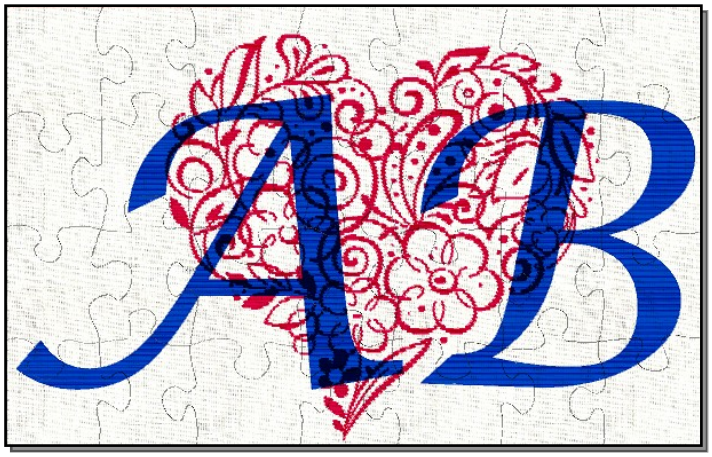
Love is a Puzzle

Created by Sylvain Bergeron

This monogram features PaintWork and CutWork. It combines layers of PaintWork to a CutWork base (CutWork puzzle design). The result is a monogram with assembly required.

Love is a Puzzle Monogram



This monogram features PaintWork and CutWork. It combines layers of PaintWork (a heart background motif with monogram lettering on top) to a CutWork base (CutWork puzzle design).

Suggested use: Print the first name initials of both members of the happy couple at an engagement party and have them assemble the puzzle together

Alternate use: Combine children oriented designs (Tip: use the clipart tool) and the name of a child and create a personal puzzle for a birthday party

Suggested base material for the puzzle: **EVA foam sheet 9x12 inches, 2 mm thick**.

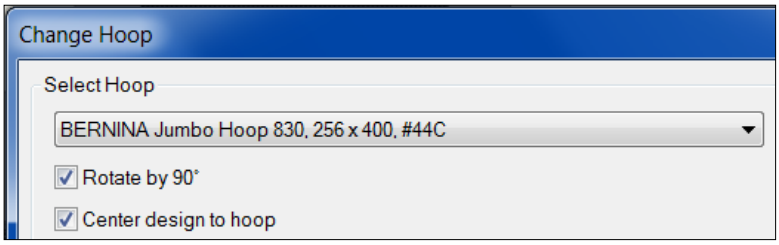
This exercise will have you rotate your project to work in a landscape orientation. We will rearrange the sequence of layers at the end to ensure smooth execution of the file at the machine.

- Open the file **Bernina_038_puzzle.Draw** in the folder: **C:\BERNINA DesignWorks Samples\CutWork**
- To avoid saving our work in the original, **Save As** with the file name **Puzzle Monogram.DRAW**

Note: the orientation of the puzzle is vertical by default. To make our work easier:

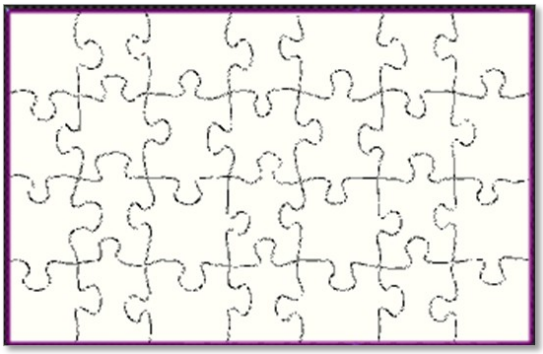
Rotating the hoop and base design:

- Click on **Manage Hoop** Options
- In the resulting **Change Hoop dialog box** make sure both of the following options are **checked**:
  - **Rotate by 90°**
  - **Center Design to hoop**
  - Click on **OK**



Now Rotate the design to align with the hoop:

- **Select All** (CTRL-A)
- In **Tool Options**, type **90** in the **Rotate** input field and press **Enter**



At this point, your design should look like the one shown at the right.

