

NEARLY INSTANT REDWORK

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Redwork designs make quick work of last minute holiday projects but digitizing them in the traditional manner can be tedious and time-consuming due to their complex pathing. Generations™ can make creating redwork even easier than sewing it—if you know a few tricks! Here's how to quickly turn a line art image into redwork.



WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- How to change areas into lines

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Generations™ software
- Black and white line art


GETTING STARTED

Most embroidery designs start with an image. The holiday candle used in this lesson was downloaded from <http://www.freecraftunlimited.com/clipart-christmas-7.html>. If you compare the images on this page, you'll see that this particular one is cleaner than the others. Solid lines are easiest to work with. Right-click to download the image and save it to your Gens Emb Library/ images folder. This is the default directory where Generations™ will look for a graphic when you choose **Insert Image**.



This project is for someone with some familiarity with Generations™. If you need more basic information, try the [Learn to Digitize Training course](#), an 8-unit comprehensive series on learning to digitize like a pro using Generations™.

DIGITIZING

1. Open Generations™. All tool bars should be enabled. If your screen space is cramped, turn off Building Blocks and Help. Tool bars are toggled on and off on **View > Tool Bars** submenu.
2. Click  **Insert Image** on the **Create bar**. Navigate to your image and select it.

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- Generations™ detects the candle art as a scanned image because it's a .jpg file. Deselect **Auto-Select**, and set the **Maximum Colors** to 2. Click the **Pick Color** button. A new window opens and your cursor turns into an eyedropper. Click on a dark black area and then on the white (order doesn't matter).

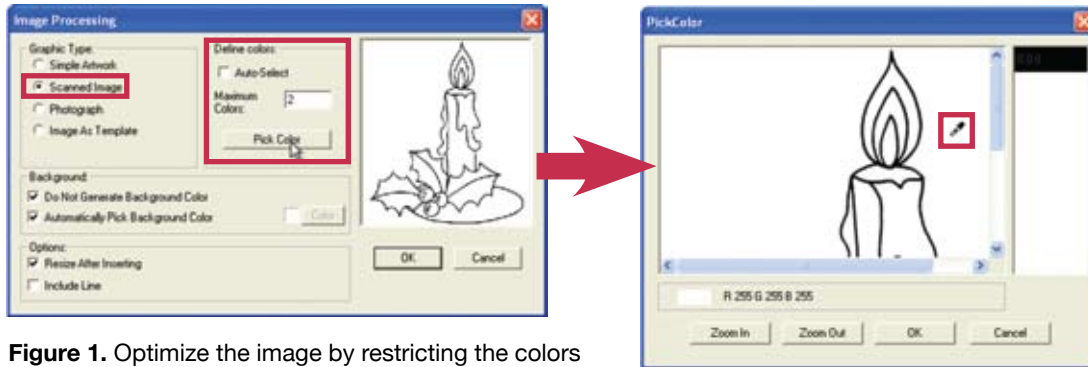


Figure 1. Optimize the image by restricting the colors to two. In the **PickColor** window, use the eye dropper to select a very saturated black and then the background. (Order does not matter.)

Click **OK** to close the **PickColor** window and **OK** to continue the image insertion process.

- In the **Thresh** box, you can increase or decrease the color recognition percentage. If you are unable to achieve the desired results, you may need to edit your image in a graphics program. You can experiment with various settings by changing the value and pressing apply. I set mine to 70. When you are done, press **Continue**. *If you press **Cancel**, it will cancel the entire Insert Image process, not just the settings in this dialog box.*

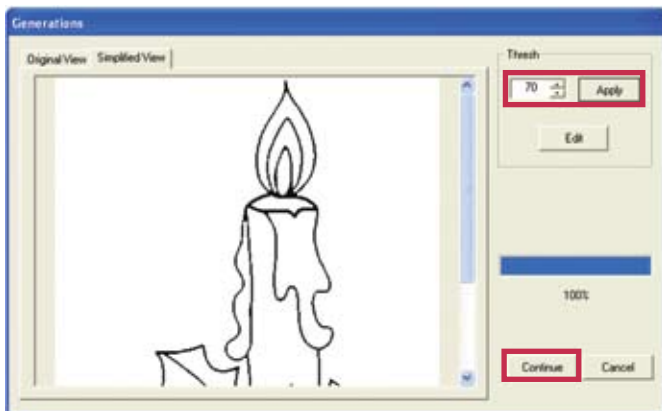



Figure 2. You can increase or decrease the color recognition percentage with **Thresh** settings.

- When the **Resize** dialog box appears, resize if needed. Click **OK** to insert.
- Your image appears in the work area and Generations™ has outlined the areas it sees. Press  **Generate** to place the stitches.

