

My Design Album Overview

My Design Album (MDA) is an extremely powerful cataloging program that keeps track of the designs on your computer and helps you organize them into categories based on the type/style of design. What's great about this program is it doesn't matter if all your designs are in one folder or scattered around in many different folders on your computer. My Design Album keeps track of the designs for you by filing their location so you don't have to remember where you saved them on your computer.

How does it work with and keep track of the designs?

When you launch the program for the first time a window appears that asks you if you want to select "Watch Folders" for the software to keep an eye out for new designs added. The beautiful thing about selecting Watch Folders is that whenever you launch the software it will go to those folders to see if any designs have been added since the last time you used it. If designs have been added it will place them into your Pending folder so they can be added to Categories. For example, owners of the Floriani Total Control U and Floriani My Decorative Quilter software can select the free monthly design/project folders as ones to watch. This would make sure that every time new designs and projects are added you get them into the software for cataloging.

Next, the software will begin to scan the computer for embroidery, image, and artwork files to add into the Pending folder. This is based on the options selected for Input formats to include. It can take some time to scan the computer so it is recommended the first time the program is launched to setup the watch folders and then minimize the program and wait for a couple hours so it has plenty of time to locate every design applicable.

As the program locates designs it adds it into its database where it stores the file name and location of where the design is located on the computer. This is a very important step because the software doesn't actually ever move the design. It works with the designs from where ever they reside on your computer.

What happens if I move a design into a new folder?

If you move a design the software will lose track of the design and will not be able to retrieve it. Unfortunately, there is no way to program into the system the ability to track where a design goes if someone decides to move it on the computer. So, it is very important that you place the designs where you want to keep them on your computer before adding them into My Design Album. If you plan to rearrange where your designs are stored on your computer you will want to do that prior to adding them into the software.

Does it move the designs?

No, My Design Album does not move the location of your designs. It works with the designs from where ever they reside on your computer.

What will it do for you?

My Design Album will help you take total control over the embroidery designs you own. MDA allows you to bring all the designs located on your computer and organize them into categories (see below for explanation of categories) and apply keywords (see below) to the designs so you can find your designs quick and easy. It also allows you to view designs by category or keyword so you can isolate exactly what you are looking for.

How will you use it?

We all have lots of designs and, let's be honest, we forget some times what all we have. This is where MDA comes in. It helps you organize, manage, and locate the designs you own quick and easy. You will use it to sort, view, and access the designs you own in the quickest way possible. It will even allow you to easily print an organized catalog for a hard copy reference. Once you set the system up you will no longer waste hours trying to locate the design you need when you need it.

What do you need to do to get everything out of the program?

First, you need to spend time getting all your designs organized into categories inside My Design Album. This is the most important step. Without taking the time to set your designs into categories you will not get everything out of this program that you can.

Second, you need to learn how to apply keywords to designs and how to filter designs by keywords. Keywords give you another way for defining each design so it is much easier to search for and find a design that meets a very specific criteria. Many designs have a number of keywords that can be applied to them. For example, some designs have a Christmas theme but are also created in a specific style, like redwork style. So, it would make sense that the keywords for a design like this would be "Christmas" and "Redwork." Let's say you want to do a search that allows you to see all your redwork designs and you don't care what theme/category the design is in. Well, this is where keywords come in handy. By applying a keyword of redwork to all your redwork designs you will be able to quickly view all the design that are marked with the redwork keyword.

Finding and Adding Designs

MDA allows you to look for designs in specific folders you select or it will search your entire computer looking for designs. Once it locates designs it places them into your "Pending" folder. The Pending folder is your holding place for designs. From here you drag the designs into categories of your catalog so you can organize them. Once you move a design into a

category it removes that design from the Pending folder. Any time new designs are found and loaded into MDA it places them in the Pending folder.

One amazing feature of MDA is "Watch Folders." You have the ability to tell the software what folders you frequently add designs to and every time you open the system it will look at these folders to see if any designs have been added since the last time you used the software. If it locates new designs it will place them into your Pending folder so you can drag and drop them to a category.

Categories

Categories are like sections of a catalog. In MDA, categories describe the type or style of design that are contained within. This is very helpful for organizing and finding designs quick and easy. For example, if you are looking for Christmas designs and you have added designs to a Christmas category you simply go to that category to see all the Christmas designs you added there to view them all at one time.

Key Features:

Watch Folders - select folders you frequently add designs to so the software will automatically look at these folders whenever you open the software to see if any new designs have been added since the last time you were in the program. If new designs were added It will automatically place them into your Pending folder so you can catalog them.

