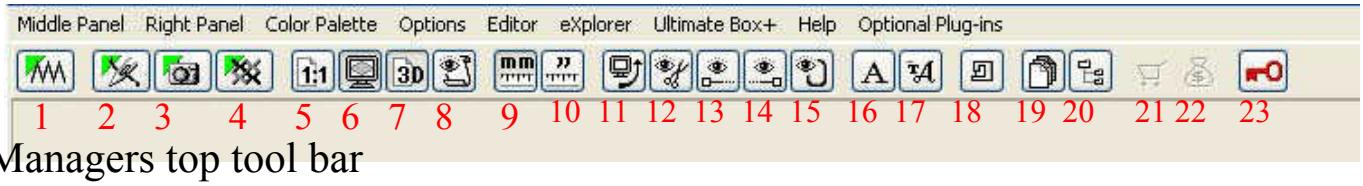
Short guide to Embird Manager.

When I first bought Embird after reading so many enthusiastic reports about it, I just sat and stared at the screen totally mystified. I had bought Embird manager and Editor and two plug ins, Cross stitch and Studio. I couldn't even get past Manager for two days, so this is for new owners to gentle them in past the initial bewildered feeling of "Oh heck, now what?"
I'm going to start with Manager as that's the first screen you see when you open Embird. I'll go through the Icons on the top horizontal tool bar plus the drop down menus . Then I'll examine the right hand vertical menu and it's various areas. As I go through I'll look at some of the options and how they can be set up.
I had owned Embird for over 18 months before I discovered I could allocate my favourite embroidery folders an Embird shortcut. In fact I'm still discovering functions I had no idea existed.
Embird is a powerful little program, with big boys muscle, the editor is, once you get past go, a dream to use.
I use Embird's editor exclusively now, my Digi Pro editor is never opened , in Editor I can split large designs,so they can be sewn in standard hoop sizes. Fine tune a designs stitches, Change fill patterns, colours, merge designs
And still be able to work on the single designs or the combined..
Enough about Embird's good points, now to the bad points, it's a fairly steep learning curve, but well worth the effort. Other bad points, well give me time and I'll think of something.



Managers top tool bar

1; Editors shortcut icon, click it and you'll go to editor

2; Studios shortcut toolbar, if you have the plug in clicking it takes you there.

3;Sfumato, photo digitising, another plug in bought separately.

4; Cross stitch plug in,

5; Toggle icon for actual size display or whole screen display.

6; Whole screen draw of design.

7; 3D toggle, go from digitising view to computer rendered 3D view.

8;Toggle background of screen from plain to fabric.

9; Metric measurement in millimetres, most accurate choice.

10; Imperial measurement, inches.

11; Exchange X-Y co-ordinates, flips design anti clockwise 90 degrees

12; Show jump stitches, try it, it's an eye opener. Some are colour changes.

13+14; show start-end points

15; Toggle hoop on off.

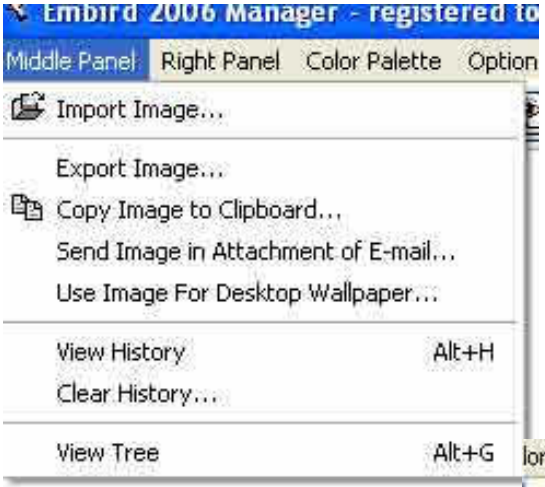
16; insert text, only works with purchased Embird alphabets.

17;Font Engine plug in.

18; Sew simulator, takes you into editor by default.

