Dahao controller is used on many Chinese machines.

When you select Dahao as your machine type, Dahao multi-sequin DST file format is available on output. The *Drop Sequin* functions are inserted according to Dahao multi-sequin requirements.

The actual Dahao definition for multi-sequin drops is this: one Jump signifies drop sequin A, two Jumps on the same spot mean drop sequin B, three Jumps signify a sequin C drop, and so on.

Dahao control panels include a protocol to interpret this encoding. Tajima machines, on the other hand, strictly follow the DST file specification. Namely, one Jump per sequin drop.
**Note** The Dahao controller is configured according to the capabilities of the particular sequin device. The digitizer needs to know what the device is capable of – e.g. whether capable of sequin stacking, etc.

**Single- vs twin-sequins**

Single and twin configurations still represent the most common type used in sequin production. Even then, different configurations and design types are possible:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Configuration</th>
<th>Design type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single-sequin device on one needle</td>
<td>The simplest configuration possible, this allows you to produce designs incorporating single-sequin fills, runs, and individual sequin drops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-sequin device on two needles</td>
<td>Usually mounted on first and last needles, this setup allows you to incorporate two types of single-sequin fills, runs, and sequin drops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin-sequin device on one needle</td>
<td>This configuration allows you to incorporate twin-sequin runs and fills. Some configurations (Dahao) also allow twin stacking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin-sequin device on two needles</td>
<td>This configuration allows you to incorporate two types of twin-sequin runs and fills. Again, some may allow twin stacking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double twin-sequin device on one needle</td>
<td>This configuration allows you to incorporate two types of twin-sequin or quad-sequin runs and fills, as well as twin or quad stacking.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note** The kinds of design work you can do with two single-sequin devices and a single twin-sequin device are different. The twin single-sequin setup will allow you to include runs and fills of either sequin, but not both together in the same run or fill.

**Select sequin-capable machines**

Before you can use the Sequin tools, you need to choose a suitable machine format.
To select a sequin-capable machine


2. From the Available Machine Formats list, select a sequin-capable machine format – e.g. Schiffli, Tajima, Barudan, SWF, ZSK, etc.

3. Click OK. Default sequins appear in the sequin palette. It is ready to be configured. If you have selected a twin-sequin-capable machine, sequins are displayed in pairs.

Note Different machines require different presets. Typical modifiable values include stitch and jump length, trim functions and color change functions. Use the Machine Format Settings dialog to customize values if outputting to a specific machine format.
Related topics

- Embroidery machine formats
- Exporting designs for machine
- Creating multi-sequin runs

Visualizing sequin designs

- Click View > TrueView to toggle between stitch view and TrueView™. Right-click for settings.
- Use View > Show Stitches to toggle embroidery stitching display. Right-click for settings.
- Use View > Show Functions to toggle display of machine function symbols. Right-click for settings.

Sequins can be viewed in TrueView or stitch view while Show Functions is toggled on.

Sequins in TrueView

Sequins turned off
Both sequins and fixing stitches appear in their selected colors and can be turned on or off via **Show Functions** and **Show Stitches** toggles.

When traveling through a sequin design, ‘undropped’ sequins appear in the ‘unsewn’ color defined in the **Background & Display Colors** dialog.

**Tip** The **Show Repeats** function displays repeating designs, including sequins, in both **TrueView** and stitch view. You can view a design, even while digitizing, with any number of repeats.

**Related topics**
- Travel through designs
- Viewing design repeats
- Change display colors

**Setting up sequin palettes**

Use Sequin > Sequin Palette to select from a default or user-defined palette of sequin shapes for the current design.

Use Sequin > Sequin Palette Editor to select shapes from a sequin library, and define sequin colors and sizes.

The **Sequin Palette Editor** lets you prepare a palette of sequins according to capabilities of your chosen machine. The palette editor lets you define as many devices as your machine supports or you require for the design. Choose sequins from a library of predefined shapes or define your own. Once set up, the palette is available for use from the **Sequin** toolbar and **Object Properties**.
To set up a sequin palette

1. Select the machine format that supports the machine you are using or the design type you want to create.

2. Click the **Sequin Palette Editor** icon. Fields are arranged so that parameters for each sequin can be viewed at once.

3. Set the number of sequins available per device. Depending on machine type, up to eight (8) sequins may be supported. If you have chosen a twin-sequin machine, this value is limited to 2.

4. Use the **More** button to add devices. Click **X** in the column header to remove.

Typical configurations include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Configuration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 x Single sequin</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x Single sequin</td>
<td>A / A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Twin sequin</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x Twin sequin</td>
<td>AB / AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Double twin (Dahao)</td>
<td>ABCD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x Double twin (Dahao)</td>
<td>ABCD / ABCD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note Typically the machine operator will use Needle 1 to position the starting point. Thus single devices are usually mounted on the last needle. In terms of software configuration, it makes no difference.

5 Select predefined or custom sequin shapes from the droplist.

6 Set color and size for each sequin as well as hole size. Colors can be defined for front and reverse sides as well as a transparency factor for translucent sequins.

7 If you are using reversible or ‘flip’ sequins, define the reverse color as well. Flip sequins are generally used with twin- or multi-sequin machines, but may be used on their own.
If you are using transparent sequins, define a transparency factor from 0 to 90 for each sequin.

