Tajima DG17

Release Notes

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the Tajima DG17 embroidery software solution. This is the latest in embroidery creation technology brought to you by Tajima Software solutions.

This document outlines the major differences between Tajima DG17 and the previous version. It is intended to be used in combination with the program user's guide or the online help. You can also access documentation under the Help menu or by pressing F1 key from within the program.

Tajima DG17 has many new features; note that some features may only be available in specific levels of the software.

Recommended Systems Requirements:

Below is a list of the recommended computer specifications if you plan to purchase a computer for Tajima DG17.

- PC with 64-bit 3.0 GHz Quad Core Genuine Intel Processor
- Microsoft Windows® 10 or Windows® 11 operating system (64-bit)
- 16 GB RAM
- 4 GB hard disk drive space available
- Mouse
- At least one Universal Serial Bus (USB) port (for attaching the security device)
- A LAN (Local Area Network) connection

Minimum system requirements:

- PC with a 64-bit 2.5 GHz (or faster) Quad Core Genuine Intel processor
- Microsoft® Windows® 10 or Windows® 11 operating system (64-bit)
- 4 GB RAM
- 1 GB hard disk drive space
- Mouse
- At least one Universal Serial Bus (USB) port (for attaching the security device)
- A LAN (Local Area Network) connection

Additionally, an internet connection required for access to PulseCloud services.

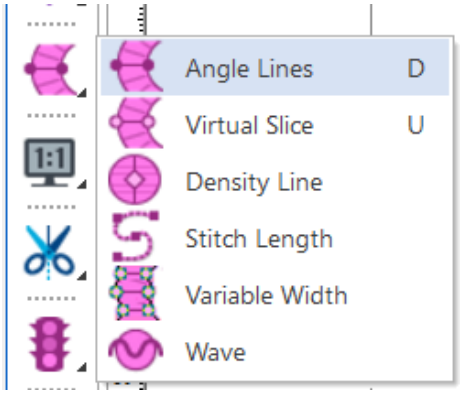
Important note for Windows 11 "Home" edition users: As installed, Windows 11 Home edition will be in "S" mode by default. In this mode, you are only allowed to install software that comes from the Microsoft store, so you will not be able to install Tajima DG17. To switch out of "S" mode, do the following:

- Open the Microsoft Store and navigate to the "Switch out of S mode" page.
- On this page, select "Get". Once you see a confirmation notification from the Microsoft store, you will be able to install DG17.

1 User Interface Changes

1.1 Toolbar "Expand Mode"

New functionality has been added to the fly-out toolbars, which will improve your ability to view and select tools easily. Clicking on any one of these toolbars (e.g., Text, Path Edit, Standard Digitizing, etc.) for an extended time (anything over one second) will turn on the "expand on hover" mode. In this mode, you only have to move the mouse over any other toolbar to expand it, so that all the tools it contains become visible. You can then click to select any tool on the expanded toolbar in the usual way.



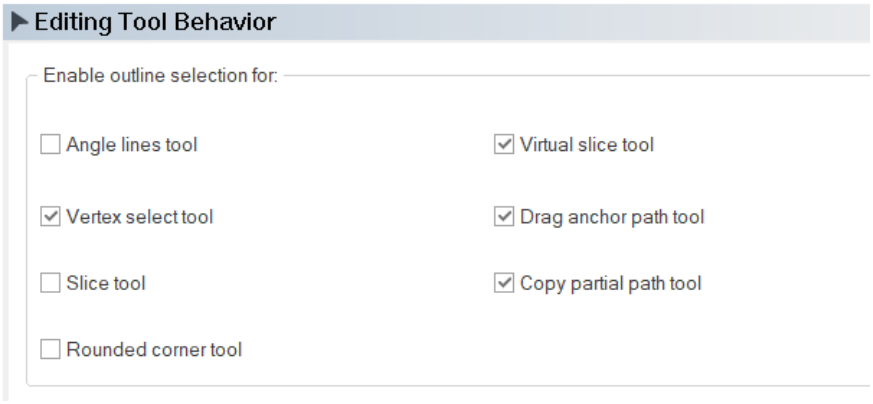
Product level availability: All

1.2 User Settings

1.2.1 Editing Tool Behavior – Tool Selection Options

The list of tools that can be used to select outline segments has been expanded; you can now select items with the Angle Lines, Slice, Virtual Slice, Drag Anchor Path, Copy Partial Path, and Rounded Corner tools.

All these tools will be enabled to select segments by default; however, if required, you can disable their ability to work as selection tools. To do this, open the User Settings dialog and select Environment—Editing tool behavior. On this page, you will see a series of check boxes for each of these tools; un-check the box corresponding to each tool that you want to disable.



1.2.2 Environment Setting - "Adopt needle setting"

There is a new setting on the User Settings–Environment page called "Include needle setting when pasting segment settings."

This setting affects the "Paste settings" functionality. When enabled (which is the default setting) the needle (a.k.a. thread color) setting is pasted into the new segment along with all the other "copied" settings. However, you can uncheck the box to ignore the needle number, pasting only the other segment settings.

