

# Photo Stitch

## Palette 11

By Janice Schwartz

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Palette 11 contains 6 Photo Stitch auto digitizing programs: Photo Stitch 1 Color, Photo Stitch 1 Sepia, Photo Stitch 1 Gray, Photo Stitch 1 Mono, Photo Stitch 2 Color, and Photo Stitch 2 Mono. Photo Stitch 1 Color creates the most realistic photo art and is the program we will use in this tutorial. The other 5 programs create a unique effect, but do not create the realism that make these Photo Stitches truly photo art.

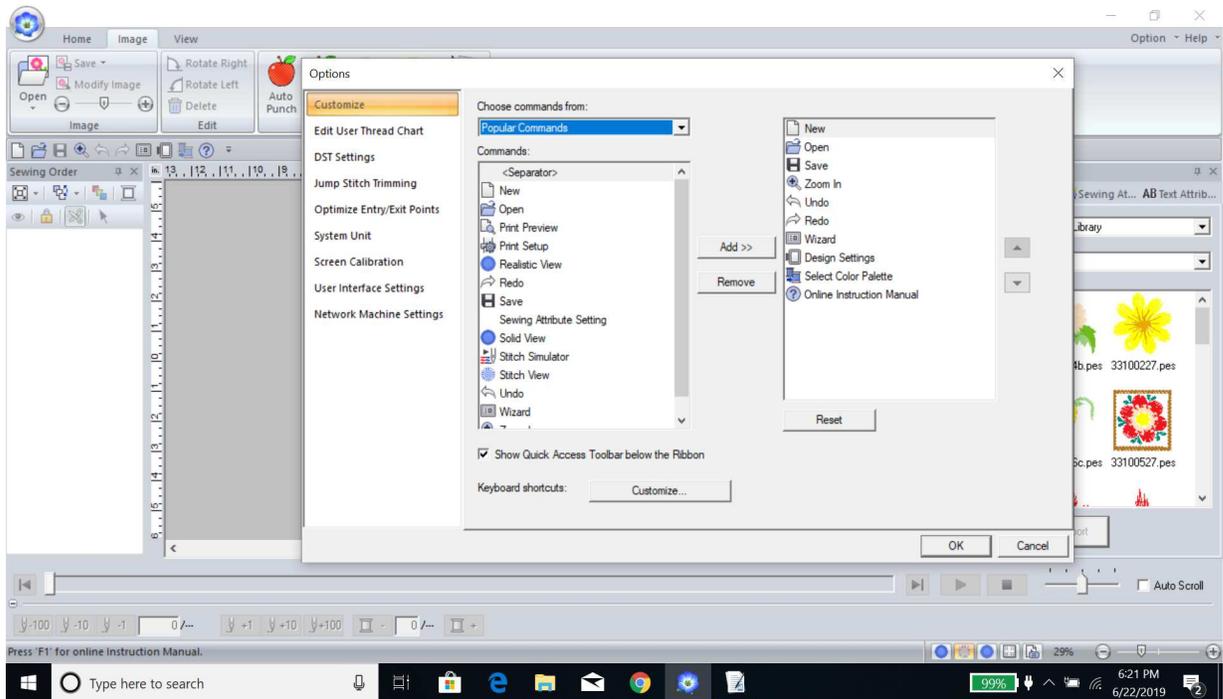
Let me start by saying, not every picture is going to work as a Photo Stitch. Here are some tips for picking the right photos to digitize.

- Use clear photos. Blurry photos will not work well.
- Use photos with detail and distinct colors. When looking for detail, think large, do not go overboard with tiny details. This will make the Photo Stitch too “busy”.
- The subject of the photo should be fairly large. Group photos do not work well, as there are too many small details.
- Work with your photo in an editing program. Cropping, resizing, and editing a picture can make a world of difference in how it will digitize.
- Scan your photo at 300-600 dpi to get the best clarity. 300 dpi works the best with my scanner.
- Use the photo editing options in Palette to enhance your photo. The sharpening tool will add depth to the photo. Lightening the photo will make more realistic skin tones.

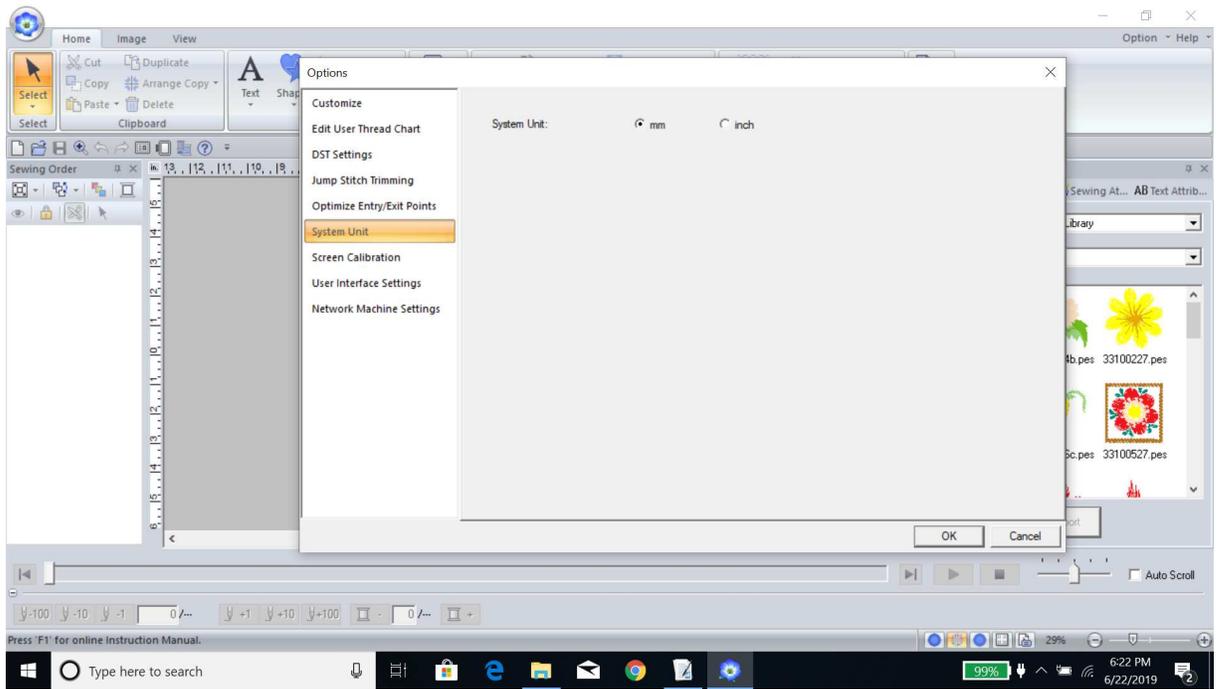
**WARNING!!** Photo stitch is very addictive and requires patience. Some of the designs take 5 or 6 hours to stitch, but others can take over 20 hours depending on the size. So relax, be patient, and enjoy creating these beautiful photo art designs!