Click **OK**. Sequins are available for selection.

Permutations for sequin stacks are automatically calculated and displayed in the **Manual Sequin** droplist and **Object Properties**.

**Tip** The digitizer needs to know the machine capabilities by heart. If an unsupported combination is selected – e.g. four sequin stack feeding – the drop code is ignored on the machine.

**Related topics**
- Select sequin-capable machines
Digitizing sequin runs

- Use Sequin > Sequin Run Auto to create a string of sequins along a digitized line according to current settings.
- Use Sequin > Sequin Run Manual to manually digitize sequin-drops along a digitized line.
- Use Sequin > Sequin Palette to select from a user-defined palette of sequin shapes for the current design.

EmbroideryStudio provides tools for creating a string of sequins along a digitized line according to preset spacings or as marked by the digitizer.

Digitize sequin runs as you would motif runs. If you use the manual method, you define spacings between sequin-drops with every click you make. If you use the automatic method, sequin-drops are calculated according to current settings.

**To digitize a sequin run**

- Select a sequin-capable machine from the Select Machine Format dialog.
Define your palette and select a sequin shape from the droplist. For simplicity, we show a single-sequin setup.

To digitize a scalable sequin run, use the **Sequin Run Auto** tool. Enter reference points – left-click for corner points, right-click for curve points.

Press **Enter** to complete. Sequin drops are automatically generated along with their fixing stitches. Automatic sequin runs can be scaled.

**Tip** You can convert a normal run to sequin run by selecting and clicking the **Sequin Run Auto** tool.
- Alternatively, to control the exact placement of your sequin drops, use the **Sequin Run Manual** tool. Digitize individual sequin drops with left and right mouse clicks.

- Press **Enter** to complete. Sequin drops are generated at each reference point. Connecting and fixing stitches are automatically generated.

- Double-click to access object properties. Change sequins and adjust spacing properties as necessary.

- In the **Spacing** field, enter a nominal spacing. This is measured from the center to center. Minimum spacing is automatically calculated.
Select a **Positioning** method from the droplist:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exact</td>
<td>Uses nominal spacing. This may result in gap formation at the end of the path.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand to fit</td>
<td>Expands nominal spacing to evenly spread sequin distribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract to fit</td>
<td>Contracts nominal spacing to evenly spread sequin distribution, resulting in an extra sequin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual</td>
<td>Turns any sequin run into a manual run so that the number of sequins won’t change during editing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note** If you change a manual sequin run to exact spacing, all sequin drops are recalculated and manual placements lost.

To change fixing stitches, click the button in the **Fixing** field. The docker expands to show a library of fixing stitch types. See below.

**Related topics**
- Select sequin-capable machines
- Creating multi-sequin runs
- Manual sequin digitizing
- Editing sequin runs
- Reinforcing outlines
- Adjusting entry/exit points

**Sequin fixings**

EmbroideryStudio provides a library of predefined fixing stitches for use with sequin runs or fills. Just as you can digitize sequin drops manually or allow the system to calculate them for you, you can manually set fixing size or allow the system to determine it according to sequin shape. And just as you can define custom sequin shapes, you can also define custom fixing stitches to support multi-head sequin devices.

**Fixing stitch color**

Generally digitizers reserve a single thread color for all sequins, regardless of sequin color. Transparent thread is often used on the machine in order to avoid differences between thread color and sequin color.

**Fixing type**

The choice of fixing stitch really depends on customer requirements. Some may want sequin placements to withstand repeated washing.
Others may want to save on stitches to reduce production costs. As the digitizer, you would typically consider the cost of embroidery production against sequin weight in order to find a balance.

**Decorative fixings**

Fixing stitches are not generally part of the decoration. They are there simply to fix sequins to the fabric. That said, **Sequin Run** has potential as a decorative stitch in its own right. For this purpose you can select **None** in the **Sequin Palette**. This option is best used with the **Sequin Drop Direction** set to **Any**.

### Apply sequin fixings

![Image](image.png)

You can select sequins before or after digitizing. Similarly, you can preset fixing stitches or change them at any stage.

**Tip**  Digitizers sometimes want to generate a sequin run and overlay it with a plain run so that sequins are more securely fixed. Another reason for backtracking is to avoid jump stitches between objects. The **Backtrack/Repeat** tool is enabled for sequin-run objects. When applied, EmbroideryStudio generates manual stitches but leaves other functions unaffected. See also **Controlling stitch direction**.
To apply sequin fixing stitches

- To change fixing stitches, double-click to access object properties.

- Click the **Chooser** button in the **Fixing** field. The docker expands to reveal a library of fixing stitch types.
Select the preferred type.

To adjust fixing stitch size, select a method:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Match sequin</td>
<td>Automatically sets a margin around the sequin so that fixing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stitches don’t punch too close.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set manually</td>
<td>Enables the Size field and lets you set a fixing stitch size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>independent of sequin size.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you choose the manual option, specify a value in the **Size** field. Size is measured from the center of the sequin. Enter a value from 2.50mm to 30.00mm.