1.2.3 Environment Settings – Anchor point size

A new option is available in the User Settings dialog that allows you to change the size of the Anchor points, to make them more visible. This setting is found in Tools–User Settings–Environment–Display points. You can choose small, medium, or large points.

1.2.4 Default to PXF Setting

A new setting in the User Settings–Environment page controls whether designs will be saved by default as PXF. Note that this setting will be enabled, by default, when you first open the software. If you disable the setting by un-checking the box, the file format the "Save As" dialog will default to will be whatever was the last format that you saved.

1.3 New Installation Options -Units, Fonts, and Density Setting

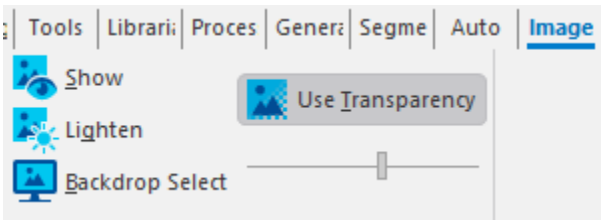
A new page has been added to the Tajima DG17 installation procedure. On this new installation page, you can decide which of the following will be the default behavior in the software:

- **Units**: Select either metric (mm) or Imperial (inches)
- **Fonts**: Hide old fonts (so that only new-style fonts will appear) or use both old and new style fonts.
- **Density**: Choose how the stitch density will be displayed – either absolute density or relative density (with relative density, the density is expressed relative to a set default density value).

1.4 Transparency option for Backdrop images

When you have a backdrop image loaded in the workspace, it is sometimes useful to make the image partially transparent while digitizing a segment or viewing the design in progress. To aid with this, a new control has been added to the Image tab on the Ribbon that controls the transparency of the current backdrop image.

Click on the "Use Transparency" tool and then adjust the slider to make the image more or less transparent. You can vary the transparency of the image between 100% (no image) and 0% (fully opaque).



1.5 Resequencing options on Right-click

The set of tools that allow you to change the sequence of the selected segment (or segments) can now be applied using the right-click menu. To apply them, select one or more segments, right-click and select "Resequence" and the option you want to apply. The resequence options are the following: Bring to the Start/End of Design, Move later/Earlier by 1, Resequence by Color, Resequence by Selection Order, and Resequence by segment number.

1.6 Batch Conversion

The **Batch Conversion** tool is a new DG17 tool that you can use to systematically convert files from one type to another. This tool automates this process, allowing you to convert a large number of files in one step.

Using the Batch Converter, you designate the folder with designs that you want to convert as the "Input" folder. Then, in the dialog, you check boxes to choose one or more file types that you want to convert to a new type; select *PXF, *DST and/or *TBF as the type to be "converted to." The Batch Converter then saves the converted files into a second folder that you designate (the "Output" folder).

Product level availability: Composer

2 Thread Charts & Palettes

2.1 Thead Chart Palettes

2.1.1 Rename Thread Charts & Palettes

You can rename existing thread charts and tables. This can be done by way of the Ribbon – Manage tab. Select Manage–Thread Charts or Manage–Thread Palettes to open the Thread Tables dialog. Then select the chart you want to rename and click the "Rename" button. This opens a dialog which allows you to change the thread table name.

If there are different chart names in multiple languages, the "Rename" dialog has an option for selecting the language, prior to renaming the chart.

Note: renaming the thread chart or palette in this manner does not change the file name of the chart in the thread database).

Product level availability: Composer

3 Design Editing tools

3.1 Improved Add Lock/Add trim functionality

3.1.1 Start/End Lock tool

The Start/End lock tool has been improved to make it easier to insert lock stitches at the start of segments. Previously, to add a lock stitch in the "start" position, it was necessary to go to the Properties tab or Segment setting dialog. Now, this can be done directly in the workspace using the Start/End lock tool. Select the segment and click on the "Add lock icon" – then, right-click to insert an end lock stitch, or left-click to insert a start lock stitch.

Note: The Start/End lock tool will always insert a "Line"-type lock stitch; to change the lock stitch to another type, this can be done in the Segment Settings–Connections settings.

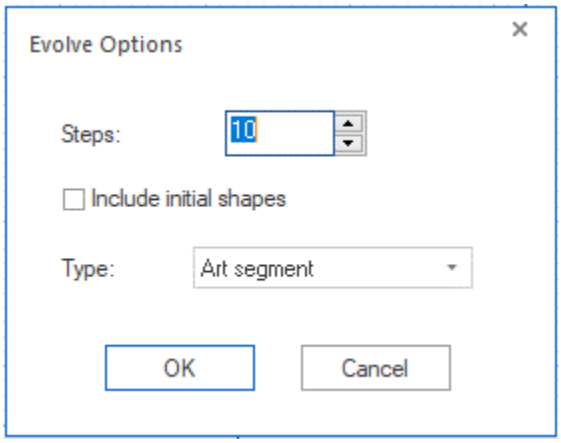
3.1.2 Add Trim at End tool update

This tool has been improved so that it is now easier to remove a trim from an embroidery segment. This tool now includes a "remove trim" function; when you select a segment that includes a trim at the end, you can right-click to remove it.