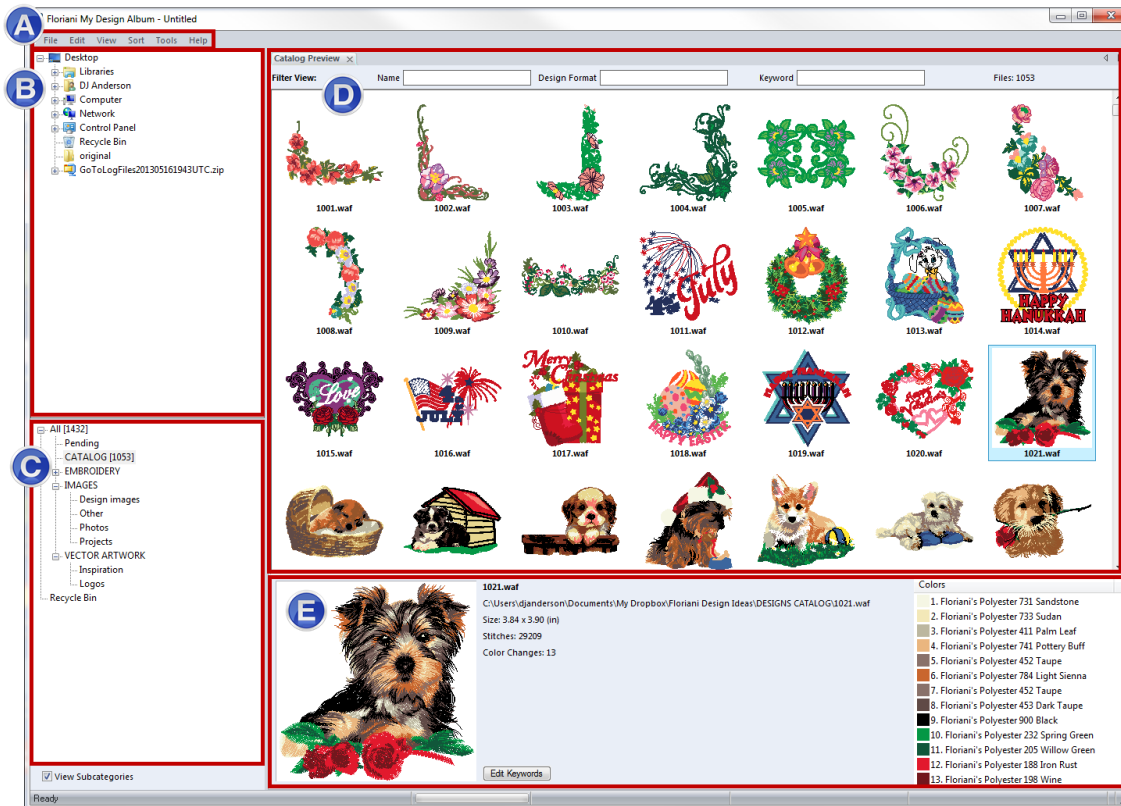
Keywords - add keywords to a design that describe the type of design it is like redwork, trapunto, floral, corner, etc. You can apply as many keywords as you would like to a design. Because you can search for designs by a keyword it is best to apply as many keywords as you can that describes each design.

Edit Design - this opens a window that allows you to do the following to the design you choose to preview:

- Change thread colors
- Split Designs
- Resize Designs
- Fit Design to Hoop
- Do a slow redraw
- Cut/copy/paste objects
- Rotate objects
- Vertically and horizontally mirror object
- Add design notes
- Select/view your hoop
- Print the color sequence guide
- Save the design into a format needed
- Batch convert a design into multiple formats

Software Layout

My Design Album's workspace is divided up into several key areas: Menu Bar (A), Browser Panel (B), Categories List (C), Catalog Preview Window (D), and Design Preview (E)



A - Menu Bar

The Menu Bar contains a list of menus that allow you to access the various functions in Floriani My Design Album. The available menus are: File, Edit, View, Sort, Tools, and Help.

File - Print Catalog, Print List Report, Print Setup, Export as HTML, Export as Image, Exit

Edit - Select All

View - Refresh, Large, Medium, Small, List, 3D Preview, Metric, Inches

Sort - By Name, By Number of Color Changes, By Stitch Count, By Date Modified, By File Type, Ascending, Descending

Tools - Watch Folders, Reset Catalog, Restore Catalog, Preferences

Help - Support, License Activator, Manual, About

B - Browser Panel

The browser panel appears in the top-left corner of the workspace, and shows all the disks and directories on your computer. If the computer is part of a network, other directories on the directory may be visible as well, depending on the permissions that have been set for them.

When you select a disk or folder on the Browser panel, the designs and or images on it will appear as thumbnail previews in the Floriani My Design Album Catalog Preview

window. From there, you can organize them by dragging and dropping into the folders in the Categories List

C - Categories List

The Categories List allows you to organize your designs into specific categories. You can select a category folder from the categories list and the designs in that category will appear in the Catalog Preview window.

The All Category

The All Category folder contains all of the designs you have. By right-clicking on the “All” folder, you can easily add a new category folder at top level. (You can also add new categories by right-clicking on sub-folders, but in that case the new category will be added within the sub-category).

The Pending Category

The Pending Category folder is a working category. Use this folder to insert groups of new designs at once and then gradually sort these designs into specific category folders to prevent errors that may occur otherwise.

Embroidery Category

Use the folders in the Embroidery Category to sort and keep your embroidery designs. The Embroidery category includes a number of subfolders (such as Animals, Appliqué, Borders, etc.) by default, however you can add your own categories.

Images Category

Use the folders in the Images category to sort and keep important images. These may include .BMP, JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, and .PNG files.

Vector Artwork Category

Use the Vector Artwork category to organize files created with artwork programs. The applicable file types are .AI, .EMF, .WMF, and .SVG.

D - Catalog Preview Window

The Catalog Preview displays all of the design thumbnails contained within the selected category in the Categories List. It will also display the files in any folder you select in the Browser Panel.

E - Design Preview

The Design Preview panel displays a larger view of the design selected in the Catalog Preview window. Design thumbnails allow you to see the layout along with basic information about the file.

For embroidery files, you will see the name, location (directory) of the file, dimensions, number of stitches, number of color changes.

