


## 5D™ PortraitStitch: Photos to Portraiture

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**Modules: 5D™ PortraitStitch from the 5D™ Embroidery Suite Software**






*Turning photos into embroidery can be a fascinating endeavor. 5D™ PortraitStitch  has unique features that transport your treasured photos into a distinctive style of stitches similar to tapestry or free-motion thread painting.*

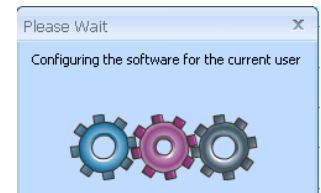
*Explore some tools in 5D™ PortraitStitch and get some tips for transforming photos into stitches.*

### Adjust Settings in 5D™ Configure

1. Open **5D™ Configure** .
2. Click the **Utilities** tab. Click **Reset All Modules**.
3. Click **OK** to the message, '**All modules will be closed and reset to their default settings**'.
4. When you see the message, '**Please confirm that all modules except 5D™ Configure are now closed**', ensure no other modules are open in the background. If they are, click on the module(s) in the background, and close after saving any work that might be in progress. Click **OK** to the '**All modules will be closed**' message when you have verified all other modules are closed.
5. Click **OK** to the message, '**All modules are now reset to their default settings**'. *Resetting the Modules will make all menus appear as they first installed, will reset all browse windows to their default size and folder, and will make the Control panels and toolbars reset to default. No changes will be made in custom settings such as MyThreads, MyMachines, or MyHoops.*
6. Click **OK** to close **5D™ Configure**.

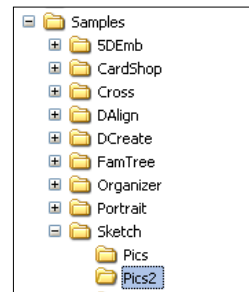
## Open the 5D™ Embroidery Software

7. Open **5D™ Embroidery** .
8. A message will appear asking you to **Please Wait, Configuring the software for the current user**, because you reset all the modules to their default installation configuration.
9. Click **5D™ PortraitStitch**  in the **QuickLink Toolbar**.
10. Click **View Picture**  in **Load Picture Wizard – Choose Picture**.



## Select and Prepare a Photo

11. Browse to **Documents\5DEmbroidery\Samples\Skinch\Pics2**. Click **OK** to see the **Thumbnails**. Select the last picture in the top row, **Cammie In The Grass**. The Picture Viewer will close automatically, and the image will load into the Preview window in the Wizard.  
*Note: If the Sample files are not visible, cancel the Wizard, and open 5D Sketch from the QuickLink Toolbar to activate its Sample folder.*




12. Click **Next**.
13. No Rotation is needed in **Load Picture Wizard – Rotate Picture**.
14. Click **Next**.

## Crop the Background for more Detail

15. In **Load Picture Wizard – Crop Picture**, click and drag the blue corner handles to resize the box and crop away most of the background, leaving Cammie's head and shoulders with a bit of background, as shown.  
You can make the select box a bit taller than wide in this step of the Wizard.



The box will automatically move inward toward its center as you size it, but you can put the cursor in the center and then click and drag to place it in position around Cammie's head as shown.

Use the Zoom In  tool from the Zoom toolbar, as you may more easily define the selection when zoomed closely.

16. When the Crop Box is sized and moved into position, click **Next**.

## Use or Remove the Background

17. In **Load Picture Wizard – Remove Background**, tools for erasing the background area are useful if you don't want to turn the background into stitches. For some portraits, you'll want to erase the background area to lend more emphasis to the face. For Cammie, we'll **leave the background** in place.
18. Click **Next**.

## Picture Options

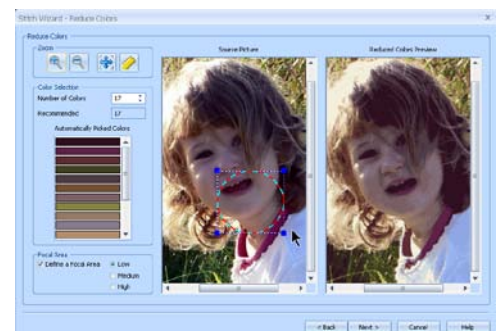
19. In **Load Picture Wizard – Picture Options**, Autolevel is automatically selected. Autolevel improves brightness and contrast in most photos, and can be used to bring out the color in underexposed pictures. In some pictures, however, Autolevel lessens the quality and may be better if unchecked.
20. Leave the **Check** in **Autolevel**.
21. Select **Next**.