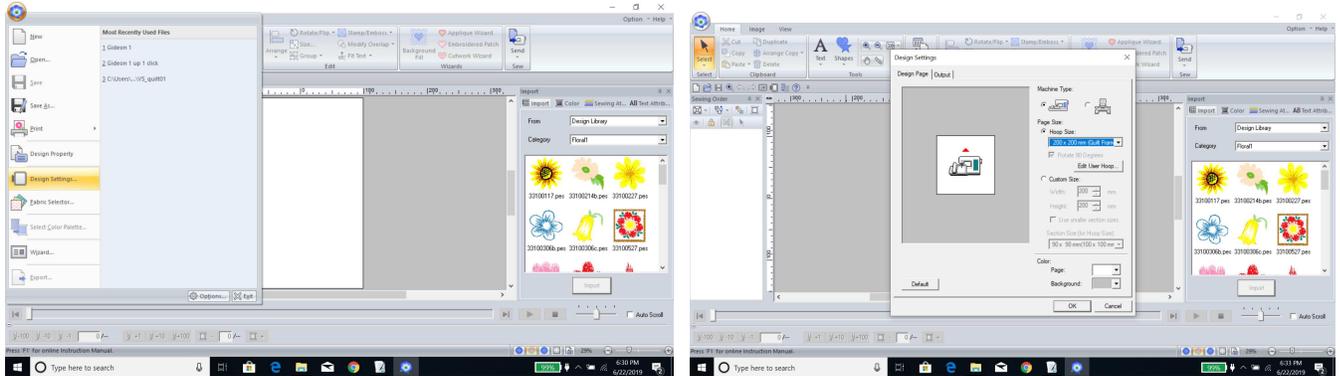
1. Let's get started! Open **Layout and Editing**. We will be digitizing in millimeters, so first we will set up the **System Unit** in the software. To do this, first click on the **Option Menu** (on the top right of the screen), then choose **Options**. The **Options Dialog Box** appears.



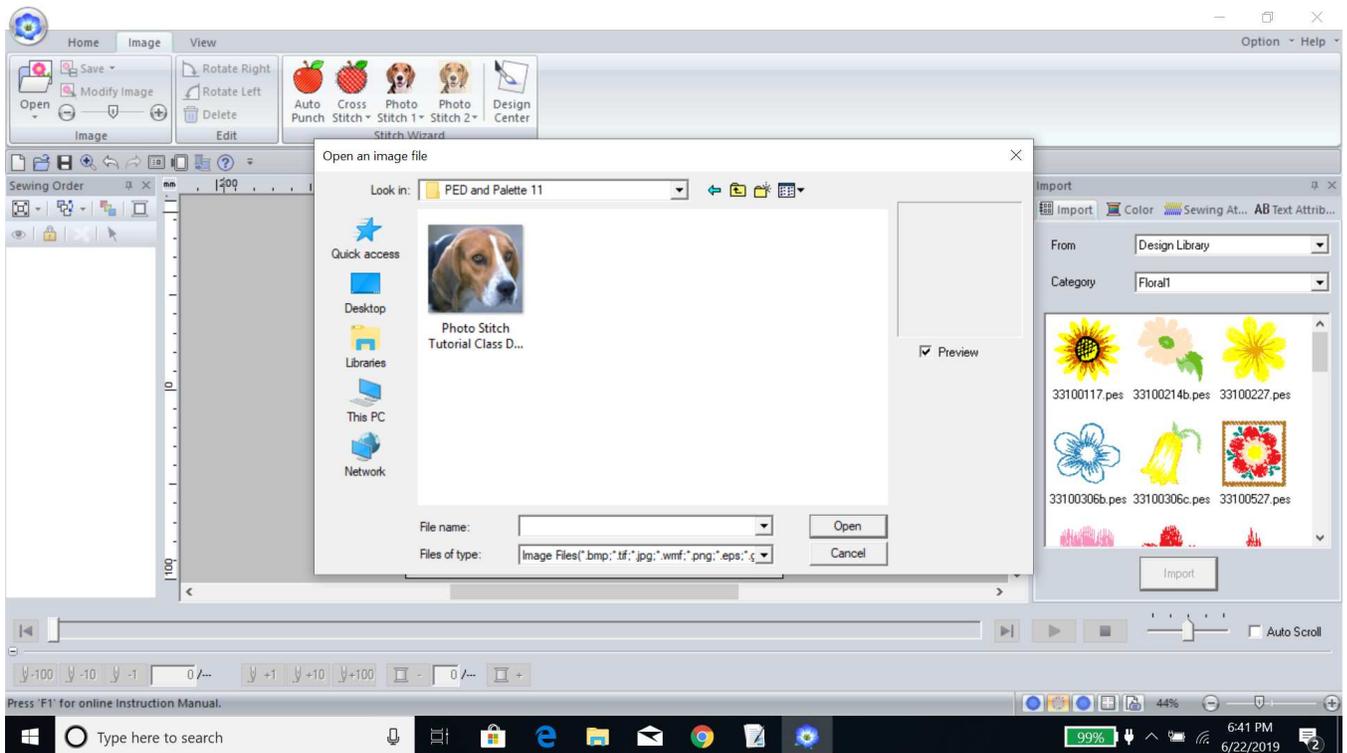
2. In the **Options Dialog Box**, select **System Unit** then millimeters (mm). Click **OK**.