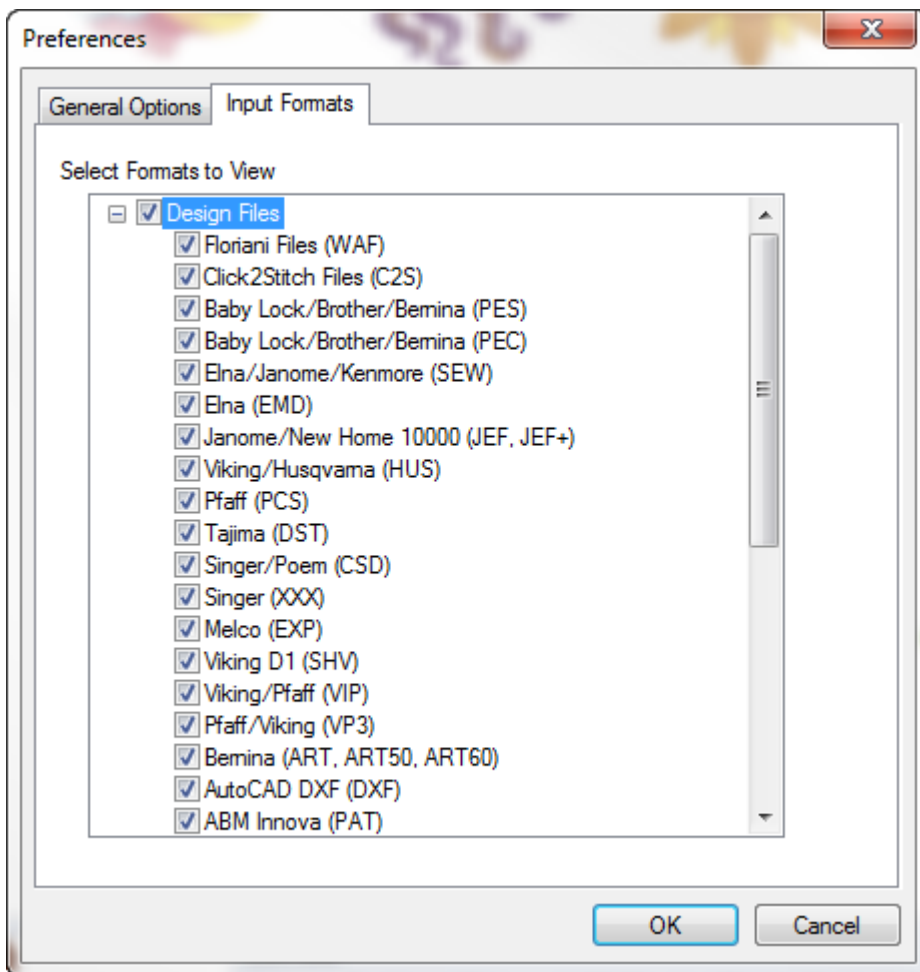
To the right of the design preview, you will also see a list of the thread colors used

Setting up Input Formats

You have the ability to choose what design formats you want MDA to show inside of your Catalog Preview. It is important to keep in mind that the Catalog Preview will only display designs for the formats you have selected for the Input Formats.

To choose Input Formats, select Tools from the menu bar and then click Preferences. Inside the Preferences window select the Input Formats tab. Select the formats to view by selecting the check box next to a format. Here is a list of formats you can select:

- Design File Formats - WAF, C2S, PES, PEC, SEW, EMD, JEF, JEF+, HUS, PCS, DST, CSD, XXX, EXP, SHV, VIP, VP3, ART, ART50, ART60, DXF, PAT, CQP, HQF, IQP, PLT, SSD, QLI, ZIP
- Artwork File Formats - AI (version 8), EMF, WFM, and SVG
- Image File Formats - BMP, JPG, GIF, TIF, PNG



Setting up Input Formats for the first time

When getting started with MDA it is recommended that you only select the main stitch format for the machine(s) you own and the native design format for the digitizing software program(s) you use. This eliminates seeing duplicates of designs that you don't really need to catalog. You can always add a different format later if needed.

To get started, do the following:

1. Select Tools from the menu bar and then click on Preferences.
2. Inside the Preferences window select the Input Formats tab.
3. Next, from the Design Files section, place a check box next to the format used by your machine(s). Then, select the native design format for the digitizing software program(s) you use. If all formats are selected, simply uncheck the box next to the design format that doesn't apply to your machine(s) or software.

For example, if you have a Brother and Janome sewing/embroidery machine you would only have a check box next the following boxes: "Baby Lock/Brother/Bernina (PES)" and "Janome/New Home 10000 (JEF, JEF+)". Next, if you own Floriani Software (FTCU, MDQ2) you would select the "Floriani Files (WAF) box.

4. If you would like to use My Design Album to catalog your vector artwork files and photographs choose the input formats you would like to work with from the "Artwork Files" and "Image Files" sections.
5. Finally, press OK. The software will then display only the designs in the Catalog Preview that are in the formats you chose.

Populating the Pending Folder

To use Floriani My Design Album to organize your embroidery, image, and artwork files, the first step is to ensure that the files you want are getting into the Pending folder in the Categories list. There are two main ways of doing this.

You can configure a folder or set of folders that will be the default locations to be checked for files. This is called the "Watch Folders" list.