## Choose Embroidery Type and Size


22. In **Stitch Wizard – Choose Embroidery Type**, select **Create Color Portrait Embroidery**.
23. Click **Next**.
24. In **Stitch Wizard – Design Size**, select **Custom** in **Orientation**. Custom will allow you to specify the finished size of the portrait.
25. In **Enter Design Size**, leave a **Check** in **Proportional**.
26. Set **the larger dimension, Height or Width**, to **149mm**, to create an embroidery which will fit a 6" (150mm) square hoop. The alternate dimension will automatically calculate to be proportional.
27. Click **Next**.
28. In **Stitch Wizard – Fit to Design Size**, you have another opportunity to crop the image, but the crop will change proportionally in height and width. Click **Next**.

## Adjust Colors and Select a Focal Area

29. In **Stitch Wizard – Reduce Colors**, the **Source Picture** on the left is the **original photo**. The Reduced Colors Preview on the right shows how the embroidery will appear when stitched, and is the most accurate representation you'll see in the Wizard, as the 3D Preview at the end of the Wizard has many jump stitches and looks more patchy than it will actually stitch.
30. In **Focal Area**, check the box by **Define a Focal Area**. Select **Low**.
31. Click and drag the Focal Area selection box smaller by a corner handle. Click and drag the selection box to different areas of the face, and note how the



Reduced Colors Preview picture updates and changes how the stitches are formed.

32. Click **Zoom In**  from the Zoom tools in **Stitch Wizard – Reduce Colors**, and click and drag to zoom closer on the face. You'll be able to see the stitch areas within the face more accurately when zoomed in.
33. When you find a Focal Area where the stitches appear smooth and attractive on the Reduced Colors Preview, click **Next**.

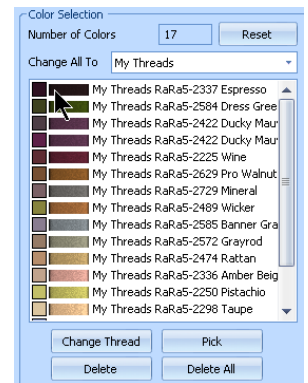
## Select the Exact Threads You Will Use

34. In **Stitch Wizard – Choose Thread Colors**, click the drop-down menu by Change All To, and select your **favorite 40 wt embroidery thread**. Note how the Thread Color Preview changes to reflect the new thread palette.  
*Stitching your embroidery with the exact threads used in the designing process is critical to the success of the stitch-out!*

35. If you have listed all your personal threads in MyThreads, click the drop-down menu by Change All To, and select MyThreads.  
*You can also select any individual thread in the Color Selection list, and then click Change Thread, or Delete, to customize your color list.*

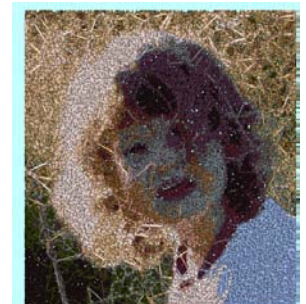
*Click Reset if you wish to return to the original threads in the Thread Range selected in the Change All To list.*

36. Check to **select Enhance Detail** to see the effect produced in Thread Color Preview. Enhance Detail is useful for fuzzy or indistinct photos, to help create greater detail in the finished embroidery.
37. Click to **uncheck Enhance Detail** as this photo has adequate detail to produce a portrait.
38. Click **Next**. You will be prompted to wait while the stitch preview is produced.





## View as a 3D Preview

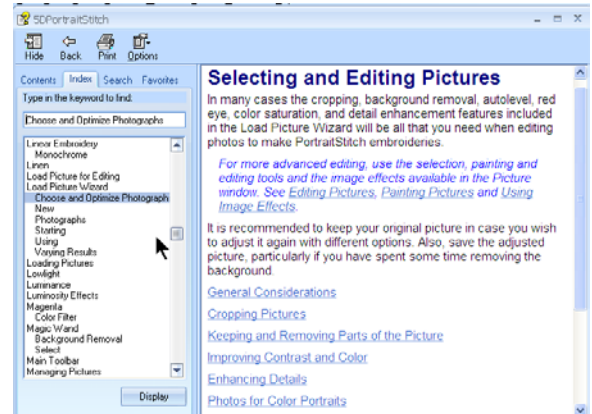
39. In **Stitch Wizard – Frames or Borders**, select **No Frame or Border**. You can easily create a border after the Wizard in complete, if desired. Click **Next**.
40. In the **Stitch Wizard – Design Preview**, the 3D Preview shows many jump stitches. However, the areas of the face are blotchy and dark, meaning the settings used for this particular photo didn't produce a quality portrait.
41. Click **Finish**.