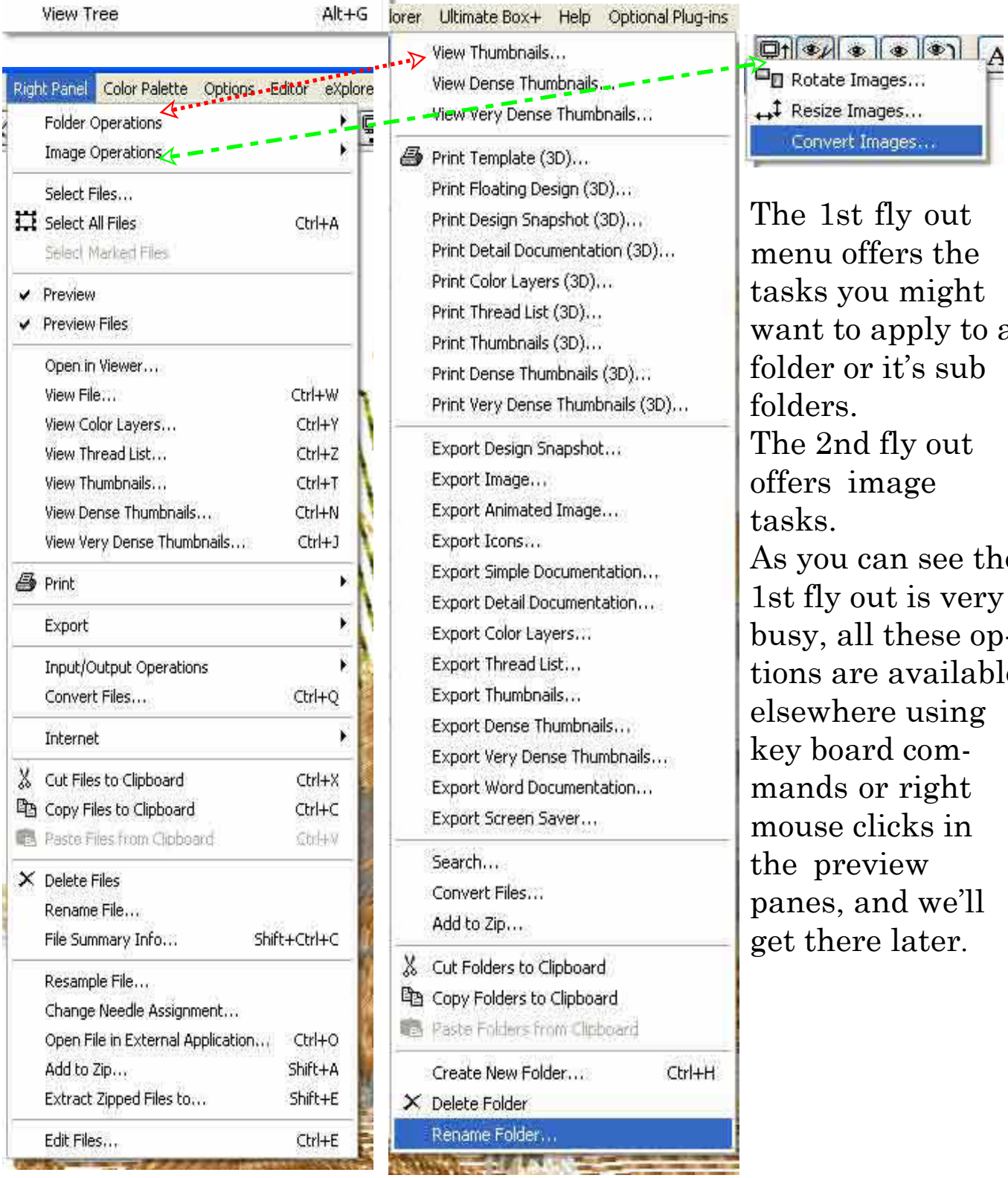
19; History of viewed files, shows only those viewed in Embird

20; File tree, interesting to see it map out the file route.
21; Buy designs on Internet, never used it.
22; Sell designs on Internet, never used it.
23; Plug in registration numbers.
Next I'll look at the drop down menus above the icons



1st drop down menu, as you can see it gives options for image tasks. Within each option there are more more options, just click and see what you find.

2nd drop down menu, this menu gives all the options available to you for a design.