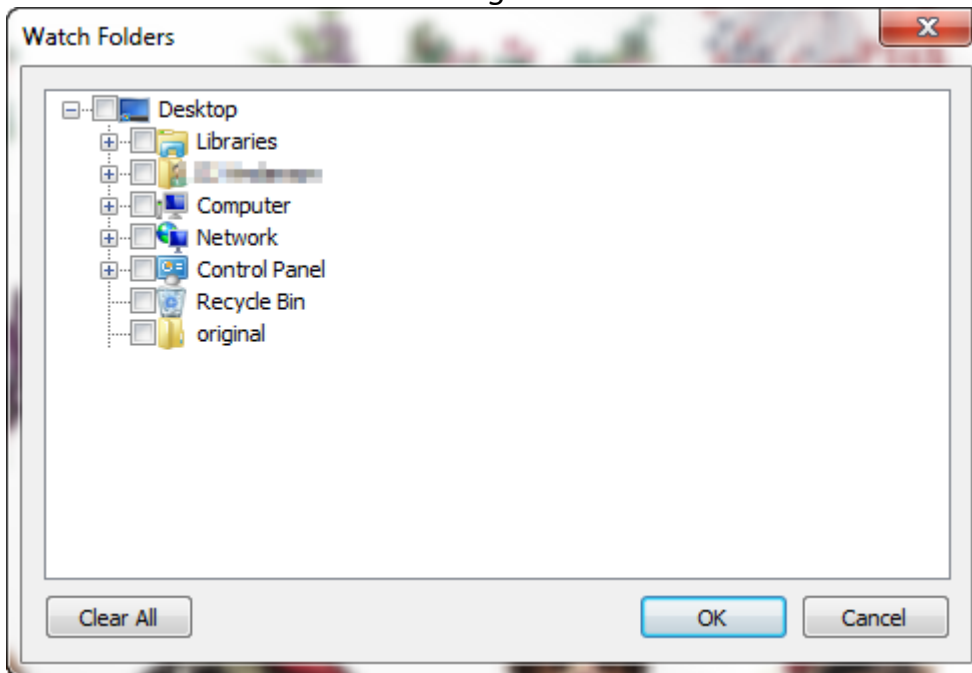
Any files in the selected directories will appear on the pending list; from there, you can move files into the categories you want them to appear in on the Categories panel. Subsequently, if you add other files to the folders in the Watch folder list, these too will be moved into the pending list automatically.

You can also add design, artwork or image files into Floriani My Design Album from your desktop or any other directory you have access to (for example, a network folder if your computer is part of a network).

To configure your Watch Folders list:

1. On the menu bar, select Tool->Watch Folders.

You see the Watch Folders dialog.



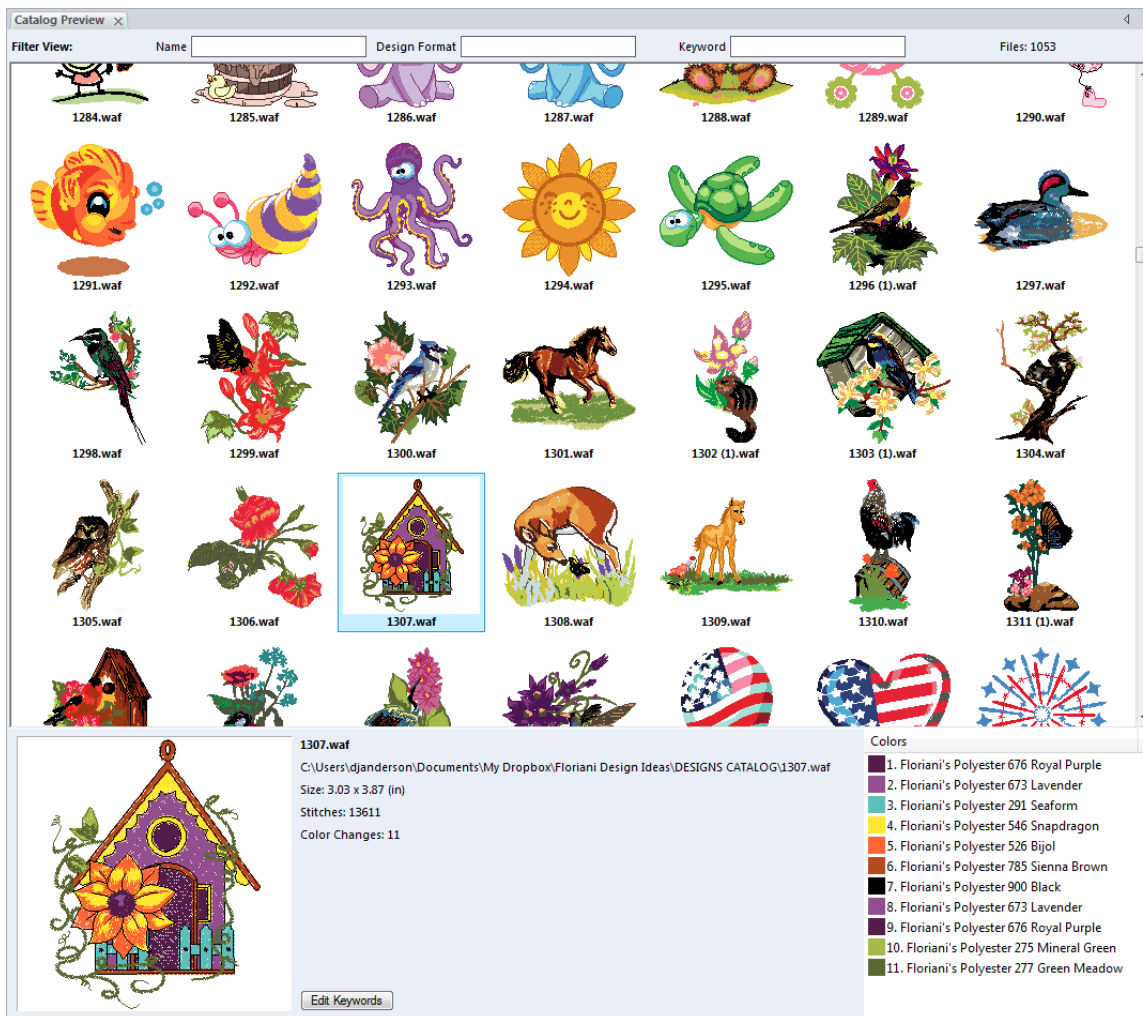
2. In the Folders Dialog, check the boxes next to folders you want to have scanned for files; if necessary, click the "plus" signs next to directories to expand them.
 - a. For example, if you own Floriani Total Control U software and/or Floriani My Decorative Quilter software it is recommended to include the free monthly design/project folders to your Watch Folders.