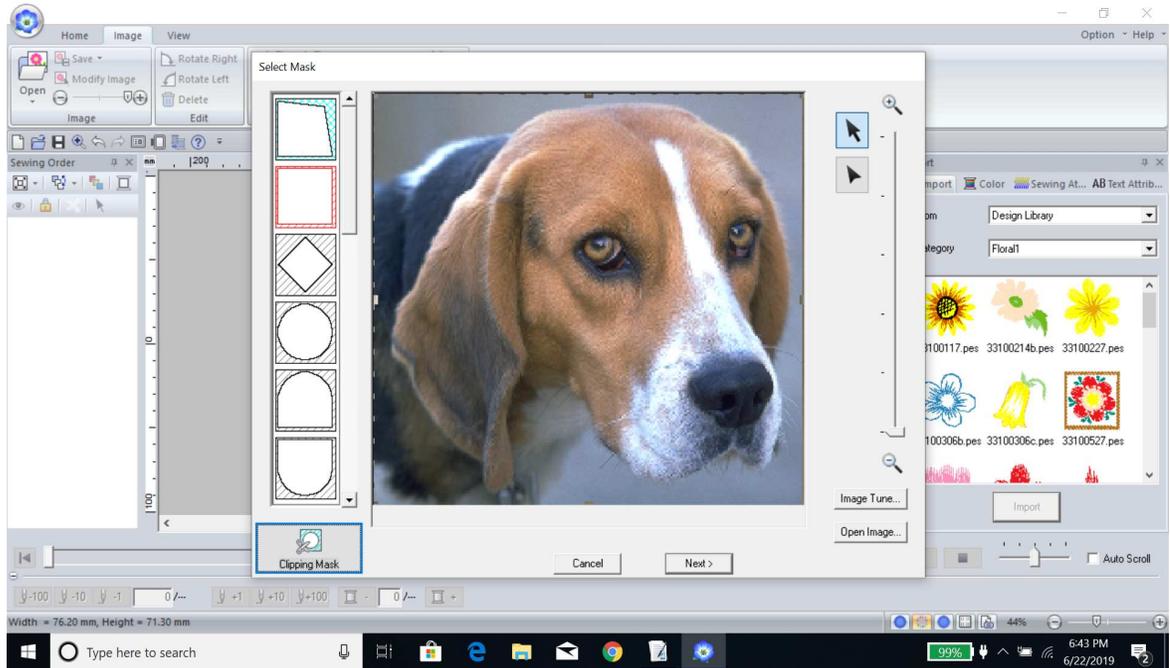
3. Next we will set up the hoop size. Click on the **File** (blue flower) button on the top left corner of the page. Choose **Design Settings** from the list. The **Design Settings Dialog** box appears. Choose the **Machine Type** (home or multi needle embroidery machine) and then the 200mm x 200mm (8" x 8") hoop. Click **OK**.



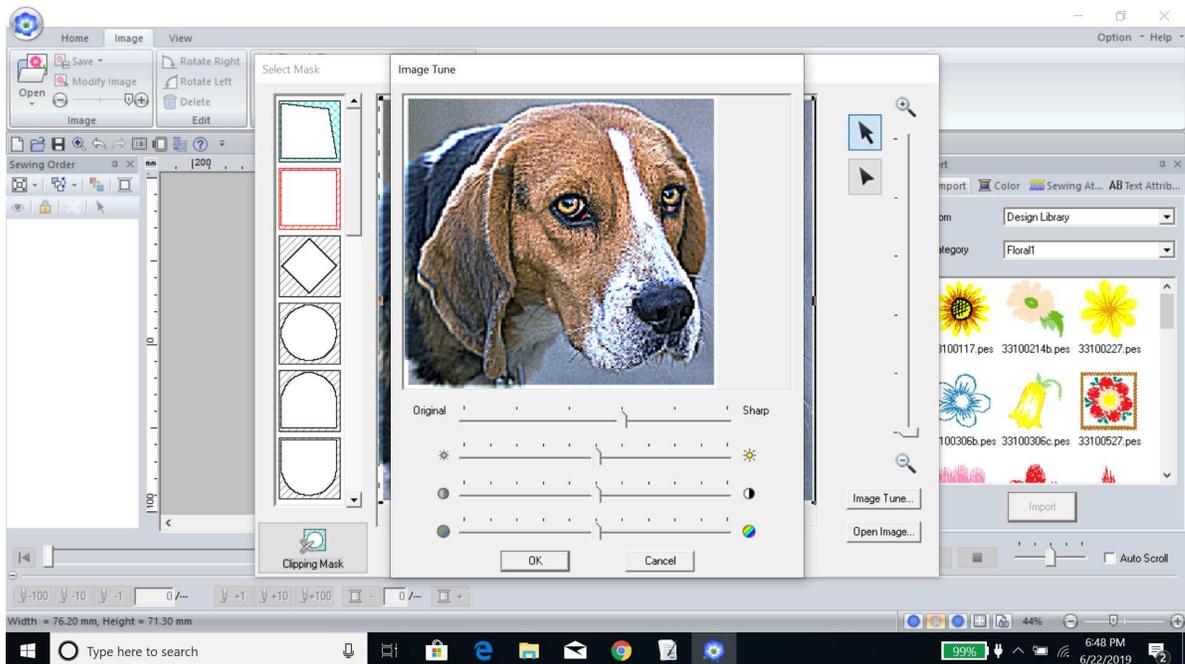
4. To start Photo Stitch, click on the **Image Tab**, then **Photo Stitch 1**, then **Color**. The **Open an Image File** window appears.