Left-clicking will add an end trim to a segment without one, just as in the previous behavior.

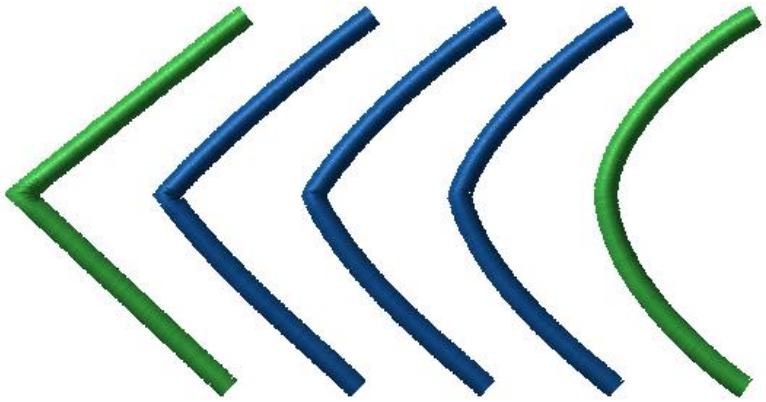
3.2 Evolve Tool

The Evolve Tool is an easy way to add segments to a design that are intermediate in shape between two selected outline segments. When you invoke this function, it opens a dialog the allows you to select the number of steps that are created between the two original segments.



There is also a field on the dialog that allows you to choose the segment type (i.e., artwork, run, steil, or appliqué) you want to apply to the newly-created shapes.

To apply the Evolve function, select the two segments, right-click, and select Shape–Evolve from the context menu.



Example of the "Evolve" tool applied to a pair of steil segments. The original segments are shown in green, and the created segments are shown in blue.
Note that in this case the "Include original shapes" option has been checked "on" in this case.

Product level availability: Illustrator Extreme

4 Segment Settings & Editing tools

4.1 Enabling Selection with other "Editing toolbar" tools

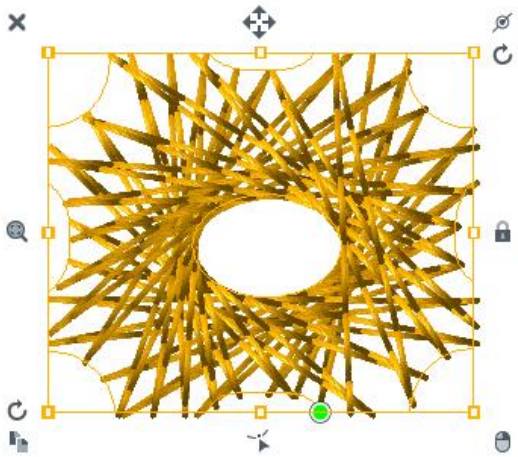
Previously, there were a small number of other tools that could be used to select segments, aside from the standard Select and Lasso Select tools; these included the Vertex select tool, the Virtual Slice tool, and others. In the new version of Tajima DG17, we have added the Drag Anchor Path, Copy Partial Path, and Slice tools to this list.

Depending on your own preferences, you can disable/enable any or all of these selection modes. To facilitate this, there is a new page called "Editing Tool Behavior" in the User settings dialog that lists all of these tools; simply check/uncheck the box next to the tool name to enable/disable to the specific tools you want to be able to use to select outlines.

To change these setting select the tools tab, then **User Settings**—**Environment**–**Editing tool behavior**.

4.2 Action Symbols on the Selection Frame

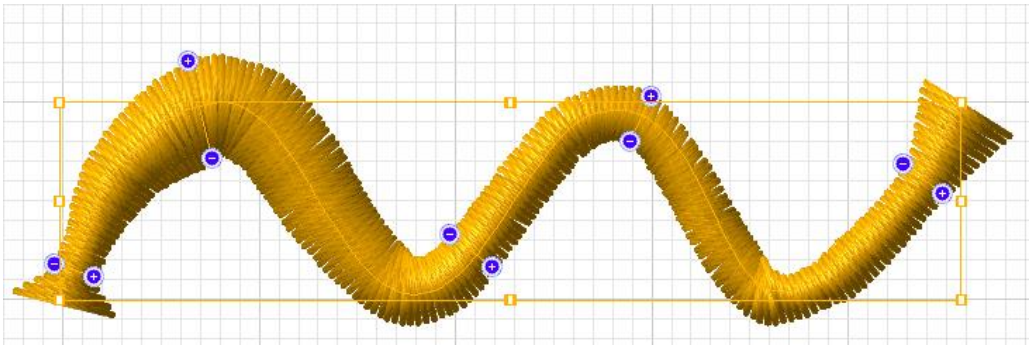
A new editing feature in Tajima DG17 are the "Action Symbols", which appear around the selection frame. Clicking on these symbols gives you instant access to some of the more commonly-used editing functions, including Delete, Vertex Select, Rotate, Group/ungroup, and several others. There are also Action Symbols that Lock the selected item(s) from further editing and to open the right-click menu. (For a complete guide to the function of the Action Symbols, see the User's Guide under "Design Editing in Outline Mode—Editing Segments—Selection Action Tools."