- i. To do this for FTCU software owners, go to "Computer->Floriani->Designs" and then place a check box next to the "Free Monthly Designs" folder.
 - ii. To do this for MDQ2 software owners, go to "Computer->Floriani->Designs" and then place a check box next to the "MDQ Project" folder.
3. When all desired folders are selected, click OK to close the dialog.

Every time you open the software it will go to all the Watch Folders and automatically bring any design added since the last time you opened the program into the Pending folder.

Catalog Preview

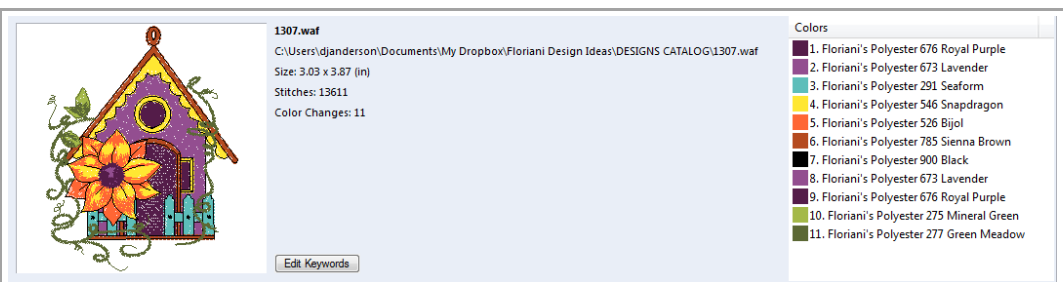
The Catalog Preview displays all of the design thumbnails contained within the selected category in the Categories List. It will also display the files in any folder you select in the Browser Panel.



Design View Options

There are a few different ways to view designs. Design Preview Section, Design Details, and Edit design preview.

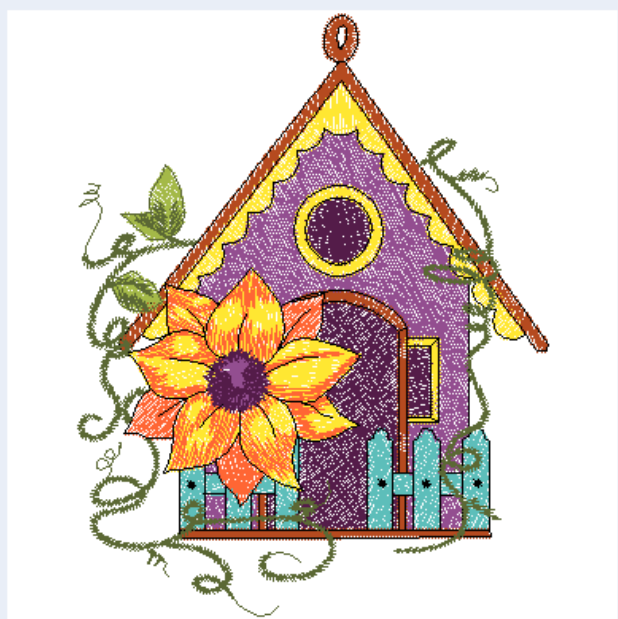
Design Preview - when you select a design from the Catalog Preview window the design details show up at the bottom of the software program. It displays an image of the design, design name, design location on your computer, design size, number of stitches in the design, number of color



changes in the design, and the color sequence guide.

Design Details - double mouse clicking on a design from the Catalog Preview window will open the Design Details dialog box. It displays an image of the design, design name, design location on your computer, design size, number of stitches in the design, number of color changes in the design, and the color sequence guide.

Design Details



Title: 1307.waf
Path: C:\Users\djanderson\Documents\My Dropbox\Floriani Design
Size: 3.03 x 3.87 (in)
Stitches: 13611
Colors: 11