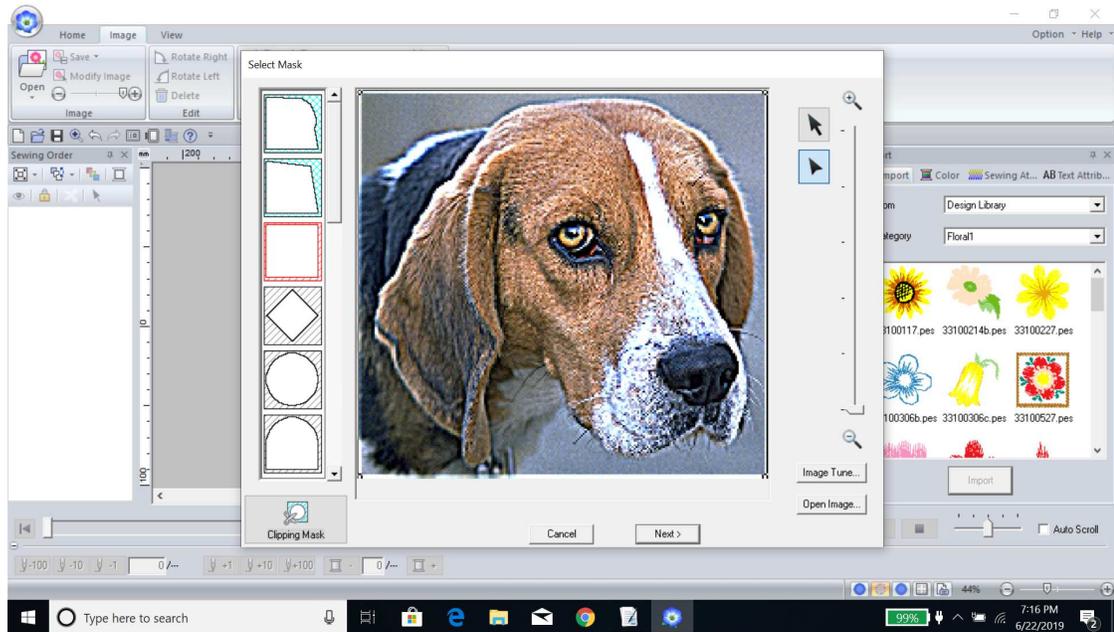
5. For this exercise, the photo **Class Dog** was included in the downloads for this tutorial. Navigate to the **Class Dog** photo, select it, and click **Open**. The photo now appears in the **Select Mask/Image Tune** window.



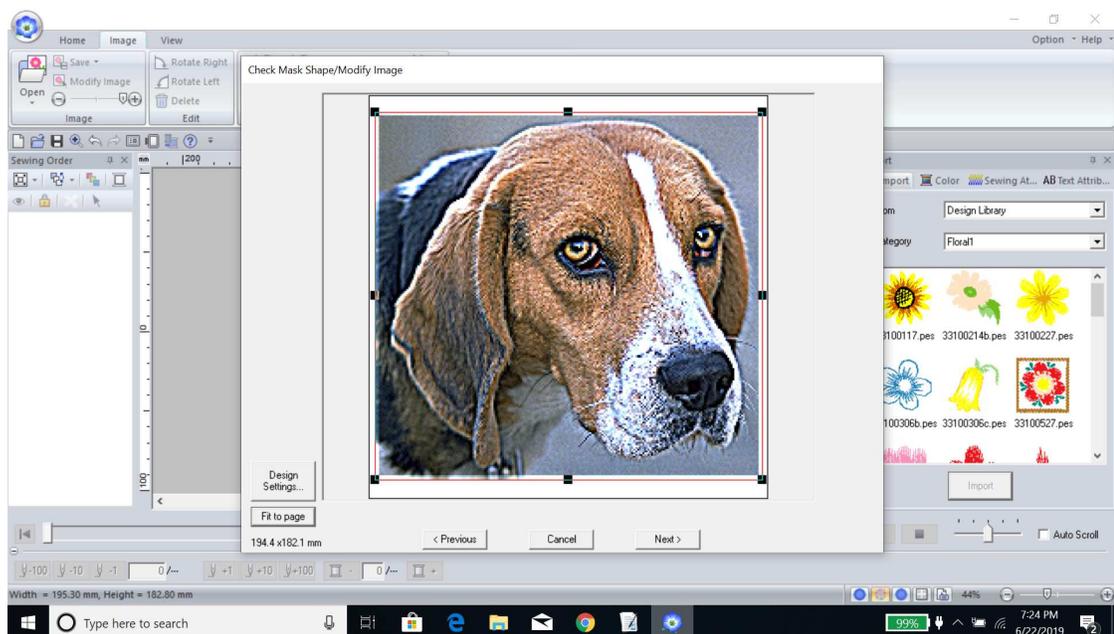
6. Click the **Image Tune** button. Slide the **Original/Sharp** slider up 3 clicks. The image will look strange, but the detail is needed. Adjusting the brightness, contrast, or color saturation can also be helpful, so this is the place to experiment. For this example, the brightness, contrast, and color saturation are fine at the default setting. When satisfied with the changes, click **OK**.



7. Now choose your **Mask**. There are several to pick from, but for this example we will use the **Square Mask**. You can also select the **Masking Tool** (the second arrow down on the right) if you want to outline the picture and cut out the background. The subject will be the only thing that stitches then. I design most of my Photo Stitches now with full backgrounds as they stitch flatter and add interest to the subject. But sometimes the background just needs to go. There are other mask shapes that will allow the background to stitch in unique shapes, so have fun here and experiment!