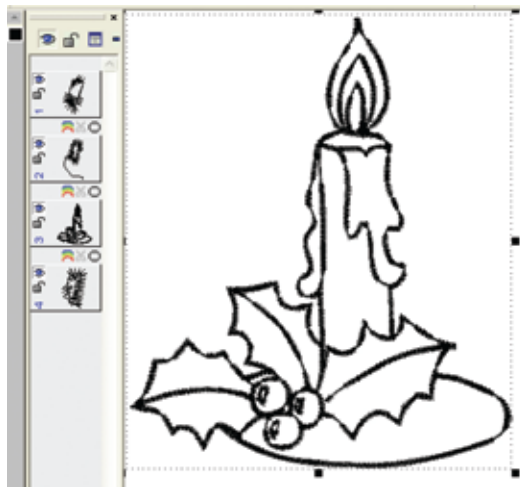
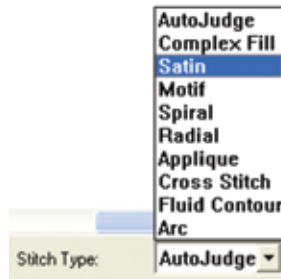




Figure 3. Generations digitized the design by tracing the *areas*. To apply a run stitch type, you need *lines*.



Not exactly what you expected? You thought you'd get a running stitch, right? Generations™ works by recognizing colors. We told it there were two—black and white—and the program recognized the white was the background. When it traced the shapes, it drew *both sides* of the black areas. This action created an *area* instead of *line*. Stitch objects in Generations™ can be categorized as either areas or lines and each has a range of stitch types it accepts. Areas cannot have a run stitch; only lines. In other words, we can't just select the stitches and change their type from **AutoJudge** to **Triple Run** via the **Quick bar** Stitch Type menu.

7. Double-click the color chip in the **Color bar** to activate the design, click  **View Outline**, then right-click again in the gray area of the design (or select **Outline** from the **Main Menu** bar) to display the outline menu to display the outline menu. Select **Create Line From Area** and then press  **Generate**.

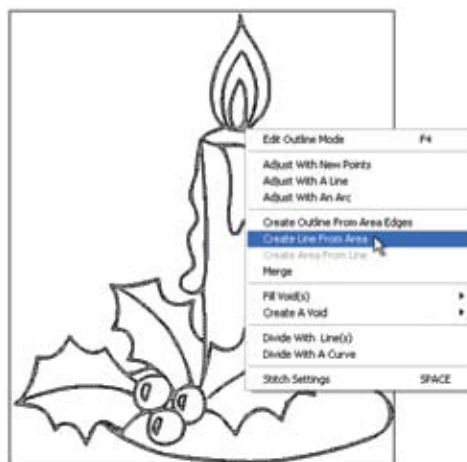


Figure 4. When the design is selected in outline view, you can use it to create a line from the areas.

You may not see much difference in the work area but your **Stitch Sequence** now has new objects and they're still selected.

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8. Select **Edit > Select > Invert Selection** to select the rest of your design (the part originally auto-digitized) and press Ctrl-Delete to eliminate the original stitches.

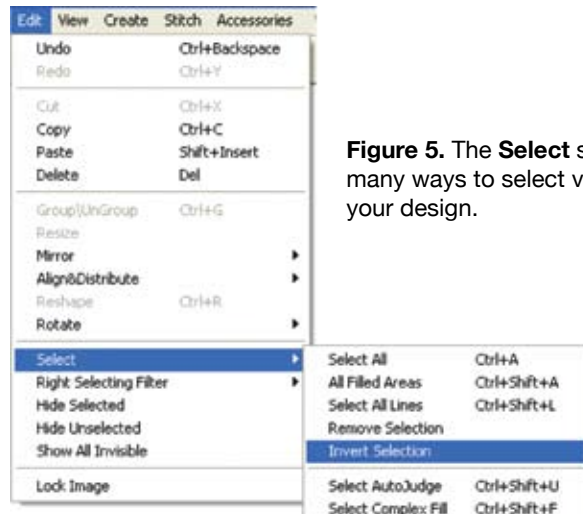


Figure 5. The **Select** submenu provides many ways to select various objects in your design.

You should now see just the line version of your design in the work area.

9. Double-click the color chip in the **Color bar** to quickly select and activate all the stitch objects. From the **Quick bar**, change the stitch type from **Double Run** to **Triple Run**. Notice that since your design is now composed of line objects, your stitch choices have changed.