Colors

1. Floriani's Polyester 676 Royal Purple

2. Floriani's Polyester 673 Lavender

3. Floriani's Polyester 291 Seaform

4. Floriani's Polyester 546 Snapdragon

5. Floriani's Polyester 526 Bijol

6. Floriani's Polyester 785 Sienna Brown

7. Floriani's Polyester 900 Black

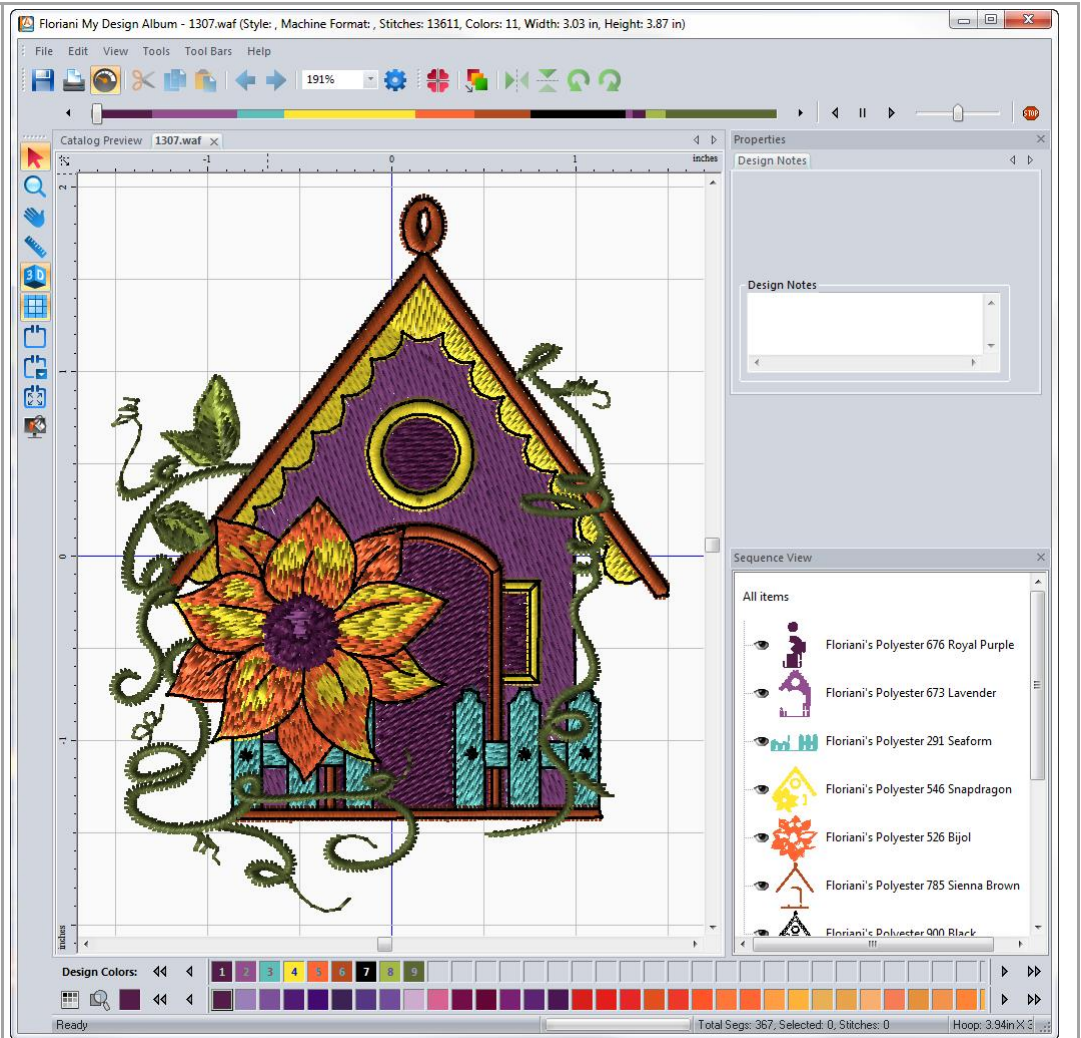
8. Floriani's Polyester 673 Lavender

9. Floriani's Polyester 676 Royal Purple

10. Floriani's Polyester 275 Mineral Green

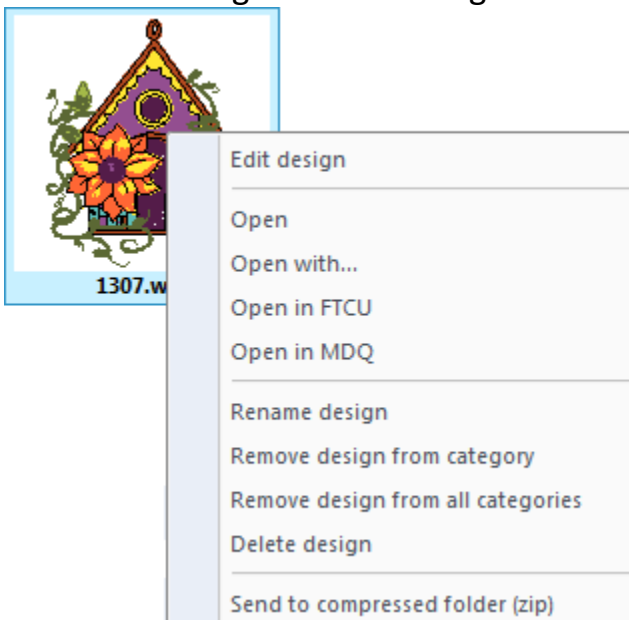
11. Floriani's Polyester 277 Green Meadow

Edit design preview - right mouse click on a design in the Catalog Preview window and choose "Edit design" to do even more with a design. This opens the design in a new window that allows you to do things to a design like Save it into a format for your machine, change colors of objects, add notes, do a slow redraw, cut/copy/paste objects, rotate objects/design, mirror image objects/design, split the design, and etc.



Right Mouse Click Options

Right mouse clicking on a design inside the Catalog Preview window allows you to do a number of things with the design.