8. When you have chosen your mask, click **Next**. The **Check Mask Shape/Modify Image** window appears. Click the **Fit to Page** button. This will make the now masked image fill the page (or hoop area). If you are satisfied with the mask, click **Next**, if you want to adjust the mask, click **Previous**.



9. The **Photo Stitch 1 Parameters** window appears. This is where we will set the **Photo Stitch Parameters**. These settings really make or break the Photo Stitch. The following settings are what were used on this example.

**Sewing Option**-leave the slider at **Default** (middle)

**Run Pitch**- 2.1 mm (2.1-2.5mm)

**Conversion Priority**-Stitch Quality checked (under “Others”)

**Image Type**-Photo checked (under “Others”)

**Add Mask Outline**-select to create an outline/border around the Photo Stitch. Unchecked.

**Color Option**- Auto Select checked

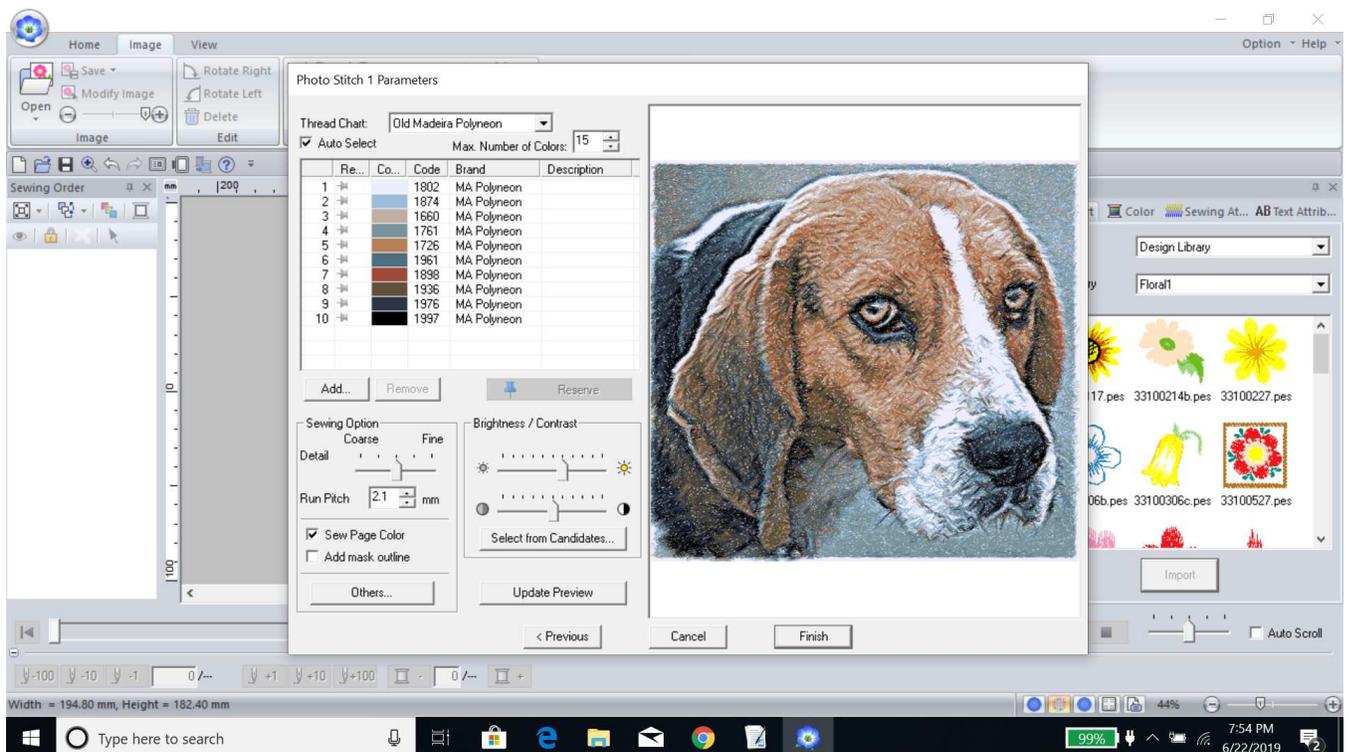
**Thread Chart**-choose a thread chart from the list. Madeira Polyneon was used here and works very well.

**Use as large a color palette as possible for the best results.**

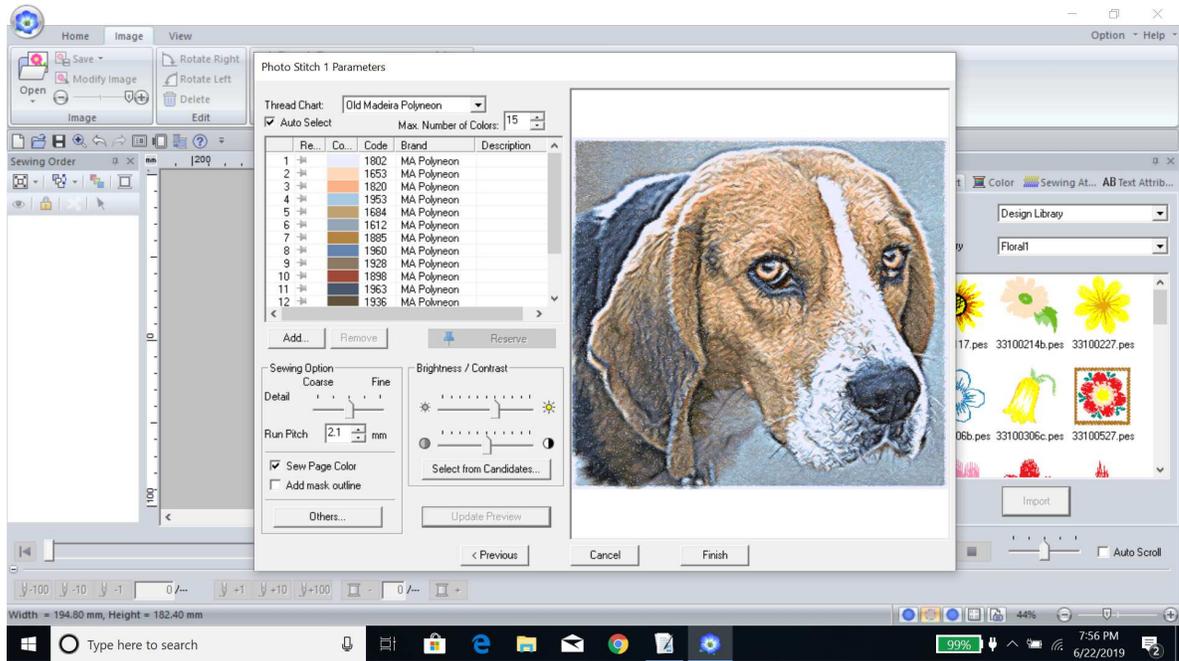
**Max Colors**-set to 15 for this example. Black and White photos work really well with 10-12 colors.