If you have chosen automatic matching, specify a margin for the fixing stitch in the **Margin** field. Enter a value from 0.20mm to 2.00mm. This ensures that the fixing stitch does not punch too close to the sequin.
If you have chosen an eccentric sequin shape such as ‘ellipse’, fixing stitches automatically adapt to fit.

To adjust fixing orientation, choose one of the preset directions – left/right, up/down.

Related topics

Create sequin fixings

Set drop-stitch direction

There is an option to ensure that the initial fixing stitch before the sequin drop is placed opposite the feeding direction, as recommended by the machine manufacturer. Otherwise, the sequin may be deflected by the thread. If the needle then misses the center of the sequin because of incorrect placement, the embroidery material, needle or needle plates may be damaged. In multihead machines, sequins are fed from the front or ‘south’ which means that the initial fixing stitch or ‘drop stitch’ should
be placed on the ‘north’ side (the default). In Schiffli machines, the opposite is the case.

**To set the drop-stitch direction**

1. Select a sequin-run object and double-click to access object properties.
2 Select the drop-stitch direction to ensure that the initial fixing stitch is opposite the feeding direction:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drop-stitch direction</th>
<th>Feeding direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From north</td>
<td>Front or ‘south’ – which is the case in multihead machines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From south</td>
<td>The top or ‘north’ – which is the case in Schiffli machines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⚠️ **Warning**  With the Any option, direction is not important. This option generates the least number of fixing stitches but may not be suitable for your sequin device. Check your machine documentation.

3 Enter a **Max Angle** to specify an angular range within which drop-stitch will fall.

You can set the value for either north or south fixing stitches. The default is 90° but this can be increased or decreased depending on the capabilities of your machine.

4 Select the **Prevent multiple penetrations** option as required.
This option is used to minimize penetrations at the same point, and to generate Schiffli-compatible fixing stitching. If you select the Schiffli template, the option is ‘on’ by default. When set to ‘off’, some fixing stitches will have multiple penetrations at the same point, both at the sequin center and outer edge.

5 Select the Closest point join option as required.

By default, this option is off, meaning that the system connects the exit leg of the fixing stitch motif, wherever it happens to be, to the entry leg of the next fixing stitch motif, again wherever it happens to be. That is, unless the connector exceeds the maximum sequin stitch. Choose the Closest point join option if you want to always connect fixing stitch motifs from the leg closest to the nearest leg of the next fixing stitch motif.

Creating multi-sequin runs

EmbroideryStudio enables the creation of multi-sequin designs for supported machines. Create and visualize predefined patterns of sequin
runs. These may comprise multiple sequins of different size, color, and shape.

**Tip** Twin-sequin mode also allows you to convert vector artwork to twin-sequin outlines. See also Convert sequin artwork.

**Stacked sequins**

- Use Sequin > Manual Sequin to digitize individual sequins.
- Use Sequin > Sequin Run Auto to create a string of sequins along a digitized line according to current settings.
- Use Sequin > Sequin Run Manual to manually digitize sequin-drops along a digitized line.
- Use Sequin > Sequin Fill to digitize and fill large, irregular shapes with sequins.
For those machines that support it, EmbroideryStudio allows you to define multiple sequin drops on the same needle.

Stacked sequins can be used with **Manual Sequin** and **Sequin Run** digitizing methods. Permutations are automatically defined according to the sequin palette.

For those machines that support it, fixing stitches are only applied after all sequins have been dropped. In the case of many twin-sequin machines, the first sequin is dropped, fixed in place, and another dropped on top and stitched again.

**Note** If you choose a stacked sequin configuration that the sequin device does not support, the machine will simply ignore that particular drop code.

**Related topics**
- Setting up sequin palettes
- Digitizing sequin runs
- Digitize sequin drops with fixings
Apply multi-sequin run patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use Sequin &gt; Sequin Run Auto to create a string of sequins along a digitized line according to current settings.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use Sequin &gt; Sequin Palette to select from a user-defined palette of sequin shapes for the current design.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In EmbroideryStudio, you select multi-sequin patterns from a pattern library. While patterns can be used with single sequins, they make more sense when applied to multi-sequin palettes.

To apply a multi-sequin run pattern

- Optionally, choose an existing sequin run and open **Object Properties**.

  ![Pattern Library Access](image)

- Go to the **Outlines > Sequin Run** tab and click the **Patterns** button to access the library.
Select a pattern from the menu. A preview is displayed.

- Click **Apply Pattern** to make the selected pattern current. The pattern is immediately applied to any selected sequin-run objects.

- Optionally, select a different sequin combination from the **Preview Panel** droplist and click **Apply Sequin**.
Using the **Sequin Run Auto** tool, create your runs. The same pattern will apply until you change it.

Optionally, use the **Pattern** table in the **Object Properties** docker to define your own patterns. See below.

Optionally, make a selected object’s properties current, including multi-sequin patterns, and apply them to existing objects.

**Related topics**
- Select sequin-capable machines
- Setting up sequin mode
- Digitizing sequin runs
- Creating multi-sequin runs
- Copying properties

**Create multi-sequin run patterns**

> Use Sequin > Sequin Run Auto to create a string of sequins along a digitized line according to current settings.
With EmbroideryStudio, you can create sequin run patterns and, optionally, save them to a pattern library for later use. Depending on machine capabilities, patterns may involve twin- or multi-sequin drops, with or without sequin stacking.