Adding the background heart design:

- Open the file **HeartPaintworks_JumboHoop_B750_780.Draw** from the folder: **C:\BERNINA DesignWorks Samples\OESD\PaintWork**

  Note: this will open up as a separate file, under its own tab

- **Select All** and **Copy**
- **Switch back** to the **Puzzle Monogram** file **tab**
- **Paste** the heart motif you copied above

Note: the motif is too large and is rather tilted (falling over) for the base puzzle. The following step will incorporate it into the main (puzzle) layout
With the heart motif still selected:

- Simplify: **Right-Click** on it and select **Combine**
  All objects in the heart motif are now combined in a single sequence layer
- **Rotate** the heart motif until it is nearly upright

TIP: position your mouse pointer near one of the selection frame corners, slightly on the outside, until it changes to a rotation pointer. Then click and drag the corner to rotate the motif.

- Reduce the size of the heart motif until it fits in the puzzle within a small margin
- **Click** and **Drag** on one of the corners while holding down the **SHIFT** key

TIP: Holding down the SHIFT key while resizing an object allows you to keep its center in the same position while resizing symmetrically in all directions simultaneously.

- Reposition the heart as needed once it is downsized.
  You may have to repeat the downsizing and repositioning process a few times to get the motif exactly as you wish.

You should now have something that looks like the sample to the right.

Adding the lettering:

- Click on the **Text Tool** and click in the center of the design
  (a text insertion cursor will appear, blinking)
- **Type the letters** of the monogram
- **Select a Font** in the **Tool Options**

TIP: **Lucida Calligraphy** (a standard Windows font) is used in this exercise, for it's simple symmetry and flowing style. It is generally easy to work with.

- Click on the **Select Tool** to generate the letters

Sizing the Lettering:

- With the lettering selected:
- With the mouse pointer hovering on the lower right corner of the lettering selection frame, hold down the **SHIFT key** and then **Click and drag the lower right corner** until the lettering fills as much of the puzzle as possible. You may have to reposition the lettering after resizing depending on the font style and the letters involved .
  (e.g. a W will take more horizontal space than an I)

Setting the Fill and Outline of the Letters (types and colors)

- With the lettering selected:
- In **Object Properties**:

To set the Fill:

- in the **Fill tab**, select the **Fill** option (which is a painted option)
- The fill will be **blue** by default (notice the blue color chip will show a marker in the lower right corner in the **Brushes** palette

TIP: for lettering, the Fill option generally works well, yielding an even coverage while producing clean edges that follow the lettering contour

To Set the outline:

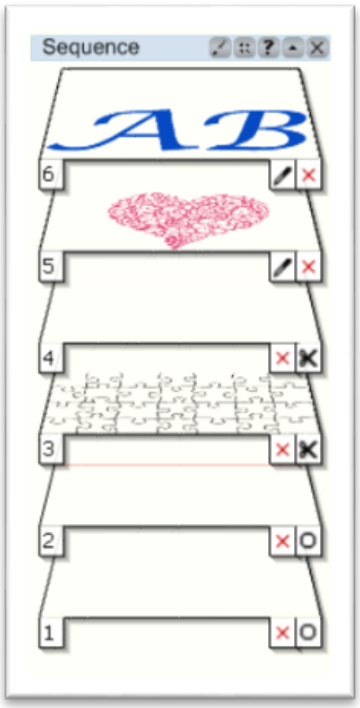
- With the lettering still selected
- In the **Brushes** palette: **Click** on the **upper left corner** of the same color chip that is used for the fill of the lettering (in this class example, the **blue Brush** color chip): this will set the outline to the same color as the fill and ensure a continuous run of the lettering PaintWork

  At this point, your design should look as follows:

TIP: if desired, letters can be generated individually and placed on the puzzle in a more flexible fashion (e.g. offset). If created separately:

- **Create the first letter** with font style, fill and outline and size to taste
- **Copy** / **Paste** and edit the pasted letter using the Text tool
- Verify size and position of both letters
- **Select both** letters and **Group** them

Optimizing the Design Sequence:



At this stage, you'll notice that the sequence resulting from our building the design would lead to cutting the puzzle base before painting it, which would not work. Luckily, the **Sequence Manager** makes short work of resequencing the design.