Most color pictures seem to be best at around 18 colors. This particular picture did not have as much color definition, so choosing less colors seemed to work well.

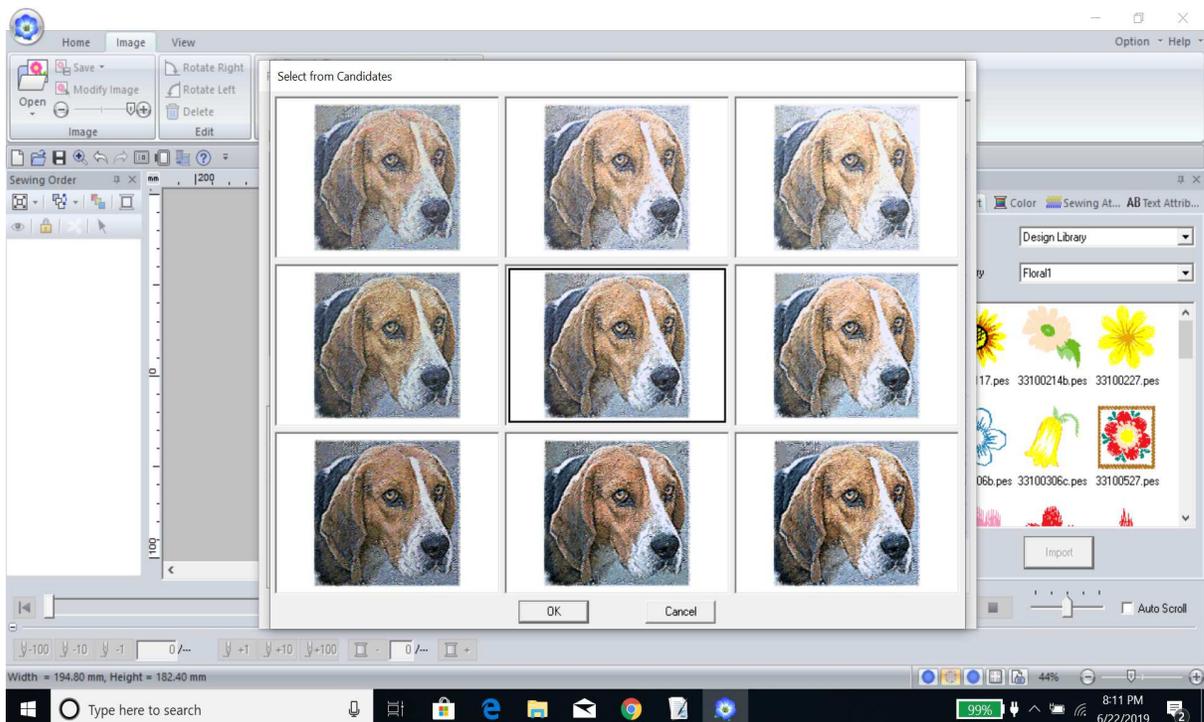
**Brightness/Contrast**-Click the Brightness Slider up 1 click. This design appeared a little dark.



10. Click the **Update Preview** button to see your design with these new settings. I spend most of my digitizing time on this screen, changing various settings until I am happy with the results. Small changes here and there can make a world of difference, so take your time and experiment with the settings!