**Fixing stitches**
With sequin patterns, the software actually allows you to apply a different fixing type to each sequin. Normally however, you would use the same fixing for all sequins in the pattern. Typically you would consider the cost of embroidery production against sequin weight in order to find a balance. The fewer stitches used, the lower the production cost. At the same time, you want sequins to stay in place during use or washing.

**Sequin stacks**
For stacked sequins, pattern setup depends on machine capabilities. With Dahao format, the sequin stack is dropped and secured with a single fixing stitch. For non-Dahao machine formats, the first sequin is dropped, secured, and another dropped on top and stitched again.

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**To create a multi-sequin run pattern**
- Create a sequin-run object with **Sequin Run Auto** or select an existing object. This allows you to preview your pattern as you go.

- Select the sequin combination you want to use.
Open **Object Properties**. The **Pattern** table displays sequins currently in use.

- Add or remove sequins via the + and X buttons in the column header.
- Select a sequin from the droplist. The selected sample updates immediately.
- If your machine format supports it – e.g. Tajima TBF, Barudan FDR II or 3, SWF Twin Sequin, etc – you can set up stack sequins using the **Layer** field. Specify whether the sequin is to be stacked (‘on top’) or to form a new ‘base’.

With Dahao format, you can choose sequin stacks from the combinations in the droplist. In this case, two or even three sequins can be dropped simultaneously and locked with a single fixing stitch.
The digitizer needs to know the machine capabilities by heart. If an unsupported combination is selected – e.g. four sequin stack feeding – the drop code is ignored on the machine.

In the **Spacing** field, enter a nominal spacing for each sequin. Spacing is measured from the center of one sequin to the center of the next.

In the **Fixing** field, select the type of fixing you want. Generally you’ll use the same fixing for all sequins in the pattern.

When satisfied with the sequin-run pattern, click **Save** to record the pattern for future use.

Enter a name for the pattern and click **OK**. It is now available in the **Sequin Pattern** dialog.

**Related topics**
- Select sequin-capable machines
- Digitizing sequin runs
- Apply multi-sequin run patterns

**Editing sequin runs**

- Use **Select > Select Object** to resize objects using selection handles.
- Use **Reshape > Reshape Object** to reshape selected sequin-run objects.
You have complete control over scaling and reshaping sequin-run objects. You can also manually fine-tune sequin spacings as well as remove or add individual sequins. You can even edit individual fixing stitches.

**Note** Performing manual edits to sequin-run objects automatically deselects all options. If you reset to **Exact**, **Contract to fit**, or **Expand to fit**, all manual edits are lost and sequin drops recalculated.

**To edit a sequin run**

- Scale sequin-run objects by clicking and dragging selection handles, or by adjusting general properties.
  - If the object is created with the **Sequin Run Auto** tool, the sequin drops are automatically recalculated.
  
- If the object is created with the **Sequin Run Manual** tool, the original number of sequin drops is preserved.
Reshape sequin run lines with the **Reshape** tool. Add reshape nodes by left- or right-clicking the outline.

Fine-tune individual sequin spacings with the **Sequin Edit** tool – click-and-drag a diamond control point. Hold down **Shift** or **Ctrl** keys to select a range or multiple control points.

Delete selected sequins by pressing **Delete**.
Add sequins by holding down the Alt key and clicking the run. If you are in multi-sequin mode, select options, including stack sequins, from the popup menu.

To replace a sequin in multi-sequin mode, click a diamond control point and select an alternative from the Manual Sequin droplist.

In multi-sequin mode, right-click a diamond control point while modifying a particular sequin. Options include: removing the sequin, replacing it, adding another sequin on top or beneath.

Related topics

- Scaling objects
- Reshaping embroidery objects
Some embroidery machines are equipped with devices that can drop sequins onto the garment as it stitches. Machine capabilities vary widely. Some machines only support single-sequin devices. Some machines support twin-sequin devices. Newer machines can support multi-sequin devices. These may perform consecutive sequin feeds – one at a time whilst stitching. Some may allow ‘stack feeding’, where multiple sequins are dropped and secured with a single fixing stitch.

This section describes how create sequin fills, both single- and multi-sequin, with and without borders. It discusses fancy sequin fills as well as flip sequins. It also covers editing sequin fills and converting objects to sequins. It deals with single sequin digitizing and custom sequins as well as outputting sequin designs.

**Creating sequin fills**

The **Sequin Fill** feature provides a means of filling complex shapes with sequins generally arranged in columns. The fill can also include a border,
with or without a margin. This can be made from the same or a different sequin and is a property of the object.

Sequin fills are tied together by run stitches and travel runs. Travels are placed along the object outline. Sequin centers never fall outside the object outline. Sequin fixing stitches, however, can lie outside the outline depending on current settings.

Tip The Show Repeats function displays repeating designs, including sequins, in both TrueView and stitch view. You can view a design, even while digitizing, with any number of repeats. See also Viewing design repeats.

Digitize sequin fills

Use Sequin > Sequin Fill to digitize and fill large, irregular shapes with sequins.

