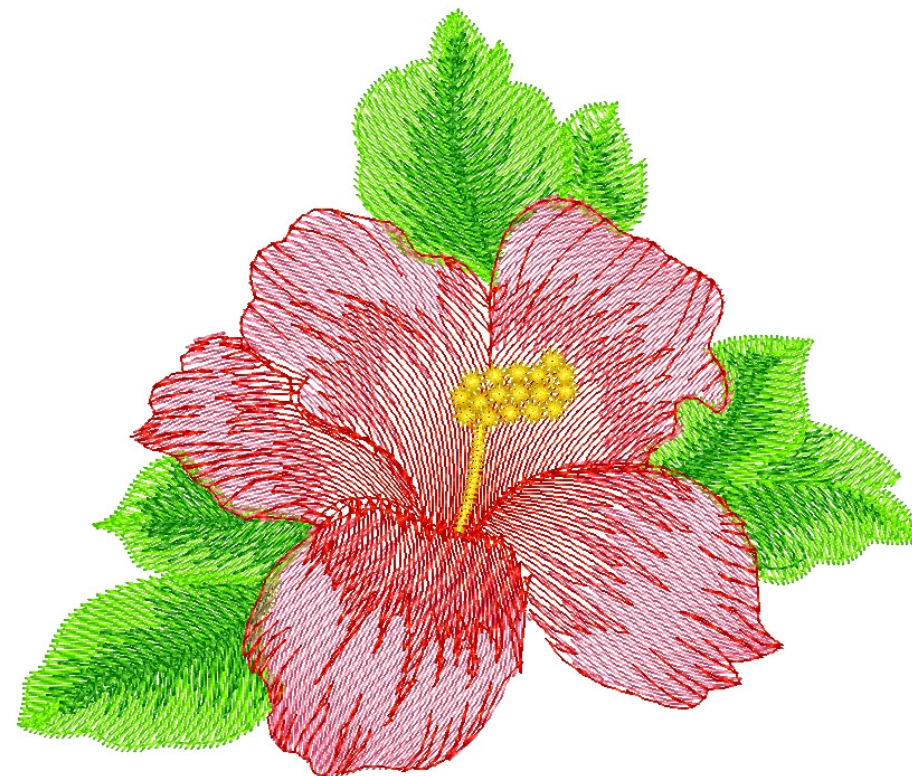


EPCWIN

THE HIGH-END SOFTWARE



News 3.5



Embroidery Software Partners

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New features and improvements in update from version 3.00-09 to version 3.50-01**Note**

The update to version 3.5 is free of charge for all licensees of version 3.0.

Updating from Version 1.x/2.x to Version 3.5, is subject to a charge. You need new passwords for Version 3.5; these are available from atelier@zsk.de.

DEMO days installed with Version 1.x/2.x/3x are retained and do not expire.

New features have been added to the following parts of the program:

- Punching
- Contour (spline)
- Point/Corner/Straight Line
- Block data
- Design manager
- Input / Output
- Display
- Data capacity for punch designs
- TT monogram

The following parts of the program have been improved:

- Punching
- Point/Corner/Straight Line
- Block data
- Contour (spline)
- Design
- Schiffli design
- Link image
- Design manager
- Input / Output

New functions

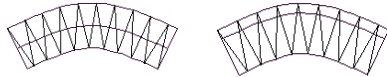
Punching

- When stitches are being input manually, grid lines, help lines and outlines or contours can now be approached with [Shift] + <Left>.
- In addition to the conventional round sequin, other shapes are now offered as well in the design head.



Satin stitch

- Circle input [F7]: The width can now be set numerically as well.
- Center line input [F8]: The ratio of side 1 to side 2 can now be varied. Until now, the division was always the same. Select 50:50 to set an equal ratio between the sides.



As before, the 9 most recently used border widths are offered. Special programming allows the system to switch between the two most recently used values when [F11] is pressed (as with program selection).

- In the parameter set of programs 6 and 10, the stitch sequences and stencils are selected in a new dialog which also permits scrolling.
- Program 14: The short-long rule can now be deselected.
- Programs 14 and 15: The jagged parameter input is now made in a separate dialog that can be called in the parameter set of the relevant program.