Note that "Action Symbols" are enabled by default; if you want to disable them, open the User Settings dialog, go the Environment—Display page, and uncheck the "Show action selection symbols" box.

4.3 Variable Width for Steil Segments

Variable Width  is a new tool on the Path Edit tool bar, which allows you to vary the width of the steil width at different parts of the selected segment. This is done by clicking and dragging in the workspace new width lines across the outline of the steil; these lines then define the width of the segment at this particular point. You can add two, three, or even more of these width lines to a segment to create interesting width effects.



Note: You will need to regenerate stitches (press G on the keyboard) to see the Variable Width effects appear in the workspace.

Product level availability: Maestro

4.4 Insert Trim Tool revision

The **Insert Trim** tool has been upgraded so that it can be used to both add and remove trims at the end of the selected segment. You can select the segment and left-click (as before) to add a trim at the end and right-click if you want to remove a trim at the end (if there is one).

Product level availability: Creator

4.5 New Setting for Satin Capped Ends

The Capped Ends setting is a feature of Satin columns which adds extra stitches to the end of satin columns. These "capping" stitches function to close the ends of a satin column, especially when the columns are in a raised text segment.

A new "Side" setting has been added to the "Capped Ends" segment settings page. This gives the user control over which end of the column the capped ends will be applied to; the options are First, Second, or Both. To apply this setting change, go to Segment Settings—Satin—Capped Ends and click in the "Sides" field see the drop-down menu.

Product level availability: Creator

4.6 Color Blend Option extended to new segment types

Previously, color blends could be applied only to a limited number of stitch types (e.g., satin path and Complex fill). This functionality has now been expanded to include some different segment types, specifically the following: Cross-stitch fill, Spiral fill, Cascade fill and Fur Stitch.

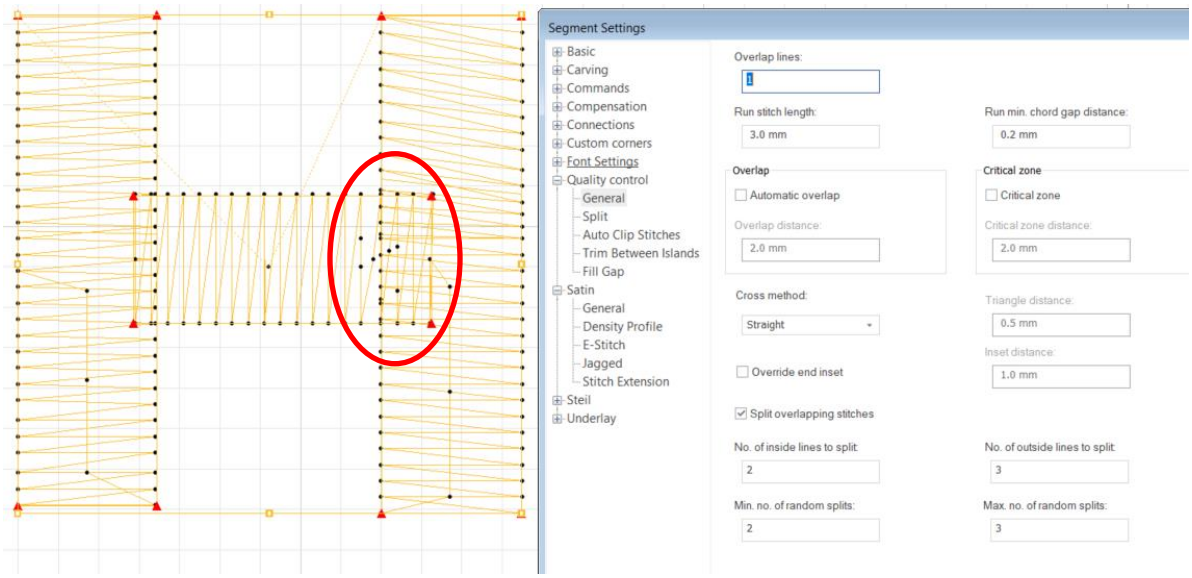
To apply a color blend, right-click on the embroidery select and select Auto–Color Blend from the context menu.

Product level availability: Illustrator Extreme or higher

4.7 Overlapping Stitch Split

There is a new group of Quality Control settings that apply to overlapping satin columns. These settings are intended to prevent gaps from forming at the end of satin column that may occur when long satin stitches are pulled aside by overlapping stitches. When "Split overlapping stitches" is enabled, some of the stitches close to the juncture will be automatically split into shorter stitches to prevent this "pulling" from occurring.

You can enable "Split overlapping stitches" in the Segment Settings–Quality Control–General page. When this setting is enabled, you can control the number of split stitches by specifying how many stitches "outside" (i.e., before the overlapped portion) and "inside" (i.e., under the overlapped portion) will be split.