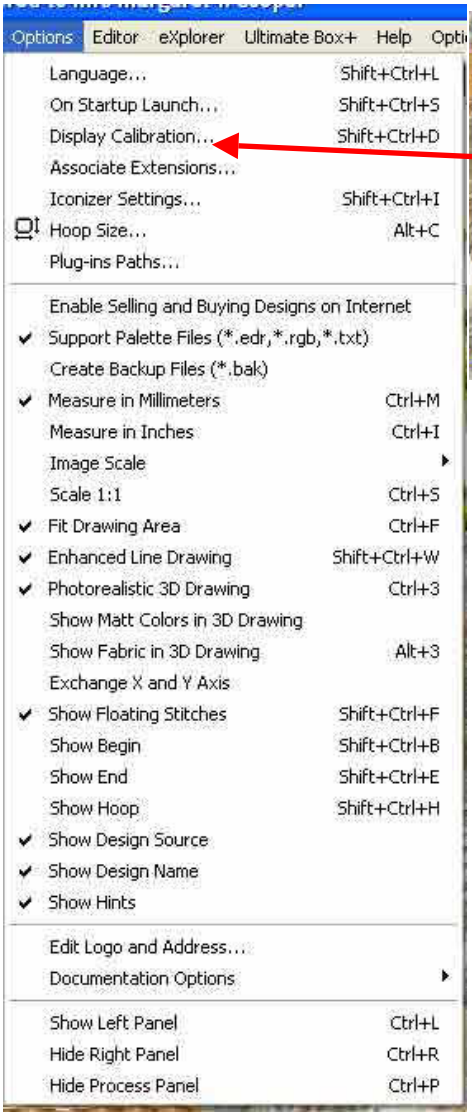
The 1st fly out menu offers the tasks you might want to apply to a folder or it's sub folders.
The 2nd fly out offers image tasks.
As you can see the 1st fly out is very busy, all these options are available elsewhere using key board commands or right mouse clicks in the preview panes, and we'll get there later.

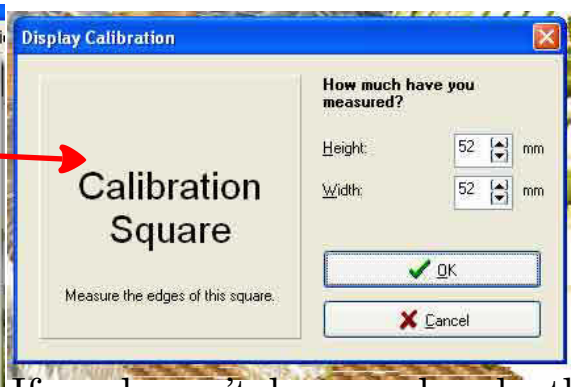


Moving along we come to the third drop down menu, here you can enter your threads you have via thread catalogs.

I use 3 catalogs, Madeira rayon, Madeira poly-neon and Princess. I don't tick any of them as I have all the poly-neon threads, a fair few rayon and I just like the Princess colours.

Load lets you import edr and rgb palette files, edr files are Embird's colours, and rgb, is the web based red green blue colours. Save as, lets you save edr palettes. Animate colour changes I'll cover later, but it's one you need to tick so you can see where and what colours you are changing. The rest I'll ignore for the meantime.