Contour (spline) in punch and design

- In the straight-line mode [4] [3], a length restriction can now also be set, so that you only have to stipulate the direction of the straight line. The corner is automatically placed at a distance from the preceding corner corresponding to the set length. In addition, the cursor now engages in increments of either 15° or 45°.
- When entering under [4] [1] and [4] [2], it is now possible to switch temporarily to the straight-line mode [4] [3] with [ALT].
- When entering stitch direction markers, you can now enter vertical, horizontal or sloping direction markers (15°/45° increments) with [ALT].
- In arc mode [4] [4], press [Ctrl] + <Left> to switch automatically to [4] [1].

• Parallels

- The 9 most recently used parallel spacings are offered again. Special programming allows the system to switch between the two most recently used values when [F11] is pressed.
- Double-sided parallels can now be created. This function is available with drawing line creation and in the drawing line editor.
- The maximum deviation of the parallels can now be entered in $\frac{1}{10}$ mm increments. With lower accuracy, fewer reference points are used.


Point/Corner/Straight Line

- In the move contour function (punch/design) a reference point can now be inserted with <Right>. **Caution:** This cancels the option of moving the line into the box with <Right> in the drawing line editor. To call this function, press [F3].
- Contours and drawing lines can now be extended. For this purpose, the initial and final points must be selected in the editor, and [Insert] pressed. You find yourself in the contour definition function with the full range of options available.
- Auxiliary lines in program 20 can now be detached with [F2] for insertion at a different place. It is now no longer necessary to press [Shift] for insertion. It is sufficient to select the desired position with <Left>.
- Special function editor extended: Function [F7] allows the order of special functions in the stitch list to be changed. This function is primarily required in designs with head selection or where the head type changes (F, K and W heads), when the correct embroidery sequence depends on the order of the special functions.
- The two outer contours for satin stitch (1) and curved Ziegelhöhle (16) designs can now be swapped to obtain a different stitch calculation.

Block data

- Block names can now be edited in the pictogram directory of the block manager [3] [9].
- The *Reduction of points* [4] [,] [9] function reduces the number of points on a drawing line. The function is applied to all drawing lines in the box. The *Accuracy* (1/10mm) parameter monitors the permitted deviation from the original line. This function can be used when importing vector formats (dxf, ai, emf), for instance, if the number of points for contours is too large.
- Blocks can be converted from multi-head to schiffli and vice versa. Special functions contained in the block are converted if possible. Functions that cannot be converted are removed during reading-in.

Design manager

- Protective mechanisms when several EPCwin systems are working at the same time on one directory:
 - This function is selected in *Settings / General / Access protection of designs and directories*. This function is deselected when Version 3.5 is installed as an update or for the first time, or re-installed.
 - A design that is currently being processed is marked by an * in the final column of the directory. This design can now no longer be opened by another user. It is barred from access. After it has been processed, it is automatically released for access again.
 - Access to the directory is barred for others while one user is loading or saving a design, or importing a design from a disk, for example, copying a design from the directory or saving an image after scanning. For this reason, the forenamed operations should be completed speedily in order to restore access to the directory to other users.
 - The  function in the text directory allows all barred designs to be released for access again manually in exceptional cases if the automatic release function has failed. This could be caused by a power failure, computer, network or software problems etc..
 - To ensure the function operates correctly, it is essential that different computer names are used.
- Conversion between multi-head and schiffli
 - Designs can now be converted from multi-head to schiffli. Special functions contained in the design are converted if possible. Functions that cannot be converted are removed.
 - During conversion from schiffli to multi-head, a thread trimming operation is now inserted with *Needle bar off*, depending on a variable jump stitch length.

Input / Output

- The read-in routines for DOS disk formats ZSK TC, Tajima and Melco have been optimized so that several designs can be read in from disk in a single operation.

- **Reading Lässer data:** The *Small thread guide*, *Large thread guide*, *Thread tension* and *Lock device* special functions can be specifically filtered out. This allows the number of special functions in a design to be reduced to allow faster working.
- **Reading and writing Lässer data:** Support for thread trimming special function
 - **Punching:** The *Needle bar off* function is punched with *Trimming* in the design.
 - **Output (MST):** During the output you define the subroutines for fixing (6 - 10) and starting (1 - 5). The selected subroutines are inserted in the correct position before *Needle bar on* or *Needle bar off* during code output to MST.
 - **Reading in (MST):** During reading-in, subroutines contained in the code are replaced by *Needle bar off* and *Trimming*. One subroutine each for starting and fixing is stored in the design and offered again during subsequent output.