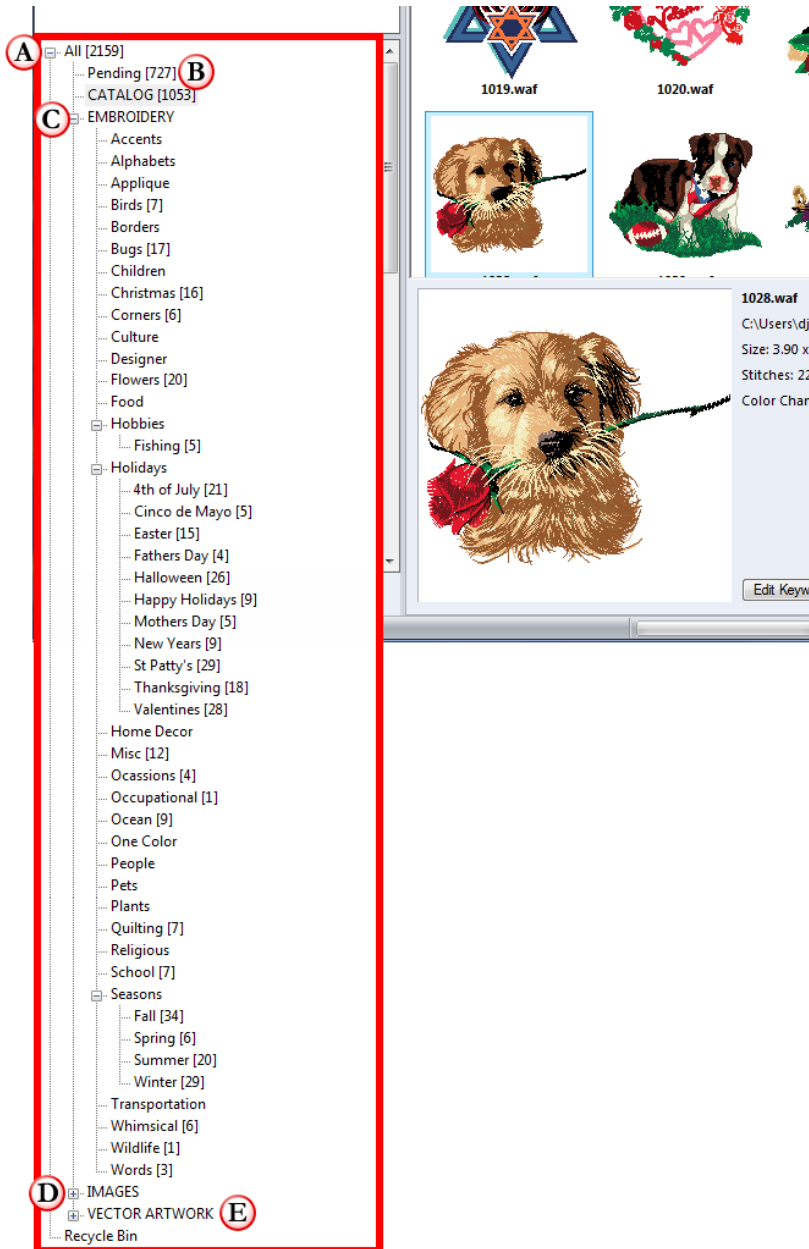
Edit design - this opens the design in the included editor.

- Open - this opens the design into a digitizing software program you have chosen from the "Open with..." option.
- Open with... - allows you to choose a default digitizing program to open your designs into when you choose the "Open" option.
- Open in FTCU - If you own FTCU, the design will open in this program when choosing this option.
- Open in MDQ - if you own MDQ2, the design will open in this program when choosing this option.
- Rename design - this allows you to rename the design.
- Remove design from category - this will remove the design from the category but not your computer. The design will remain on your computer and will only be removed from the category.
- Remove design from all categories - this will remove the design from all categories it is in but will not remove it from your computer.
- Delete design - this will delete the design from your computer. ***Caution, this option deletes the design from your computer.
- Send to compressed folder (zip) - this will allow you to zip the design inside a compressed folder.

Categories

Categories are like sections of a catalog. In MDA, categories describe the type or style of design that are contained within. This is very helpful for organizing and finding designs quick and easy. For example, if you are looking for Christmas designs and you have added designs to a Christmas category you simply go to that category to see all the Christmas designs you added there to view them all at one time.

Example

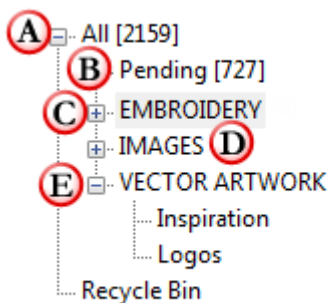


The image above shows the Category List browser where this user has added many of their own categories and populated designs into various categories. Before you start adding designs into Categories it is important to understand how the Category List is structured and works.

The first thing to understand is My Design Album works much like Google® when doing a search. When doing a Google® search you type in what you want to search for online, Google® searches through all their indexed data about websites, and then it presents you with options. It displays information and/or images based on its search and then you can choose which one you want to explore further. The information it brings up can exist anywhere on the World Wide Web. Google® simply knows where the information is located, by indexing it, and then displays the info and allows you to go to where the info is located.

Like Google® search, My Design Album doesn't hold possession of the designs on your computer, it just indexes them so it can help you easily organize and access them. So, when you place designs into Category folders in the software you are not actually moving a design's location on your computer. My Design Album just indexes where the designs are located and stores that information inside of the category so it is easier to find and use. This is the beauty of a program like this because you can have designs located anywhere on your computer and in a bunch of different locations but still can see and access them all from one place, inside My Design Album. If you need to know where the design is located on your computer the software will actually display the location for you.

The Categories List allows you to organize your designs into specific categories. You can select a category folder from the categories list and the designs in that category will appear in the Catalog Preview window.



A. The All Category

The All Category folder contains all of the designs you have. By right-clicking on the All folder, you can easily add a new category folder at top level. (You can also add new categories by right-clicking on sub-folders, but in that case the new category will be added within the sub-category).

B. The Pending Category

The Pending Category folder is a working category. Use this folder to insert groups of new designs at once and then gradually sort these designs into specific category folders to prevent errors that may occur otherwise.

C. Embroidery Category

Use the folders in the Embroidery Category to sort and keep your embroidery designs. The Embroidery category includes a number of subfolders (such as Animals, Appliqué, Borders, etc.) by default, however you can add your own categories.

D. Images Category

Use the folders in the Images category to sort and keep important images. These may include .BMP, JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, and .png files.

E. Vector Artwork Category

Use the Vector Artwork category to organize files created with artwork programs. The applicable file types are .AI, .EMF, .WMF, and .SVG.