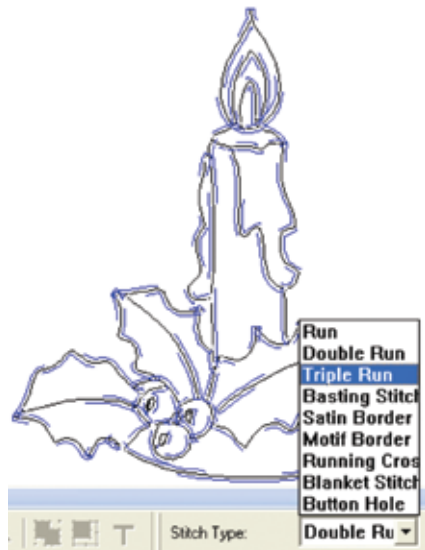


Figure 6. Change your stitch type to **Triple Run**.

10. With the area still active, press space bar to access the **Line Object Stitch Properties**. Set the stitch length to 2mm and make sure **Use Bean for Triple** is checked.

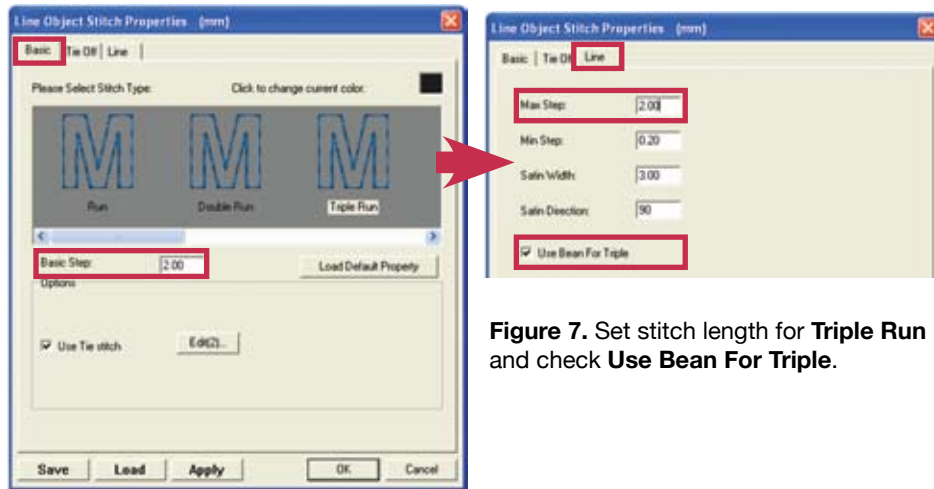


Figure 7. Set stitch length for **Triple Run** and check **Use Bean For Triple**.

11. Change the color to red. Your design should still be activated, if so pick a color from the **Thread bar**. Generate stitches, save and export your design.

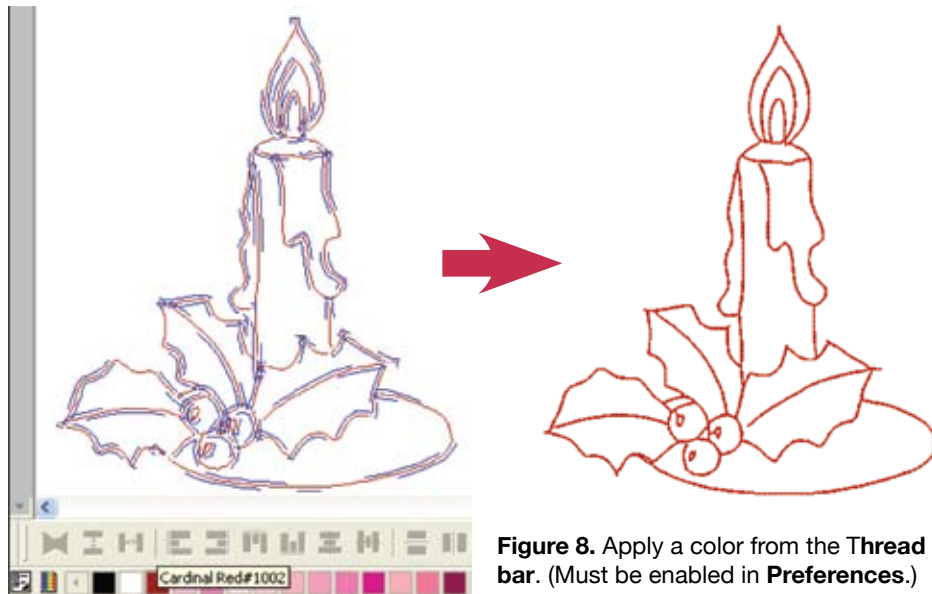


Figure 8. Apply a color from the **Thread bar**. (Must be enabled in **Preferences**.)