General

- Widescreen TFT monitors are now fully supported as well, so that a circle, for example, is also actually displayed as a circle. For this purpose there are separate screen factors for X and Y. To determine the two factors first set both screen factors (X/Y) to 1 in *Settings / General*. Now open a new design and create a square with sides 15 cm long in *Geometrie Rectangle* (numerical input). The zoom factor must be 1. Take a ruler and measure the actual horizontal and vertical lengths of the square on the screen. Calculate *Screen factor X* as follows: 15 / horizontal side length. Calculate *Screen factor Y* as follows: 15 / vertical side length. Now enter the two values in the associated fields (3 places after the point) under default settings.
- **Data capacity for a punch design has been doubled:**
 - Maximum number of reference data/stitches/parameters = 1,200,000
 - Maximum number of programs in a design = 8000
 - Maximum number of special functions in a design = 12000
 - Maximum number of markers in a design = 4000
- **New TT Font Editor Version 2.02**
 - Support for miter corners.
 - The character height can now be entered to allow editing with realistic size proportions.
 - The measuring function can now be called with `[Ctrl] [L]`.

- **New and modified fonts**

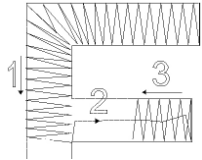
More than 90 edited fonts are now available. During the update operation, the updated TT monogram font files were installed in the directory `../EPCwin/GiSFonts_350_01`.

If you wish to use these updated fonts in EPCwin, copy all or individual TT monogram font files to your data directory. Note that any fonts stored under the same name, including ones that you have edited, will be **overwritten**. The copy path is usually as follows: *Program Files/EPCwin/GiSFonts_350_01* to *../EPCwinData/GiSFonts*.

Improvements

Punching

- During fast jump stitch entry ([Ctrl]) in multi-head, each click is now recognized as a jump stitch. Previously, roughly every second click was a stitch point.
- **Satin stitch**
 - The fault occurring whereby the jagged function in satin stitch was not carried out or not executed correctly with certain underlay parameter settings has been corrected.
 - Normal stitch direction markers are now no longer drawn into the corner of a contour.
 - In the case of corners with a straight run-out (square with oblique) the corner stitch direction markers are now "pulled in" as if by a magnet as well.
 - The stitch direction markers for miter corners are drawn more reliably into the corner of a contour.
 - If an additional stitch direction marker is omitted between two consecutive miter corners, an error message to this effect is now issued.
 - Circle input [F7]: Object creation can now be aborted while the stitch direction marker is being entered as well.
- **Center line**
 - When entering a closed center line, corners are now accepted as miter corners as well if the opening is moved. With parallels, miter corners are also incorporated.
 - If satin stitch with center line is called for a second time, the key for miter corner [F10] is shown as having been pressed if miter corner is on.
 - In the event of two miter corners occurring in close succession within the center line, a stitch direction marker is now incorporated at the half-way point.

- If it cannot be calculated, a normal corner is automatically converted into a miter corner (rather like a dunce's cap).
- **Underlay prog.**
 - The last stitch of the center underlay now swings out again as it changes over to the cover stitches, so that it is longer.
 - When changing over from the underlay to the cover stitches, the minimum stitch length is now taken into account as well.
 - The failure to shorten the center underlay at the end of satin stitch objects now no longer occurs.
 - Other faults relating to satin stitch underlay have been remedied.
- **Program 20 step-lines**
 - If several lines go out from the start point and the end point lies on one of these auxiliary lines, the stitches are now calculated.
- **TT monogram**
 - Different filling sequence in the case of letters with horizontals (e.g. Arial 'E'). Now the vertical is embroidered first, bypassing the middle horizontal. The system then fills the horizontal before resuming with the vertical. 
 - In the case of satin stitch filling without division, overlapping occurs not only with filling in the opposite direction, but also for filling in the same direction if filling has been interrupted for a horizontal.
 - Various minor faults affecting stitch calculation have been corrected, in particular with underlays and changeovers to the cover stitches.
 - The font preview is no longer shown immediately when the parameter dialog is called.
 - If the used font is not present in the system (e.g. reference data are from another EPCwin), a message to this effect appears on the screen.
 - If needle 0 is set, an error message to this effect is issued.
- **Programs 10 and 14**
 - A contour in programs 10 and 14 can now also be closed with [Shift] for start point round and with [Shift] + <Left><Left> for start point square.
 - Program 14: There is now better adherence to contours during stitch filling if additional stitch paths have to be inserted in order to switch to the correct side.
 - Error messages are now issued in the event of loops and contour overlaps in program 14. In addition, the error is marked.