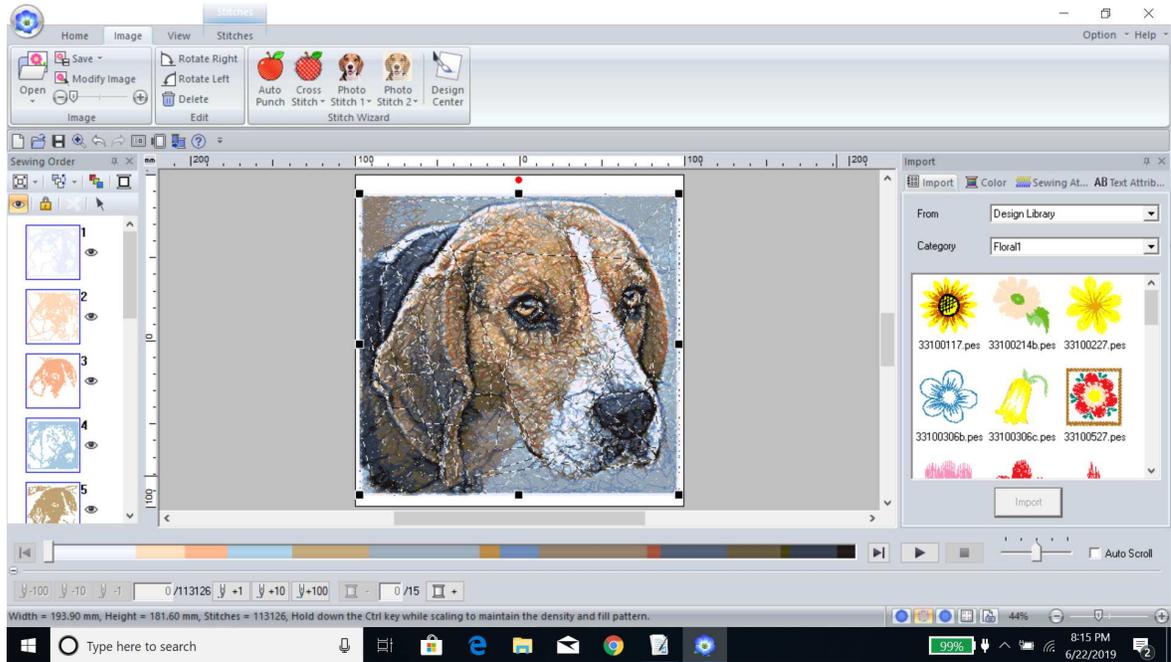


11. Click the **Select from Candidates Button** to see your current design plus 8 additional possibilities. The current design has a black box around it. If you like another of the candidates better, select it and click **OK**. If you prefer the current selection (used for this example) click **Cancel**.

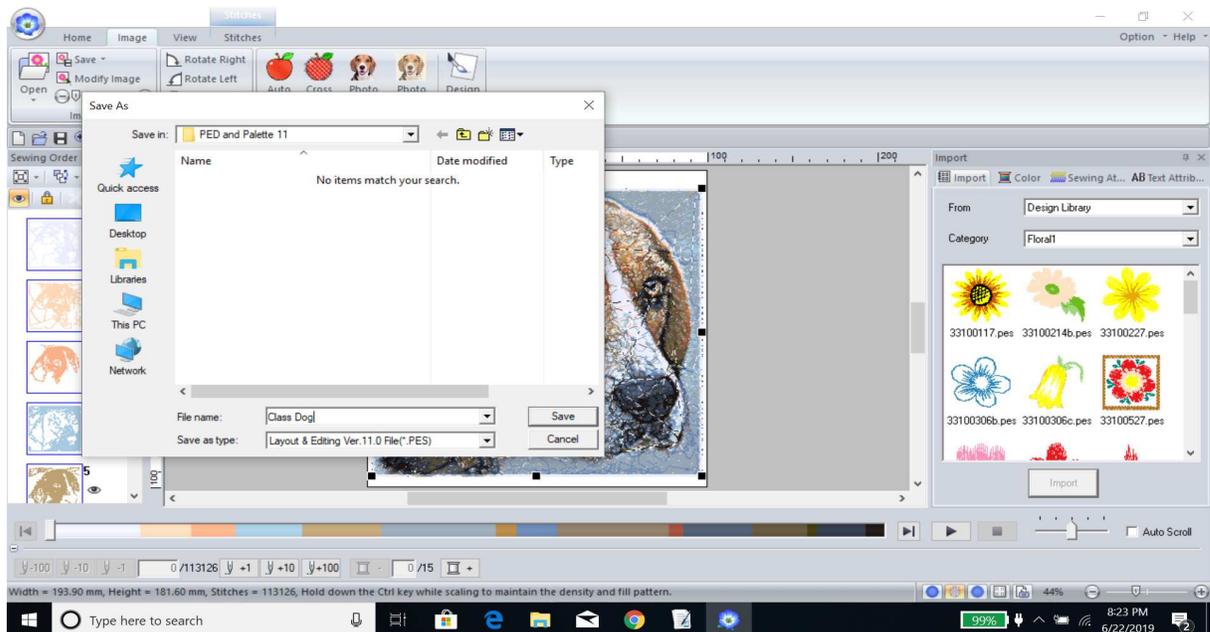


12. Click **Finish**. The design is now being auto digitized. This may take a few minutes depending on the speed of the computer and the size of the design. The digitized design appears on the **Design Page**.

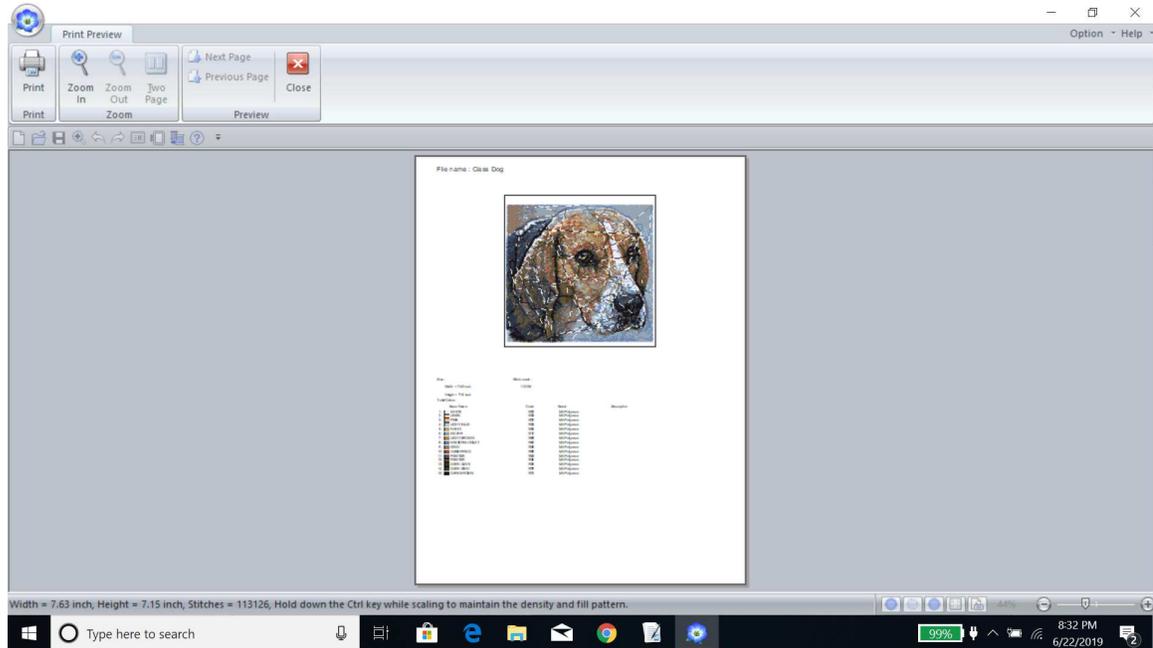
**Note:** Don't be concerned about how the Photo Stitch looks here. The preview on the previous screen is far better and more realistic a representation of the design!