Product level availability: Artist Plus

4.8 New Cross-Stitch Fill Setting—Spacing Profile

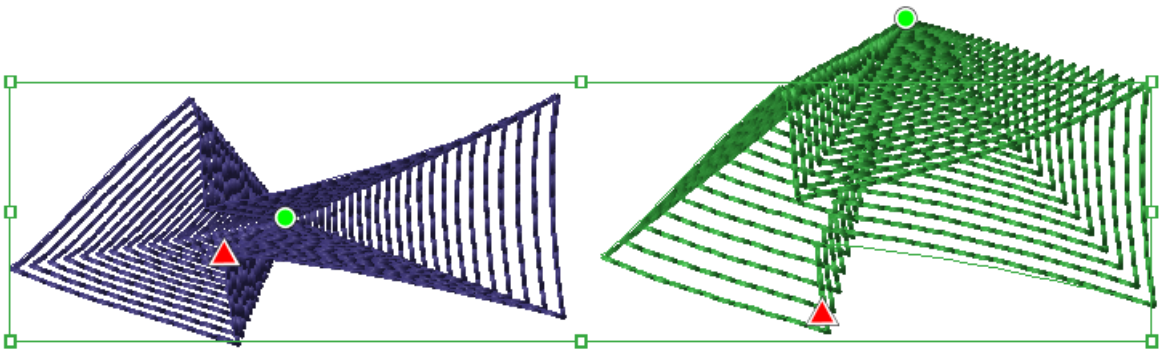
In order to facilitate the ability to use color blend with the Cross-stitch fill segment, a "Spacing Profile" setting has been added to the Cross-stitch fill segment settings. This setting is equivalent to the existing Spacing profile setting for complex fill, spiral fill, and other DG17 fill types.

Product level availability: Illustrator Extreme or higher

5 Digitizing Tools

5.1 Focus Fill

The Focus fill tool creates an embroidery consisting of a spiral run stitch that follows the contours of a given artwork path. What makes the Focus fill different from other contour-type fills is that you can move the starting point of the run stitch to a new origin. This allows you to generate interesting visual effects with these segments, for example, you can create long run segments with an illusion of depth.

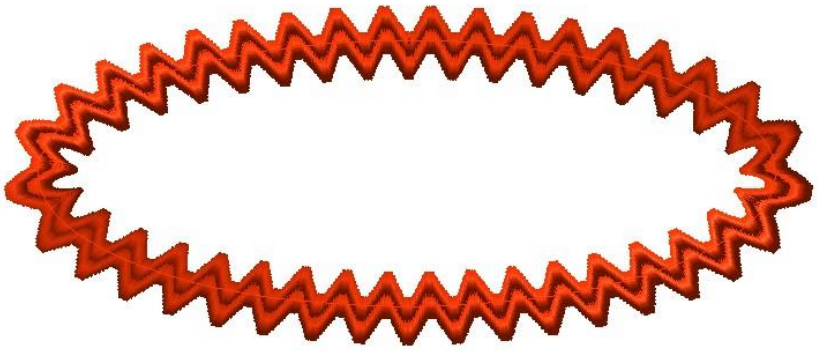


An artwork shape converted to Focus fill. The original shape is the blue one on the left, and the green segment shows the segment after the origin is moved away from the center.

Product level availability: Maestro

5.2 RickRack tool

The RickRack tool is a new embroidery generating tool on the Advanced Digitizing toolbar. This tool generates segments that replicate the look of "rickrack" ribbons. To achieve this look, the tool generates a line of double satin stitches in a wavy pattern, as in the example below.



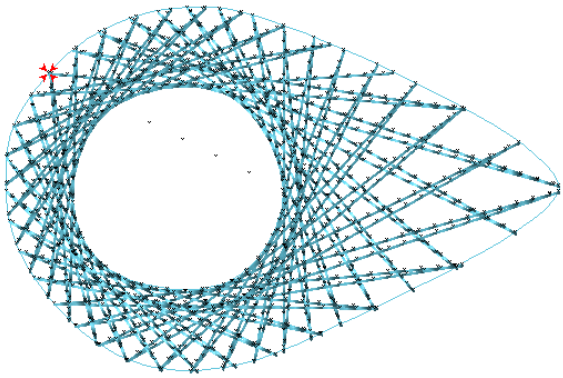
As well as the regular satin segment settings, the Rickrack segment type has its on tab on the Properties panel that allows you to set the segment's width and density.

Product level availability: Maestro

5.3 Sun Stitch tool

The Sun stitch tool is a new kind of embroidery creation tool that generates a loose fill consisting of a lattice-like array of criss-crossing run stitches. This fill type requires you to punch two concentric but separate outline segments. You can use the branching command (K on the keyboard) to create a single segment that will nevertheless consist of two distinct curves. See the user's guide for more details on this procedure.

Alternatively, you can create two concentric artwork shapes using the Pen (or other) drawing tool, select and join them with the Combine tool, and then use the Convert option to convert the segment to Sun stitch.