- **Programs 31 and 13 chain-up blocks**
 - Manual jump stitches in the block now remain as jump stitches. Previously they were converted to stitch points.
- **Cross boll**
 - It is now possible to set the stitch distance again in the parameter set.
- **Parameters**
 - If a stencil or stitch sequence is edited when a design is open, the opened design is now no longer closed when editing is concluded.
 - When working in the parameter editor, the fault arising in certain cases of all stencils being drawn on top of each other has now been corrected.
- **Needle design/head selection**
 - Long delays no longer occur after selection when using needle designs and head selections.
 - The *View* function now operates correctly in the on-screen dialog for needle designs and head selections if one or more entries in the design column is selected.
 - If a needle design is selected, the needle design concerned is now copied into the design under another number, if the number already exists in the design but refers to a different needle design from the one selected. The same problem has also been corrected with head selection, stencil and stitch sequences.
 - Numbers in the 1000 - 1999 range are now included when a needle design number is allocated automatically.

Point/Corner/Straight Line

- **Selection**
 - If you go back from [3] [5] marker ([3] [6] object) to [3] [1] when determining the type of selection in the editor, the object/marker filter is automatically deselected again, in other words you are returned to single selection.
 - The stitch list now shows the number of the current stop, with the exception of multi-colored designs in schiffli.
 - The icon for program type is now displayed correctly in the selection list. It always shows the program type for the following selection line.
 - If the editor is called with [F6], the first stitch is now preselected. This allows a special function to be edited with [F12] or the [comma key] directly in the number pad as well.

- **Satin stitch**
 - If a corner stitch direction marker is clicked on in the editor, the relevant corner reference point of the contour is also moved at the same time.
 - In the case of center lines, the first reference points of the contour can now also be deleted without the object width changing.
 - The software no longer crashes in satin stitch with center line if the miter corner is switched on with a stitch direction point (not center line reference point).
- **Program 20 step-lines**
 - The end point is automatically moved as well if it is positioned at the beginning or end of the contour and this contour point is moved. When entering the end point the cursor color changes to green if the cursor is approaching a contour end.
- **Program 34 TrueType monogram**
 - When resolving a monogram object (34), the envelope function is taken into account.
 - All underlay parameters of a resolved object can be adjusted, also the parameters of a miter corner.
 - When an object is resolved, the contours are converted correctly.
 - The selected envelope function remains in place after a density change with Global Edit as well.
 - The stitch distance of the object is now shown correctly in the editor assistant.
- **Program 12 cross-stitch**
 - The entered cross path in program 12 is now also displayed directly in the main editor [F6], so that it can be selected reliably.
- **Programs 31 and 13 chain-up blocks**
 - The block number used is now displayed again in the object editor assistant.
- **General**
 - When inserting a point in a contour, a corner is now added directly if the insertion point is located between two corners. The same applies to straight lines.
 - If a drawing object is deleted, the reference lines of the object are now not deleted at the same time. Consequently, these lines are still available to use again.
 - After a new design parameter set number has been entered, it is now no longer necessary to confirm it again with *OK*.

• **Head selection**

- A repeat jump can now be edited, whereas previously it was deleted instead.
- If the head selection has been modified, the associated repeat jump is now calculated and verification requested.

Block data

- With 'load block' the last stitch in the design is now no longer moved at the same time. An additional stitch is inserted if the loaded (copied) block is moved by more than $\frac{5}{10}$ and the first stitch in the block is an insertion point.
- If a block is deleted or the loaded block is removed with [ESC], the last special function / the last marker before the block remains in place.
- If two objects are only separated by a manual stitch and the second object is selected with [3] [6], for example, this block can now be deleted correctly without generating a data structure error.
- The problem with 'shift block', whereby blocks were not shifted correctly after trimming or a needle change followed immediately by an automatic program, has been remedied.
- If the embroidery sequence in the film strip is altered, this can now be confirmed with <Right> as well.
- Box now rotates counter-clockwise (in a mathematically positive direction) when the numerical input function [F11] is used.
- When [F11] is pressed in the box, the point of rotation is now taken into account even if the box only contains drawing lines.
- Point of rotation in the box
 - The point of rotation is now shown as a target.
 - The point of rotation can now be placed deliberately with [Shift] (grid, approach help line).
- Copy/save block: If a block was distorted/mirrored before saving/copying, the objects it contains are now calculated and/or resolved.
- After distorting/zooming the stitch direction markers are now trimmed on the outer contour.
- The problems in the object editor that occurred because an end point was not inserted in objects with program 20 when reading blocks created with EPCwin version 2.5 and below have now been remedied.