Before you can use the Sequin tools, you need to choose a suitable machine format. Similarly, you need to prepare a palette of sequins according to capabilities of your chosen machine. See Setting up sequin mode for details.

Once set up, the palette is available for use from the Sequin toolbar and Object Properties. Digitizing sequin-fill objects is essentially the same as digitizing complex fill objects.
Double-clicking the object will invoke **Object Properties** similar to sequin run properties. See **Digitizing sequin runs** for details.

Controls available on the **Fills > Sequin Column Fill** tab for patterns and fixing stitches are summarized below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sequin layout settings</td>
<td>Use these settings to control the overall layout of the fill grid, including angle, sequin spacings, and offsets within the grid. See <strong>Adjust sequin layouts</strong> for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fill margin</td>
<td>Include a fill margin or not as required. No sequin will have its center placed outside the fill margin. Usually used with a border but not necessarily. See <strong>Adjust sequin layouts</strong> for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add border</td>
<td>Sequin fills can include a border, with or without a margin. The border is a property of the object. See <strong>Fancy sequin fills</strong> for details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Select                | Determines what patterns are displayed:  
  • Sequin Fill: displays the fill pattern  
  • Sequin Run: displays the border pattern.  
  All other controls work the same as for Sequin Run. |
Fixing stitches are selected in the same way as for sequin runs. For sequin fills, we recommend the simplest fixing stitch available – C01-1.

Use the simplest fixing stitch

Related topics
- Setting up sequin mode
- Digitizing sequin runs
- Sequin fixings
- Creating free-form shapes

Adjust sequin layouts

Use Sequin > Sequin Fill to digitize and fill large, irregular shapes with sequins.

Use sequin layout settings to control the overall layout of the fill grid, including angle, sequin spacings, and offsets within the grid.
Sequin Fill provides independent control of column and row spacings. Set the nominal spacing in the Spacing field. You have the option of expanding or contracting spacings in rows or columns. Each line is adjusted independently. The aim is to make sequins follow to the edge of the shape as closely as possible. This is less important if you add a border to the fill.

To adjust sequin layouts

- Adjust Angle as shown:

  ![Angle: 45°](image1)

  ![Angle: 90°](image2)

- Adjust Spacing as shown. This setting controls column spacing, not row spacing.

  ![Spacing: Default](image3)

  ![Spacing: 5 mm](image4)
Use **Columns** and **Rows** settings to make sequins fit the grid or adjust line-by-line to fit the shape. This is less important if you add a border to the fill.

![Exact columns and rows](image1)

![Adjusted columns and rows](image2)

- **Adjust Offset** as shown. This only works if you have set **Rows** to ‘exact’ spacing.

![Offset: 0 mm](image3)

![Offset: 5 mm](image4)

- **Adjust Direction** as shown. This does not affect sequin layout, but it does affect stitching order, whether left-to-right or right-to-left. It may affect the appearance of fixing stitches.

![Layout: left-to-right](image5)

![Layout: right-to-left](image6)
Activate **Add Fill Margin** and adjust setting as necessary. This is generally used in conjunction with the **Add border** option. See below.

**Adding sequin borders**

Sequin fills can include a border, with or without a margin. The border is a property of the object. If a twin-sequin capable machine is selected, the border and fill can differ. They can be comprised of single sequins or sequin patterns.
To add a sequin border

- Select a sequin-fill object and double-click to access object properties.

- Tick the Add Border checkbox and select Sequin Border from the droplist.

- Adjust sequin shape as shown. This can be the same or different to the sequin fill if you have a twin-sequin capable machine.

- Adjust the fill margin and border spacing as shown.
Set sequin border fixing stitch direction as shown.

Related topics
- Digitizing sequin runs
- Sequin fixings

Special sequin fills

EmbroideryStudio provides techniques for creating special sequin fills, including reversible or ‘flip’ sequins and scalable sequin stipple fill.

Fancy sequin fills

Use Sequin > Sequin Fill to digitize and fill large, irregular shapes with sequins.
EmbroideryStudio allows you to create fancy sequin fills by a variety of methods.

Create variegated stipple fills automatically with single or multi-color sequin patterns. These objects are fully scalable and can be reshaped like any embroidery object. For stipple fills, sequin borders are activated by default.

You can create other fancy sequin fills by the conversion method. This is technically a ‘workaround’ since it does not produce a scalable sequin object. However, if your design requires it, you can first create the desired shape using, for example, Maze or Offset fill. Set spacing sufficient to accommodate the sequins you want to use. Then break apart and convert the resulting run objects to sequin runs. These can be
grouped. But note what happens when you scale the object – sequins are recalculated for each run, but the gap between lines increases.

**Related topics**

- Converting objects with Wilcom Workspace
- Breaking apart composite objects
- Stippling effects
- Maze fills
- Offset fills

**Flip sequins**

- Use View > Show Functions to toggle display of machine function symbols. Right-click for settings.
- Use View > Show Stitches to toggle embroidery stitching display. Right-click for settings.
- Use Sequin > Sequin Fill to digitize and fill large, irregular shapes with sequins.
- Use Docker > Carving Stamp to define a pattern of needle penetrations using a ‘carving stamp’ as a template.
- Use View > Flip Sequins to toggle between front and reverse sides of sequin runs and fills in reversible sequin designs. Define colors in the Sequin Palette Editor.