Important note: For this fill type to generate, it is necessary that the inner shape be convex all the way around; that is, it must have no flat areas or indentations. If not, you will see an error message when you try to generate stitches.

Product level availability: Artist Plus

5.4 Complete Segment with Mouse Wheel

The default behavior to complete a segment has been to press the "Enter" key on the keyboard. You can now, alternatively, press down on the mouse wheel to complete a segment, which makes it easier to digitize quickly using only the mouse.

Note: There is an option to use "right-click" to complete segments in the User settings–Environment page; if this option is enabled, clicking the mouse wheel can not be used to complete segments.

Product level availability: All

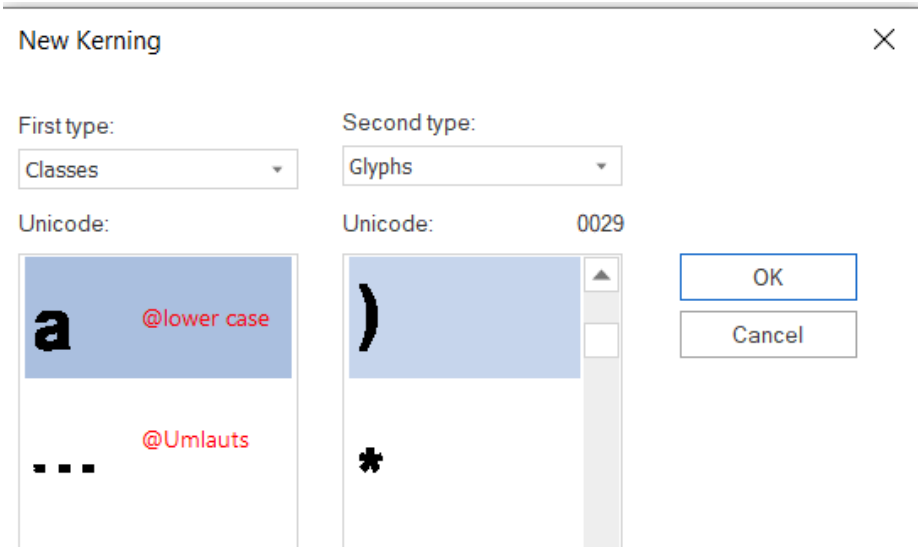
6 Text Tools & Settings

6.1 Class Manager for Visual Kernings

This is a new option to Font Manager–Visual Kerning that allows the user to group a set of letters into a "class" for the purpose of facilitating the kerning process. When a font is open, you can find the Class manager under the Kernings option.

To create a class, open a font, and select Kernings–Class Manager. This invokes a new dialog that allows you to enter the set of letters that you want into the class and then save it. (You can create any number of "classes", the important thing is that each must be saved with its own unique name).

Once a class (or classes) has been created, you can use it to adjust kernings in the font by selecting **Kerning–Visual Kerning Pair Adjustment**. This opens a new Visual Kernings dialog, in which you can select a letter (or other character) and then select a class, and then select the "kerning adjustment" between them.



In this way, you can apply the same kerning values between a selected letter and all letters in the class in a single step. It is also possible to apply the kerning pair adjustment to all the letters in two different classes.

Product level availability: Maestro

6.2 New Fonts

The following table displays the new fonts that have been added to Tajima DG17; note that these are now included as standard fonts.

Block Black

Edgy

Madison New

Meteoriod

Portfolio

In addition to the new fonts listed above, these previously optional fonts have now been added to the list of Standard fonts in Tajima DG17.