## Help System has Tips for Photo Adjustments

42. Select the **Picture** tab in the upper left of the work area.
43. The Cammie in the Grass photo is dark, with too much contrast. Selecting a quality photo is the first step to producing a quality portrait.
44. Select **Help**, and then **Help Topics**. Select the **Index** tab.
45. In the box below Type in the Keyword to Find, type in **Optimize**. Double click to select **Load Picture Wizard** in **Optimize Photos** from the list below, and references for preparing and optimizing images will appear at right.
46. Double click **General Considerations**. Here, you'll find general information about the type of photos that produce the best portraits.
47. Click the **Back** icon  in **PortraitStitch Help**. Double click on other topics for more information. All topics may be printed.
48. Click to **close**  the Help system.



## Start a New Portrait, with No Autolevel

49. Click **New** .
50. In **Load Picture Wizard – Choose Picture**, click **View Picture** .
51. Browse to **Documents\5DEmbroidery\Samples\Sketch\Pics2**. Click **OK** to see the Thumbnails. Select the last picture in the top row, **Cammie In The Grass**. The Picture Viewer will close automatically, and the image will load into the Preview window in the Wizard.
52. Click **Next**.
53. No Rotation is needed in **Load Picture Wizard – Rotate Picture**.
54. Click **Next**.

## Crop the Background for more Detail

55. In **Load Picture Wizard – Crop Picture**, as before, click and drag the blue corner handles to crop away most of the background, leaving Cammie's head and shoulders with a bit of background, as shown.
56. When the Crop Box is sized and moved into position, click **Next**.



## Use or Remove the Background

57. In **Load Picture Wizard – Remove Background**, leave the background in place.
58. Click **Next**.

## Picture Options

59. In **Load Picture Wizard – Picture Options**, Autolevel is automatically selected. Since Autolevel, which automatically adjusts tone and contrast, produced a blotchy dark skin tone in our first portrait, **uncheck Autolevel**.
60. Click **Next**.
61. In **Stitch Wizard – Choose Embroidery Type**, select **Load Picture for Editing**.
62. Select **Finish**. You will end in the **Picture tab**, ready to edit the image.


## Change the Photo Quality with Image Effects

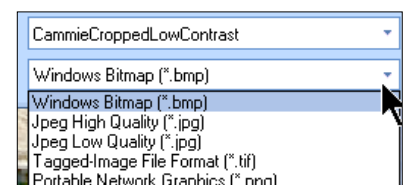
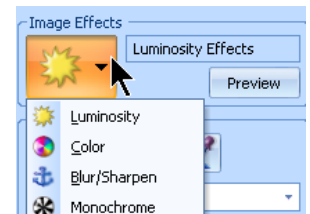
63. Click the drop-down menu on **Image Effects**. Here, you can globally adjust brightness, contrast or gamma, color hues, increase or decrease the ‘crispness’ of the photo, or change the image to black and white with Monochrome.
64. Select **Luminosity**.
65. Click **Preview**.
66. Click to uncheck **Autolevel**, **AutoContrast** and **Negative**.
67. In the **Gamma settings**, click and drag the slider left until the setting (previewed in the small box at upper right in Gamma) is **3**.

*Notice how much brighter the picture becomes, and how the Contrast has evened out for better skin tones.*


*Many times, photos convert into better PortraitStitch if we adjust to the point of ‘washing out’ many of the contrast details.*

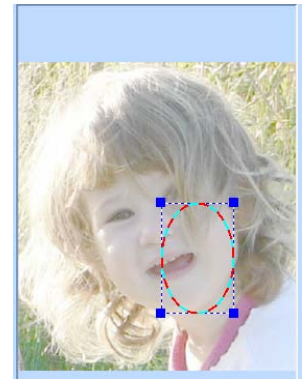
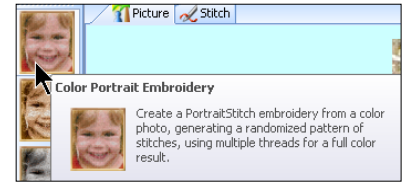
*However, for most photographs, you may need to experiment by changing the original photo one setting at a time, resaving as a new file, and running the edited image through the Wizard.*

68. Click **OK** to **Luminosity Effects**.
69. Click **Save As** . Browse to the folder of your choice. *In the Picture tab, Save As will save in a picture file format.*
70. Name the file **CammieCroppedGamma3**.
71. Select **your choice** of file type in **Save As type**. *Saving the prepared image will give you a head-start if you want to create another portrait from the same image, using a different style of stitches.*
72. Click **Save**.