13. Your Photo Stitch is completed! Save it to your hard drive by clicking on **File (blue flower)-Save As**. Pick the file you wish to save too, name your design, and click **Save**.



14. After saving the design, print it out to get an idea of how it will really look. Every monitor is different, so this is a trick to get a more realistic view of the design. The print out will also contain the **Design Size**, **Stitch Count**, and **Color Order** information for the design. To print the design, go to **File** (blue flower) and choose **Print**.



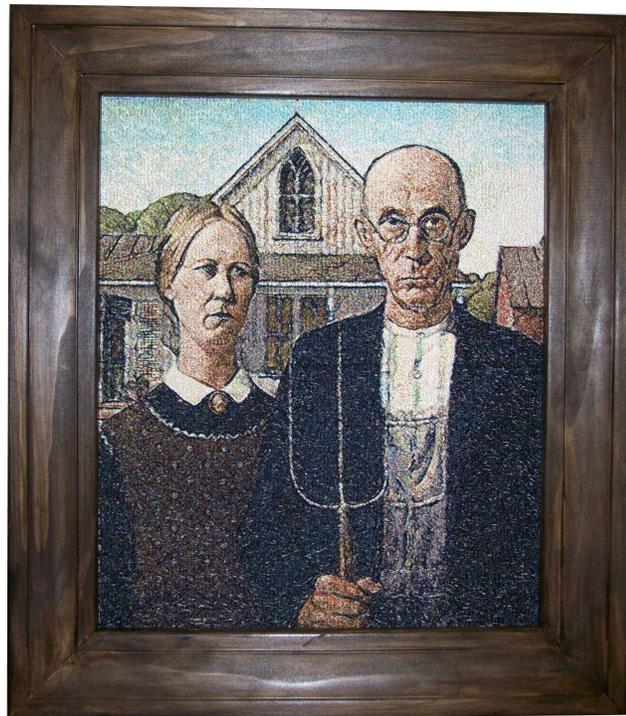
## Stitching a Photo Stitch Design

### Materials Needed:

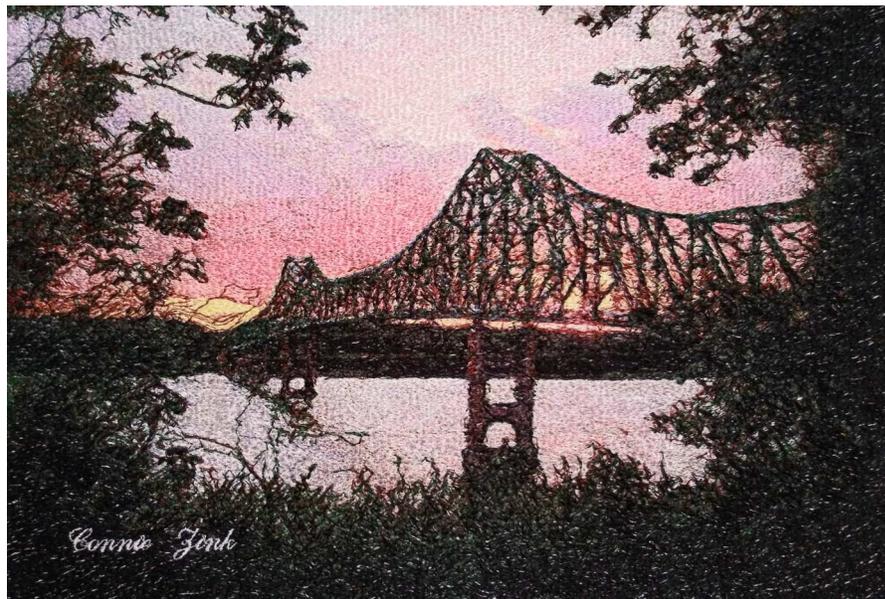
Fabric (100% Cotton works best)  
 No Show Mesh Fusible Stabilizer  
 Tacky Tearaway Stabilizer  
 Medium Tearaway Stabilizer

1. Fuse 2 layers of the No Show Mesh Fusible to the back of your fabric. Place one piece normally and one at a 45% angle. This really reinforces the fabric.
2. Hoop the Tacky tear away stabilizer in the hoop, paper side up. Score the paper using a pin or scissors and remove it to expose the tacky surface of the stabilizer.
3. Stick the fabric with the attached No Show Mesh Fusible into the hoop.
4. Place the hoop into the embroidery machine. Float 2 pieces of Medium Tearaway under the hoop.

## Photo Stitch Gallery



**American Gothic**



**Savanna/Sabula Bridge**  
Photograph by Connie Zink



**Freedom**



**Gigi Kitten**



**Hoo, Me?**



**I'm Watching You**

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**Under the Iowa Sky**



**Zebra**

Photo Stitch 1 Mono

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**Lucy**



**Snowy Owl**



**Coy Jan Age 4**



**Snow Leopard**