- Global
- Keep Calm
- Snow New

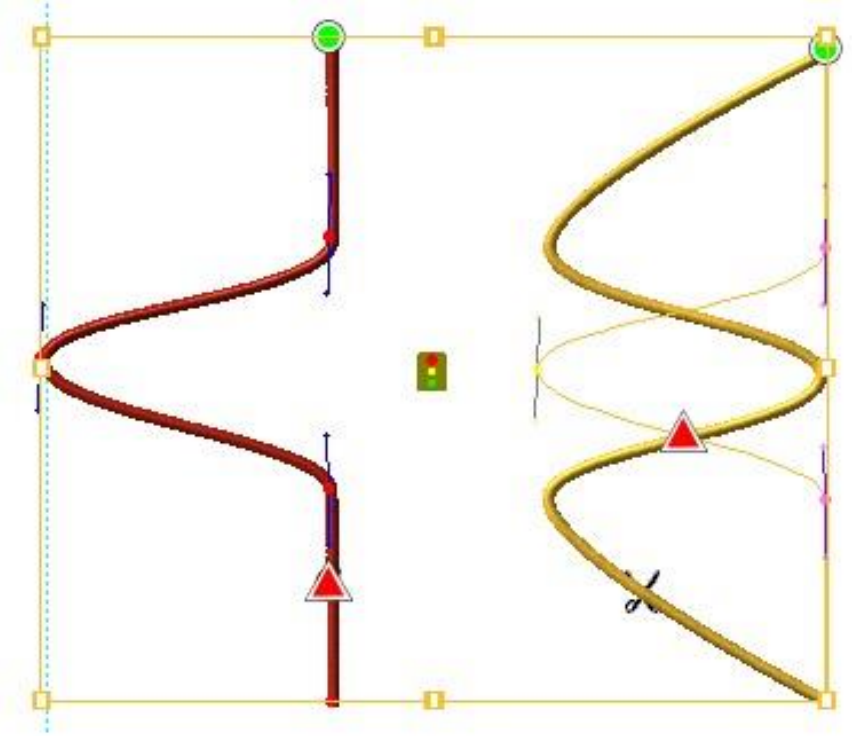
Product level availability: All

7 Outline and Artwork tools

7.1 Reverse Movement

There is a new option on the node editing menu called “Reverse Movement.” This function allows you designate some of the segments anchor points as “Lead” anchors and others as “Response” anchors.

Applying “Lead” and “Response” properties to anchors allow you to make interesting symmetrical changes in the segment, in the following manner: when you subsequently click, hold, and drag on one of the “Lead” anchors, it (and other lead anchors, if you designate more than one) will move in one direction, and all the “Response” anchors will move by the same amount, but in the opposite direction.



To assign the “Lead” and “Response” anchors, use the Vertex select tool to select an anchor point. Then right-click, and select Reverse direction from the context menu (for further instructions, refer to the “Tool Guide”.)

Product level availability: Creator and above

7.2 Slice tool Update

The Curved Slice tool has been improved, so that it will now function across multiple selected segments. This means that you can now "draw" just a single curve with the curved slice tool and it will slice all the segments underneath that curve simultaneously.

Product level availability: Illustrator Extreme

7.3 Anchor Point Editing (Vertex Select tool)

7.3.1 Select Multiple segments with the Vertex tool

Previously, when the Vertex select tool was active, it would only allow you to select one segment in the design at a time. Now, the tool allows you to select multiple segments in sequence by holding down the CTRL key while clicking on each segment.

7.3.2 Constrain Direction line changes to 15º

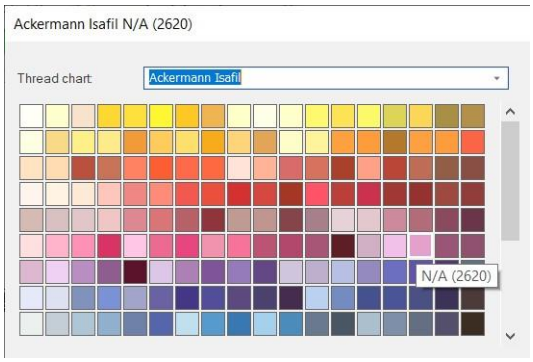
When an anchor point is selected with the Vertex Select tool, it is possible to adjust the curvature of the outline at the vertices by clicking and moving the control points at either end of the direction line.

Now, a new function has been added to the Vertex Select tool. You can constrain the change in the angle of the direction lines to increments of 15º; to do this, select the node as usual, but hold down the **Shift** key as you drag the direction line. This functionality makes it easier to set the direction lines to even angles like 30, 45, and 90 degrees.

7.4 Image Editing

7.4.1 Pick Color Tool

Pick color tool is a new tool on the Image tab of the ribbon. You can use this tool to add colors to the active thread palette that match colors taken from a backdrop image. When a backdrop image is loaded, click on the "Pick Tool"  icon to open a new dialog on top of the workspace.



In this dialog, select the thread chart you want to use from a drop-down list; at this point, these colors populate the dialog's preview window. Then, click on a color from a background image and the Pick Color tool will highlight the closest matching color in the selected thread palette. You can click on this color to add it to your design's active thread palette. In this way, you can easily apply colors from your backdrop to embroidery in the design.
For more details on this procedure, see "Working with Images–Pick Color Tool" in the DG17 user guide.

8 PulseCloud Features

8.1 Mass Upload Wizard

The "Mass Upload to PulseCloud" wizard has been added to make uploading of design files to the PulseCloud server go more quickly. This feature manages the uploading of as many files as you want to your PulseCloud storage, all in a single operation. The wizard allows you to select and upload multiple files, either from your hard drive (or other connected storage device) or from your own Librarian database.

Important note: Since the PulseCloud environment only accepts *.PXF (Pulse outline) files, any non-*.PXF files that you want to import will be automatically converted to *.PXF during the upload process. The "Mass Upload to PulseCloud" wizard tool may be found on the Ribbon—Processing tab.