Flip sequins, also known as reversible sequins, create a color-changing effect which is very fashionable. Beginning with children’s wear, flip
sequins have found a wide variety of applications, from reversible sequin shirts, pillow cases, bags, cases, note books, and more. Their use is simple – swipe up or down to reveal the reverse side with sometimes surprising effects. Flip sequins have also found their way into high fashion.

**Sequin Fill** can be used in combination with **Carving Stamp** to digitize twin-sequin fills with predefined twin sequin assignments. The stamp pattern takes the color of the other sequin in the currently selected pair. Use the **Reshape** tool to size, rotate and reshape stamp patterns.
If you have defined reversible or ‘flip’ sequins, click the **Flip Sequin** control to view the reverse image as it will appear on stitchout.

---

**Related topics**

- Setting up sequin palettes
- Creating patterns with carving stamps

---

### Creating multi-sequin fills

Use Docker > Object Properties to toggle the docker on/off. Set properties for the current design.

If you have a twin- or multi-sequin capable machine, you can use the **Pattern** control to create patterned borders and/or fills. Use it also to control sequin spacing independently of line spacing. Most controls work the same as for **Sequin Run**. The process is essentially the same as for multi-sequin run patterns, except that you can’t save them for later use.

**Tip** Twin-sequin mode also allows you to convert vector objects to twin-sequin outlines. See also [Convert sequin artwork](#).
To create multi-sequin fill patterns

- Open **Object Properties** and define a fill pattern as you would for a sequin run.

- Change sequin combinations as desired.
If your machine format allows it, define sequin layers as you would for a sequin run, one sequin serving as the ‘base’, and the other dropped ‘on top’.

With Dahao format, choose sequin stacks from the combinations in the droplist.

**Note** If you choose a stacked sequin configuration that the sequin device does not support, the machine will simply ignore that particular drop code.
Optionally, make a selected object’s properties current, including multi-sequin patterns, and apply them to existing objects.

Related topics
- Creating multi-sequin runs
- Sequin fixings

Editing sequin fills

| Use Reshape > Reshape Object to reshape selected objects by means of control points. |
| Use Sequin > Sequin Edit to fine-tune placement of individual sequins. |

Either by means of object properties or the **Reshape Object** tool, you can control the overall shape of sequin fills as well as their layout. You can also set entry and exit points to avoid excessive needle penetrations.
To reshape and edit a sequin fill

- Select a sequin-fill object and click the Reshape icon.

- Adjust overall shape like any embroidery object.
- Use the three central control points to adjust sequin layout settings interactively. These control **Direction Angle**, **Spacing**, and **Offset** settings. Pattern spacing is also influenced.

Pattern spacing is also controlled numerically via the **Patterns** panel.
Adjustments can cause needle penetrations to occur within sequins. Affected sequins are highlighted in pink. Adjust layout and/or entry/exit points to minimize unwanted needle penetrations.

Fine-tune individual sequin spacings with the **Sequin Edit** tool – click-and-drag a diamond control point.

Holes can be digitized in sequin-fill objects in the same way as any free shape.

**Sequin fills can contain holes**

**Related topics**
- Reshaping embroidery objects
- Editing sequin runs
- Creating free-form shapes

**Converting objects to sequins**

Most objects in EmbroideryStudio are inter-convertible. Open and closed sequin objects are no exception. Any open object – Run, Stemstitch, Motif Run, Freehand, Column C, Vector – can be quickly converted to sequin run. Similarly, any closed object – Column A/B, Complex Turning, or Complex – can be converted to sequin fill. EmbroideryStudio also
provides a dedicated tool for automatically converting sequin artwork in the form of a vector file to sequin runs.

Convert embroidery objects to sequins

Use Sequin > Sequin Run Auto to create a string of sequins along a digitized line according to current settings.

Use Sequin > Sequin Fill to digitize and fill large, irregular shapes with sequins.

Convert any open object – Run, Stemstitch, Motif Run, Freehand, Column C, Vector – to sequin run.

Right-click and select **Convert > Convert to Sequin Run**. Alternatively, simply click the **Sequin Run Auto** icon.
Similarly, convert any closed object – Column A/B, Complex Turning, or Complex – to sequin fill.

Right-click and select **Convert > Convert to Sequin Fill**. Or click the **Sequin Fill** icon.

**Convert sequin artwork**

Use Sequin > Vectors to Sequins to create a sequin run from a set of sequin vector objects selected by intersecting line.

Frequently, artwork for sequin designs is independently created by a specialist designer and supplied to the embroidery digitizer as a vector file. The **Vectors to Sequins** tool is available for just this purpose. A sequin run is automatically created from a set of vector objects representing sequins. Fixing stitches are generated automatically according to current settings. If you are digitizing twin-sequin runs,
EmbroideryStudio will generate sequin drops according to the currently selected sequin run pattern.