## Create a New Portrait

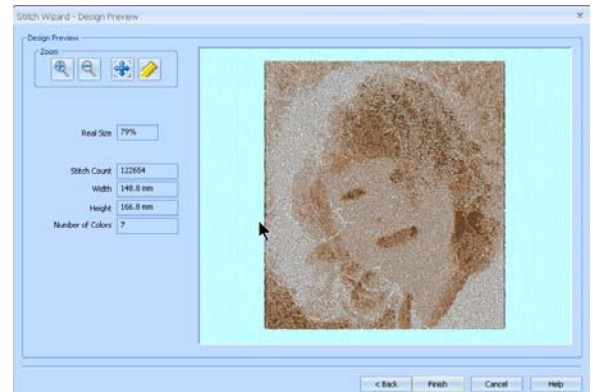
73. Select **Color Portrait Embroidery** from the menu at left.
74. In **Stitch Wizard – Design Size**, set **Orientation** to **Custom**.
75. In **Enter Design Size**, set the **wider dimension**, either Height or Width, at **149mm**. Leave a check by **Proportional**.
76. Click **Next**.
77. In **Stitch Wizard – Fit to Design Size**, you may fine tune the cropping if you wish.
78. Click **Next**.
79. In **Stitch Wizard – Reduce Colors**, select **Define a Focal Area**, with the setting at **Low**, and then try placing it in different positions around the face until the areas representing skin tones look balanced.  
*Note: To achieve a nice quality stitch-out with 5D™ PortraitStitch, be prepared to experiment with settings, reshape and move the select area for Focal Area, and ‘play’ with the Wizard’s options. The time spent will be worth the final result!*
80. Click **Next**.
81. In **Stitch Wizard – Choose Thread Colors**, click the drop-down menu in Change All To, and select your **preferred thread**, or use **MyThreads** if applicable.  
*Note this Reduce Colors Preview has less than 20 colors. More color changes aren’t necessarily better in 5D™ PortraitStitch!*
82. Select **Next**.
83. In **Stitch Wizard – Frames or Borders**, select **No Frame or Border**.
84. Click **Next**. Allow the Wizard to produce the 3D **Design Preview**
85. Click **Finish**.
86. While in the **Stitch tab** at upper left, click **Save Embroidery** . Browse to the folder of your choice. Type in **Cammie** in the **File name**, and then click **Save**.



## One Final Portrait

87. Select the **Picture tab** at upper left.
88. Choose **Sepia Portrait Embroidery** .  
*When you cannot produce a nice portrait in color due to the mix of tones or the complexity of the image, you may be surprised at the difference when you use the Sepia Portrait Embroidery Wizard!*
89. Select **Custom** in **Orientation**, and then set **Width** at **149mm** in **Set Design Size**.
90. Click **Next**.
91. In **Stitch Wizard – Fit to Design Size**, click **Next**.
92. In **Stitch Wizard – Choose Thread Colors**, choose **Enhance Detail**.
93. Click **Next**.

94. In **Stitch Wizard – Frames and Borders**, select **No Frame or Border**.
95. Click **Next**.
96. In **Stitch Wizard – Design Preview**, the embroidery produced is a delightful vintage sepia tone!
97. Click **Finish**.
98. Select **Save Embroidery** . Browse to the folder of your choice.
99. Name the file **CammieSepia** in the format of your choice.
100. Click **Save**.



## Other Tips and Hints

- Studio photos generally are easiest to coax into PortraitStitch, as they have low contrast and few shadows.
- When choosing a photo, determine the level of detail you wish to express in the finished portrait. The original 'Cammie In The Grass' photo was a full-body image with lots of background detail, and a facial portrait became more challenging to capture when cropping so much of the original photo away. More adjustment was required to obtain good skin tones, and some detail has to be sacrificed to produce a nice stitch-out.
- Choose your fabric and stabilizer carefully. PortraitStitch is generally dense, though you can adjust the density to produce a lighter design in Stitch Wizard – Choose Thread Colors, before Finishing and saving your embroidery.
- Select firm woven fabrics for more dense portraits.
- Back with a firm stabilizer. Consider INSPIRA® Light and Tacky Tear-Away stabilizer, as it has a light sticky that helps prevent fabric slippage and bubbling during stitch-out.
- Open the 5D™ PortraitStitch User's Guide and complete the tutorials to learn more about some of the specialty effects, such as Color Tile Embroidery.
- Don't forget to visit [www.5DLearningCenter.com](http://www.5DLearningCenter.com) to learn more from the tutorials there, as well.