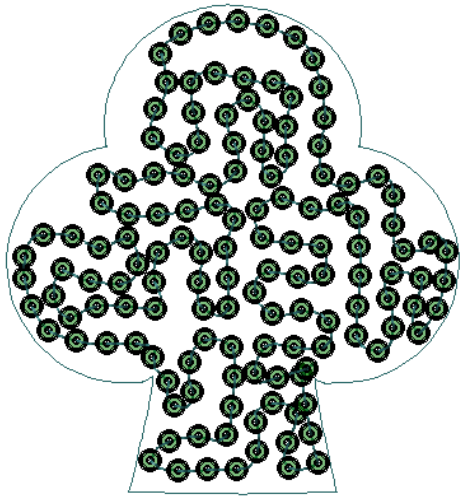
Product level availability: All

9 Tajima DG17 Options

9.1 Sequin Tools Updates

9.1.1 New Sequin Tool – Fractal Fill

This is a new tool for creating a light-density fill using sequins. The Sequin Fractal fill tool generates a sequin path that "wanders" randomly within the boundaries of the segment outline.



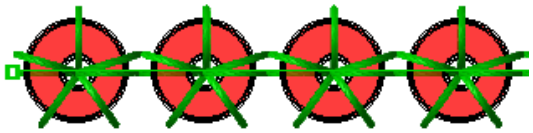
Note that, with this type of sequin fill, there are some properties that are distinct from the properties that apply to regular sequin fills; for example, there is a setting called "Random Factor" which determines how often the wandering path will change direction. You can also opt to have the path within the fill be "open" or "closed."

The Sequin Fractal Fill tool is an optional tool, which you will find on the Sequin toolbar when the option has been purchased.

Product level availability: Sequin Fill option

9.1.2 New sequin style

A new sequin style has been added to the list of available styles, style 20. This style is distinct in that is that there are five "legs" in the tack-down stitches.



Product level availability: Sequin option

9.1.3 Optimize connection stitch

The "Optimize connection stitch" setting can now be applied to sequin fill segments to reduce the stitch count. To apply this setting, go to Segment Settings—Sequin—General settings.

Note: This setting is only applicable if the sequin fill uses style 4, 6, 7 or 8.

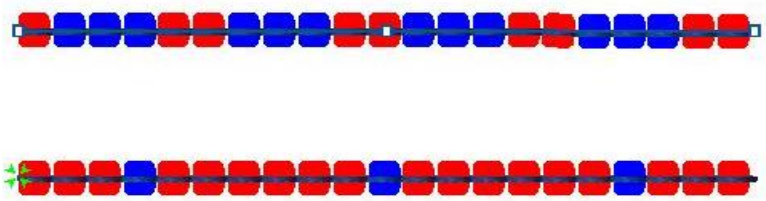
Product level availability: Sequin option

9.2 New Bead Tool Features

9.2.1 Bead Patterns setting

If you have the Bead Fill option enabled, there is now a "Bead Patterns" manager on the Ribbon–Manage tab. This tool allows you to create patterns of alternating "Bead 1" and "Bead 2" placements. (This is similar to the "Sequin Patterns" functionality that is available with the Sequin option.).

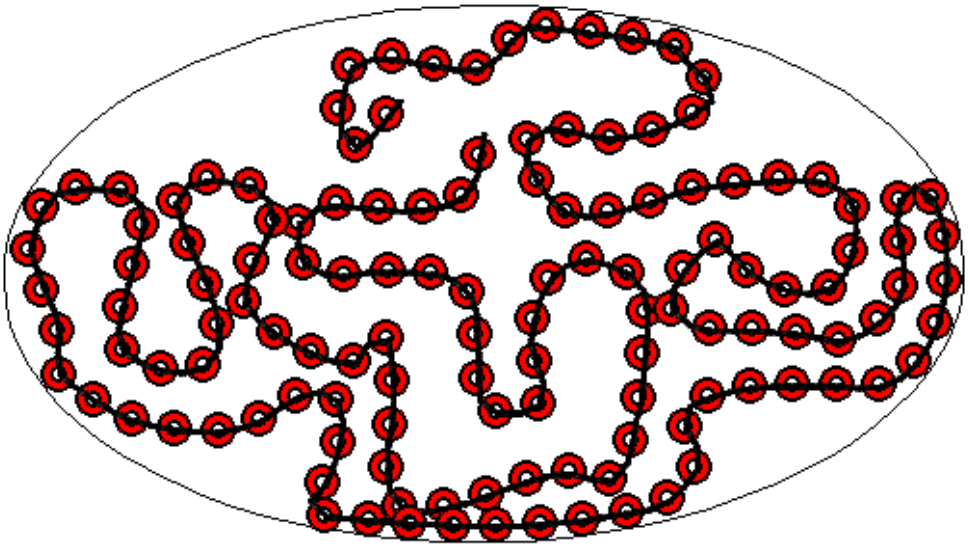
After you create and save a pattern, it can be applied to Linear (regular) beads by way of the Selection Settings – Bead tab – General settings – Bead Pattern.



Two examples of bead patterns with different numbers of repeats

9.2.2 Bead Fractal Fill

The Bead Fractal fill  tool generates fill consisting of a linear Bead segment that "wanders" randomly within the boundary of the punched segment. Mostly, the settings of a Bead Fractal file are like other Bead segments (bead style, spacing, color, etc.). However, it is also possible to adjust the degree of randomness of the Bead fill, which determines how often the line of beads will turn within the fill segment.



Product level availability: Bead fill option