To convert sequin artwork
1 Select a machine format that supports sequin mode via the Select Machine Format dialog.
2 Insert the sequin artwork into the design. Properly designed artwork will contain vector objects centered on the exact locations required for sequins in the design.
3 Select the sequin shape you want to use from the droplist in the Sequin Palette.
4 Select the Vectors to Sequins icon.
5 Click the sequin graphic which will start the sequin run.
6 Digitize a line connecting all sequins to be included in the sequin run. The line only needs to touch the sequin object somewhere within its boundary. Left-click for corner points, right-click for curve points.
7 Press **Enter**.

A sequin run is generated along a curve that passes through the center of each sequin graphic with sequin objects positioned at these centers. Current properties are applied and the object is set to ‘manual’ by default. The generated curve contains a reshape node at each sequin position.

![Sequin Run automatically generated](image)

![Reshape nodes generated at each sequin drop](image)

**Tip** If you are running twin-sequin mode and preset a sequin pattern in **Object Properties**, this pattern is applied to the converted sequin objects while sequin spacing is preserved as per the artwork.

![Pattern applied](image)

**Related topics**
- Select sequin-capable machines
- Creating multi-sequin runs

**Manual sequin digitizing**

If you require precise control over the positioning and encoding of your sequin drops, EmbroideryStudio provides manual techniques for this
purpose. Digitize your own sequin drops with fixings. Or even insert individual sequin-drop functions while traveling through the design.

Digitize sequin drops with fixings

Use Sequin > Manual Sequin to digitize individual sequins.

The **Manual Sequin** input method allows you individual control over sequin placement and fixing stitches. Create decorative outlines and patterns manually using sequins from the selection list. To add a sequin to the stitching sequence, simply drop it onto the design and secure it with manual stitches. Manual sequin stitching is a difficult digitizing skill to master and you need to plan the stitching sequence carefully in order to minimize unnecessary stitches. Experiment with your machine and stitch length and spacing settings to achieve the desired result.

**Note** Sequin mode is supported in Schiffli, Tajima, Barudan and ZSK embroidery machine formats. Before you can use **Sequin** mode, you
must select a machine format that supports it. Similarly, before you can use **Twin-Sequin** mode, you must select a suitable machine format.

**To digitize sequin drops with fixing stitches**

- Select a machine format that supports sequin mode via the **Select Machine Format** dialog.
- Set up your palette in the **Sequin Palette Editor** according to the machine type – single, twin, multi-sequin – that you have selected.

- Select a color for the fixing stitching from the **Color** toolbar.
- Click the **Manual Sequin** icon. If your machine format supports it, stack sequin permutations are displayed in the droplist.

- Select the sequin or combination you want to use.
- Left-click to begin your manual sequin placement. It must start with at least one stitch.

**Tip**  Zoom in for more accurate digitizing.
Right-click to drop a sequin. A sequin outline appears.

Left-click to digitize fixing stitches around the sequin to secure it. Three stitches in the shape of a ‘Y’ are generally used. The needle points of each stitch must be placed precisely to ensure that sequins are not pierced by the needle when stitching.

Tip If you make a mistake while digitizing, press Backspace to retrace your steps.

If you have activated twin- or multi-sequin mode, press the Tab key to switch between available sequin shapes while digitizing.
If you have set up a palette for a machine with two single-sequin devices, you need to press **Enter** before changing sequins in the palette droplist.

> Continue digitizing manually in the same way – right-click to add a sequin, left-click to digitize fixing stitches. Press **Enter** to finish.

### Related topics

- Select sequin-capable machines
- Setting up sequin palettes
- Creating multi-sequin runs

### Insert sequin drops

1. Use **Outline > Digitize Run** to place a row of single or triple run stitches along a digitized line.

2. Use **Outline Stitch Types > Motif Run** to create a string of motifs along a digitized line.

3. Use **Docker > Stitch List** to toggle Stitch List display on and off. Use it to select individual stitches.

4. Use **Travel > Travel 1 Stitch** to move stitch cursor forwards/backwards 1 stitch at a time. Left/right click.

5. Use **Sequin > Drop Sequin** to drop a sequin at the current needle position. For twin-sequin machines, left-click to drop a left-sequin, right-click to drop a right-sequin.

6. Click **Function > Insert Function** to insert machine function at current stitch cursor position.

7. Use **Sequin > Clear Function** to remove any sequin functions from the current needle position.
In preference to the **Manual Sequin** tool, some digitizers flesh out designs using **Run** or **Triple Run** or even **Motif Run** and then travel through it, dropping sequins manually as and where required. The running stitch itself works as fixing stitch. It can be reinforced with **Backtrack**. This technique can be used with single or multi-sequins.

***To insert sequin drops***

1. Select a machine format that supports sequin mode via the **Select Machine Format** dialog.
2. Set up your sequin palette – single, twin, quad, etc – according to machine capabilities.
3. Set a fixed run length to suit the sequin type/s you are using.
4 Choose a digitizing method to create the design or pattern you want.

5 Optionally, open the **Stitch List**.

6 Press the **Home** button and travel through the design using arrow keys or **Travel** tools.

7 Travel to the insertion point and press the ‘hotkey’ 5. Alternatively, click the **Drop Sequin** button.
8 If you are using a twin-sequin palette, press the hotkey 6 to drop the other sequin. Alternatively, right-click the **Drop Sequin** button.