Note that the current sequence layers include, from beginning (bottom layer #1) to last (top layer #6):

1. Placement line (to place the piece of foam)
2. Basting line (to hold down the piece of foam)
3. Puzzle CutWork: will cut the rectangle into puzzle pieces
4. Puzzle contour CutWork: will cut the the rectangle that will become the edge of the finished puzzle
5. The Painted heart motif
6. The Painted lettering

To rearrange the sequence to Paint first and Cut last:

- **Select the CutWork layers (#3 and #4) and Group**

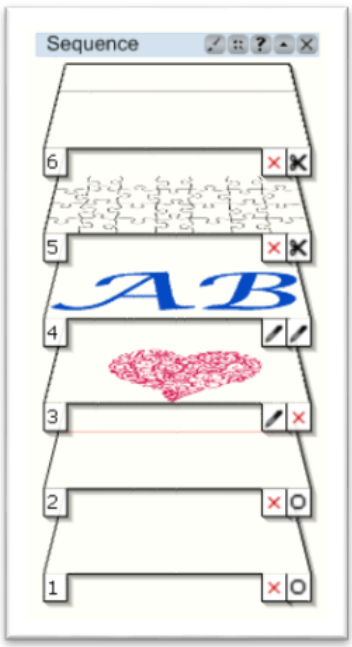
TIP: after selecting one or multiple object(s) simply Right-Click in the selection frame (or its border) to activate the context sensitive menu for key options

- With the CutWork layers still selected:
  - **Right-Click** on the selection frame and select **Order** > **To front of design**
    This will send the CutWork to the top layer, which will run last
  - **Another option** is to **drag** the layers to the top of the stack

TIP: the first method above is convenient when a design contains too many layers to easily drag some of them to the front of the design.

Your design sequence should now have changed to the one shown on the right.

Save the file.



Exporting the PaintWork and CutWork file:

- Click on **Export**
- On the resulting Dialog box, Click on the **USB** option
- On the next dialog box, select the **drive letter** corresponding to your USB stick
- The file will be saved as **Puzzle Monogram.EXP** file (with companion files in **INF** and **BMP** formats)

Pointers for Success at the machine:

- As this design includes CutWork it is recommended to use a Heavyweight HydroStick Tear-Away stabilizer from OESD. This firm and crisp stabilizer provides the ideal base for cutting while preventing the fabric from caving under the blade

TIP: in preparation for the stitching lines, pick a thread color that contrasts with the foam color: this makes it easier to track your stitching and to pull off the thread at the end after all the cutting is done.

The design will be then be run as follows:

Set up your machine for embroidery stitching.

1. Placement line will stitch out. Place the piece of foam to cover the stitched rectangle (there should be about a half inch or so all around)
2. The basting line will stitch out: this will hold down the sheet of foam

Set up your machine for the PaintWork tool.

3. The heart motif will be painted (in red)
4. The lettering will be painted (here, in blue)

TIP: to ensure that your monogram stands out against the background (heart motif), select a light color for the hear and a dark color for the lettering.

Set up your machine for the CutWork tool.

5. The puzzle pieces will be cut
6. The outer edge of the puzzle (rectangle) will be cut

Note: the final rectangle cut will track very close to or on top of the basting stitches. Not to worry: after the final cut is done and the puzzled is 'popped' out of the hoop the basting threads will fall off the edge.

Final preparation of the puzzle:

- Remove the puzzle from the hoop (it has been cut out at this point and should pop right off)
- Pull off any basting threads (they should fall off the edge)
    - Peel off the HydroStick base stabilizer from the still assembled puzzle (it's easier while the puzzle is still in one piece)
    - Disassemble the puzzle to verify that all the pieces come apart
    - Reassemble the puzzle if desired.

Enjoy the puzzle. May it bring joy (and a smile) to the recipients!