Contour

- Closing a contour is now supported in the straight-line function [4] [3] as well.
- Changes to arc contour definition mode [4] [4]
 - If contour input is interrupted the unfinished contour is now no longer left behind as a green line.
 - [Delete] can now be used for deletion up to the start of the contour.
 - When one arc follows on from another, the join is executed as a corner with <Left><Left>. A smooth transition is achieved by a single click. The same applies when an arc is followed by a curve.
 - [F4] (contour mode) is now available only at the first point of the arc.
 - When [Backspace] is pressed during arc input, contour definition is now no longer blocked if the first point of the arc is deleted again.
- If the 'result OK?' inquiry is answered with 'No' when using a parallels function, you now remain in the input function for parallel spacing.
- With 'repositioning opening', types of contour point (curve, straight line and corner) are now transferred correctly.
- The function for defining contours has been reworked with regard to contour parts.
 - In drawing lines that are used to create a new contour (punch/design), a reference point is no longer added.
 - Part lines that are cut out for pasting track the original line more closely thanks to additional reference points.
 - A curve / corner is incorporated automatically when two part-lines are joined, depending on the included angle.
 - If, in contour definition, a line was accepted in its entirety by clicking on the first and last points of the original line, distortion occurred. This happened only if the original line had a small number of reference points. **Note:** If a line is to be accepted in its entirety, simply click on the line with [Ctrl] + <Left> and confirm with <Right>.

Design

- If, when defining contours for drawing lines, the first point entered is deleted with [Delete], the program now no longer switches to the object editor of the last drawing object.
- **Geometry**
 - A joining point is now applied to the objects.
 - Stabilization points are not required with full circle as this is closed round.
 - With arc the number of points now depends on the included angle (usually lower).
 - In the case of default input with [Return] or <Right>, [Shift] is now supported for approach.
- In the case of drawing stitch direction markers, the corners that are to be approached are now marked permanently in color.

Schiffli Design

- The cut bored hole is now calculated more cleanly during the changeover from arc to straight line.
- The proportional size change was canceled with [Shift] + [Cursortasten] only in programs 20 and 23. [Shift] did not work in programs 21, 22 and 24. Proportional size change is now canceled in all 5 programs with [Shift]. **Caution:** In programs 20 and 23, releasing [Shift] no longer switches over to square. The current proportions are retained.
- The preview in the design parameter sets no longer disappears if you click onto the preview field.
- Crashes no longer occur when an older design is loaded with a drawing object (program 24, sloping grid).

Link image

- The link is now confirmed with <Right>. Press [Delete] to delete the link marker.
- The *Next link* function presets the correct default position for the previously linked image, in other words if you are linking from bottom to top, the default position is reset to bottom and not, as previously, to left. This now allows several images to be linked in succession.

Design manager

- With *Create Directory* the number of the design that cannot be correctly incorporated in the new directory is output.
- When converting from schiffli to multi-head designs, drawing objects are now converted correctly.

Input / Output

- Reading Lässer data: If the maximum number of special functions is exceeded, reading in the design is terminated. Afterwards the number and distribution of special functions is displayed.
- ZSK code: Output now also supports stop instead of needle change.
- The problem within the print preview, whereby the image could not be adjusted although present in the design, has now been resolved.
- The size of a dxf design is now transferred correctly when read in.

General

- The drawing speed of the reference data has become faster.
- In the overview window only reference data are now drawn if stitch data or parts thereof are deselected. This also helps to accelerate the display refresh rate.
- With 'move grid' in a design with head selections, the position of the first head is now marked by two yellow vertical lines.
- The legibility of the head numbers specifically for designs with head selections has been improved.
- In repeat view, reference data are now drawn correctly ([2] [*] [4], [2] [*] [5], [2] [*] [8], [2] [*] [9]).
- Additional data structure errors are correctly automatically. If automatic correction is not possible, the error is displayed in the editor. The area containing the error can be deleted with [Delete].