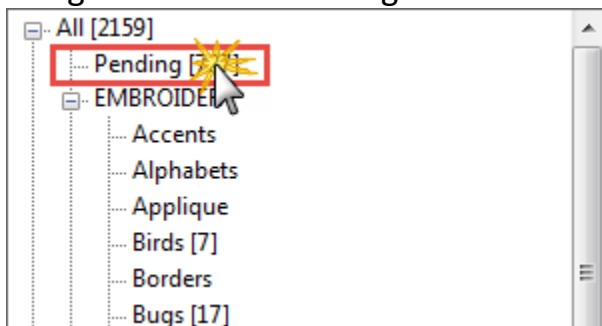
It is recommended to populate all your embroidery designs into the "EMBROIDERY" section, all your photographs/image files inside the "IMAGES" section, and all your vector artwork files inside the "VECTOR ARTWORK" section.

Inside of these main categories you will also find other categories that have been added inside of them to get you started. You have the ability to add as many categories as you want. For example, let's say you have a lot of holiday designs and you want to organize them by actual holiday. You may want to add additional categories to the Holidays category so you can keep them organized by actual holiday. In the lesson below you will learn how to do this.

Lesson - Adding designs to Categories

Adding designs to categories is easy and fun to do. So, let's get started.

1. Select the Pending category from the Categories List. This will display all the Pending designs inside the Catalog Preview window.



2. Next, make sure the "EMBROIDERY" category in the categories list is expanded so the categories listed under it are visible.
3. Glance at the first design inside the Catalog Preview and then look at the categories listed under "EMBROIDERY" in the catalog list to determine what category this design makes sense to be listed under.

4. Left click and hold on the design and drag it over the top of the category you determined it belongs to and then release the mouse click to place the design into that category. Notice the design is no longer visible inside the "Pending" folder.
5. Now, notice there is a number listed next to the category you placed the design into. If it is the first design you placed into the folder it will have a number "1" next to the name. As you add more designs into that folder the number of designs will be displayed.
6. Click on the category you just placed the design into and notice the design now displays inside the Catalog Preview. Every time you click on a category it will display the designs located inside of it.
7. To continue placing designs from the Pending category into EMBROIDERY categories, left click on the "Pending" category again to display the designs inside.
8. Next, going one-at-a-time, drag the designs into categories that make sense for each design.

You may decide that you need a new category inside the "EMBROIDERY" category. If so, please see the instructions below for adding a new category.

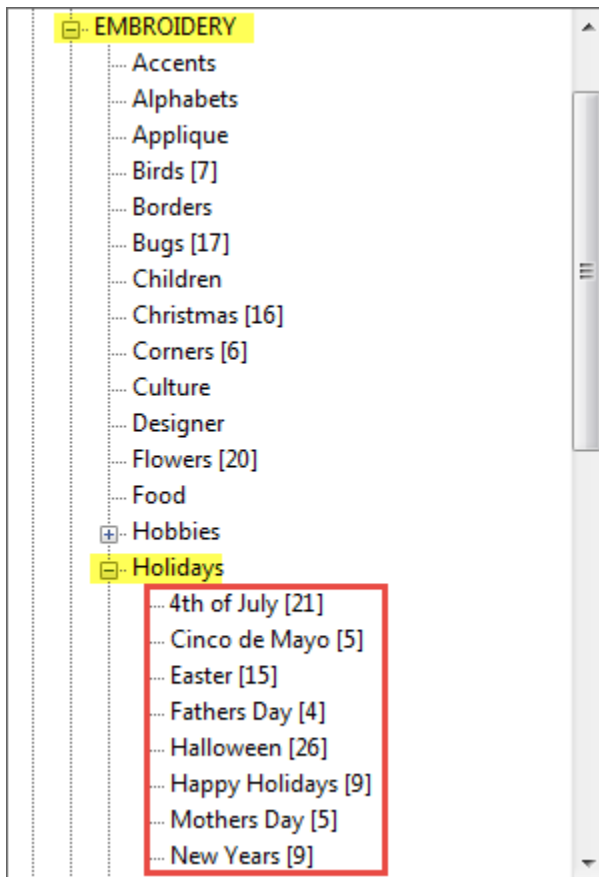
Add category to EMBROIDERY category:

1. To add a new category inside the EMBROIDERY category, select the EMBROIDERY category and then right mouse click on it.
2. From the drop down, choose **Add category**. This will add a category.
3. Name the category and press **Enter** on your keyboard to apply it.

Add subcategory to a category listed inside the EMBROIDERY category

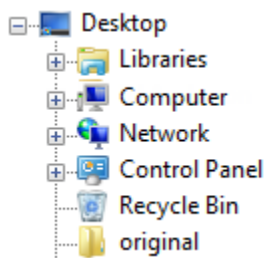
1. To add a subcategory to a category listed in the EMBROIDERY category, select the category and then right mouse click on it.
2. From the drop down, choose **Add category**.
3. Name the category and press **Enter** on your keyboard to apply it.

Example: In the image below notice the following subcategories were added to the Holidays category: 4th of July, Cinco de Mayo, Easter, Father's Day, Halloween, Happy Holidays, Mother's Day, New Years.



Adding Designs from the Browser into Categories

You may have some designs on your computer that are not in the Pending folder that you want to add into My Design Album. To do this you will use the Browser Panel. From the Browser Panel you can browse through the folders on your computer to find the designs you want to add.



When you select a folder in the Browser that has designs in the formats you have chosen to view they will appear in the Catalog Preview window. From here you can drag the designs from the Catalog Preview into a Category. It is not necessary to first drag it into the Pending folder, however, it can be a good habit of doing it this way.