9 If you are using a multi-sequin palette, select **Insert Function** from the toolbar or the **Stitch List** popup menu.

10 From the **Functions** list, select **Drop Sequin**. Depending on machine requirements, you will either add the function to the current stitch, or
insert it on an empty stitch or empty jump. See your machine manual for details.

11 When the Drop Sequin function is correctly defined, click OK. The Select Sequin dialog opens showing available sequins.

12 Choose a preferred sequin. The Sequin Drop function, together with any additional empty stitches or jumps, is added at the current needle position.

13 Continue traveling and inserting sequins by the same methods.

14 To delete a sequin drop, travel to the location and press 4. Alternatively, click the Clear Sequin button.
Tip If you are using **Triple Run**, the repeat stitch will tack down your sequin drop. If you are using **Single Run**, you can use the **Backtrack** tool to tack down the sequin drops.

**Related topics**
- Select sequin-capable machines
- Travel through designs
- Inserting machine functions manually

**Custom sequins**

EmbroideryStudio supports custom sequin shapes with offset holes. Such sequin shapes can be utilized for flipping sequins on the fabric to form two different sequin fill patterns. Alternatively, you may be working with sequins which don’t appear in the standard sequin library. Define your own sequins using circle, oval, rectangle, or other shapes.

**Create sequin shapes**

- Use Graphics Digitizing > Ellipse to digitize ellipse or circle vector outlines.
- Use Graphics Digitizing > Basic Shapes to digitize basic shapes. Press `<Ctrl>` to maintain aspect ratio. Press `<Shift>` to center at the first point.
- Use Outline Stitch Types > Vector Outline to create vector outlines with no stitch properties applying.
The software allows you to define your own sequin shapes with their own hole position.

**To create a custom sequin**

1. Create a sequin shape using vectors only. The **Ellipse** or even **Basic Shapes** tools can be useful. Outline and hole must be digitized as separate objects.

```
1. Create a sequin shape using vectors only. The Ellipse or even Basic Shapes tools can be useful. Outline and hole must be digitized as separate objects.
```

2. Position the hole.

3. Size the sequin shape to a nominal size – e.g. 1.5mm.

4. Select both objects and choose **Object > Create Sequin Shape**.

```
4. Select both objects and choose Object > Create Sequin Shape.
```

5. Give your sequin a name and click **OK** to save. The custom shape is available from the sequin droplist for use in sequin palettes. Use it in sequin runs or fills.

```
5. Give your sequin a name and click OK to save. The custom shape is available from the sequin droplist for use in sequin palettes. Use it in sequin runs or fills.
```
Tip Use the Setup > Manage Sequin Shape command to rename or delete custom sequin shapes from the library.

**Related topics**

- Creating vectors
- Digitizing stars & rings
- Digitizing basic shapes
- Managing custom motifs

**Create sequin fixings**

Just as you can define custom sequin shapes, you can define custom fixing stitches to support multi-head sequin devices. Some limitations might exist for older more complicated sequin devices. Access the dialog via the Object > Create Sequin Fixing command.
Custom sequin fixings mean you can:

- Create multiple layers of stitching for decorative effects, sometimes in different thread colors (Barudan).
- Reduce stitch counts in large sequin designs.
- Accommodate specific fixing requirements.
- Accommodate new capabilities – e.g. offset holes.

**Tip** If you have chosen an eccentric sequin shape such as an ‘ellipse’, fixing stitches automatically adapt to fit.

**Tip** Use the **Setup > Manage Sequin Fixing** command to rename or delete custom sequin fixings from the library.

### Outputting sequin designs

- Use Docker > Design Information to view and modify design details prior to design approval or stitchout.
- Click Standard > Print Preview to preview the production worksheet on screen.
- Use Standard > Export Machine File to export the current design to a machine file for stitching.
Once your sequin design is ready for production, check all design details via the **Design Information** docker. The **Design** tab provides a summary of all sequins used in the design creation.

When you come to output your design to machine file, make sure you are using the correct file format. EmbroideryStudio currently supports the following...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Machine format</th>
<th>File format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barudan FDR-3</td>
<td>U??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barudan FDR-3 Chenille Combination</td>
<td>U??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barudan FDR-II Twin Sequin</td>
<td>U??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barudan FDR-II Twin Sequin Chenille Combination</td>
<td>U??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahao</td>
<td>DST (Dahao)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schiffli</td>
<td>ESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWF</td>
<td>DST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When you select Dahao multi-sequin DST as you output file format, the *Drop Sequin* functions are inserted according to Dahao multi-sequin requirements. Dahao control panels include a protocol to interpret this encoding. Tajima machines, on the other hand, strictly follow the DST file specification.

**Note**  For machine formats that have no sequin capability, the sequin palette will display. However, if you attempt to create a sequin object, fixing stitches will be digitized without sequin drops. No sequins appear.

Create a hard copy of your production worksheet to provide thread and sequin information for the machine operator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Machine format</th>
<th>File format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWF Twin Sequin</td>
<td>EBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajima</td>
<td>DST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajima TBF</td>
<td>TBF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZSK</td>
<td>ZSK</td>
</tr>
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- Exporting designs for machine
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