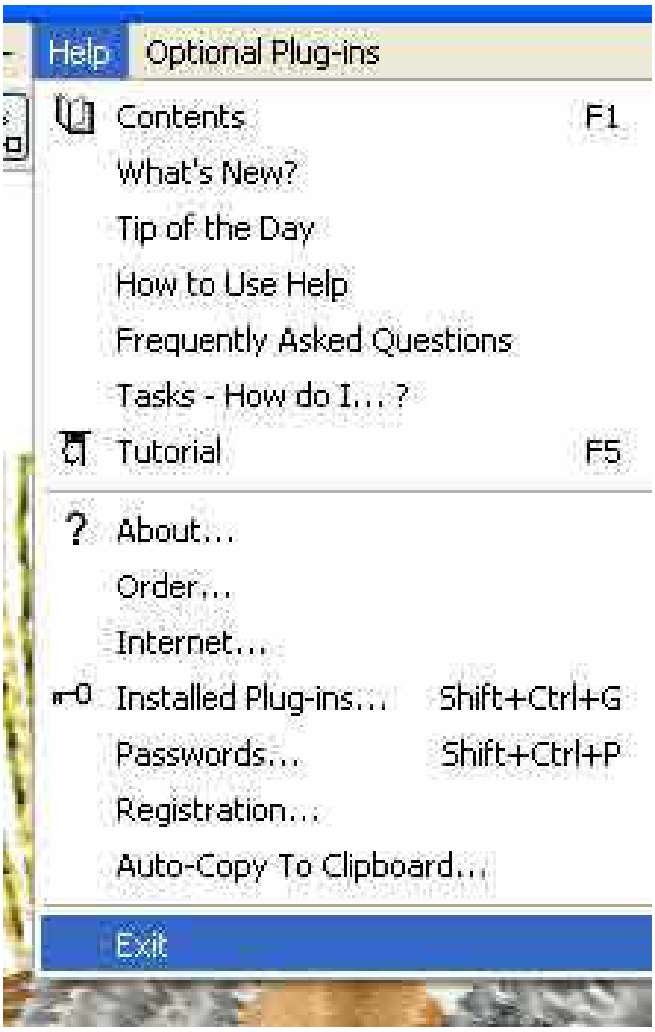




If you haven't done so already, this is where you set up Embird as you want to use it. Unless you want to drop English as the lang ignore it. You can make Embird start up in Editor, Studio or any other plug in or leave it as is in Manager. "Associate extensions", here you must be careful, I have 4 digitising packages, I allow Embird to automatically open 3 of them, the other I want the program whose ext it is to open it. I have selected all embroidery formats bar JEF. Image files I selected none. If you do Embird will open every photo, diagram etc, so don't select any picture formats. Same with Iconizer, and watch how big or small you make the icon settings.

Display Calibration you need to do, it's incredibly easy and means your designs will display at their correct size. Simply measure the square and enter the results.

Go down the list and tick all those settings you think you might want. You can always return and alter them.



The help menu contents, once you start to understand the program, is extremely useful. At first sight it just looks confusing, but it does have a logical layout, albeit the logic isn't mine, but not bad for a man. I can't cover it here it's too big.

If you're a new Embird owner what's new wont interest you.

Tip of the day, you can select it to show every time you start Embird, it does some have useful little tips.

How to use help, unless you have downloaded the help files and installed them in the Embird folder it wont work.

FAQs, acts like a help file, very useful.

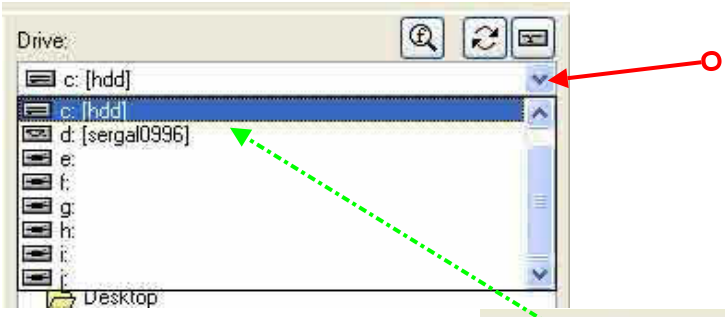
Tasks- how do I? Lists the most commonly asked questions and then provides answers. Use it if you're not certain how to do something.

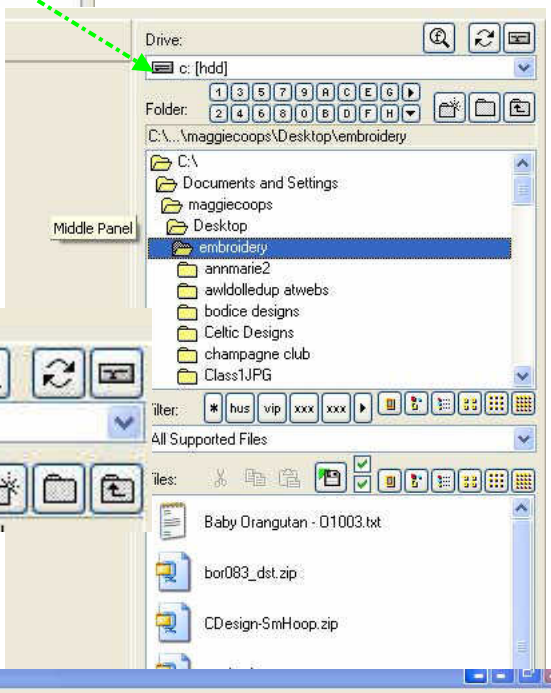
Tutorial, a list of tutorials on how to do do things in Embird

The tutorials are excellent, well written, clear screen shots, not over crammed like mine. And full of useful information.

The bottom half of the menu deals with what I call admin, it's for inserting and backing up passwords, registration details etc It will give you the details of what version you are using, a link to Embird's site to buy optional plug ins and alphabets. You can view your plug in list and registration numbers plus your details as held by Embird. Auto copy is a nifty way to get your reg number from an e mail into Embird

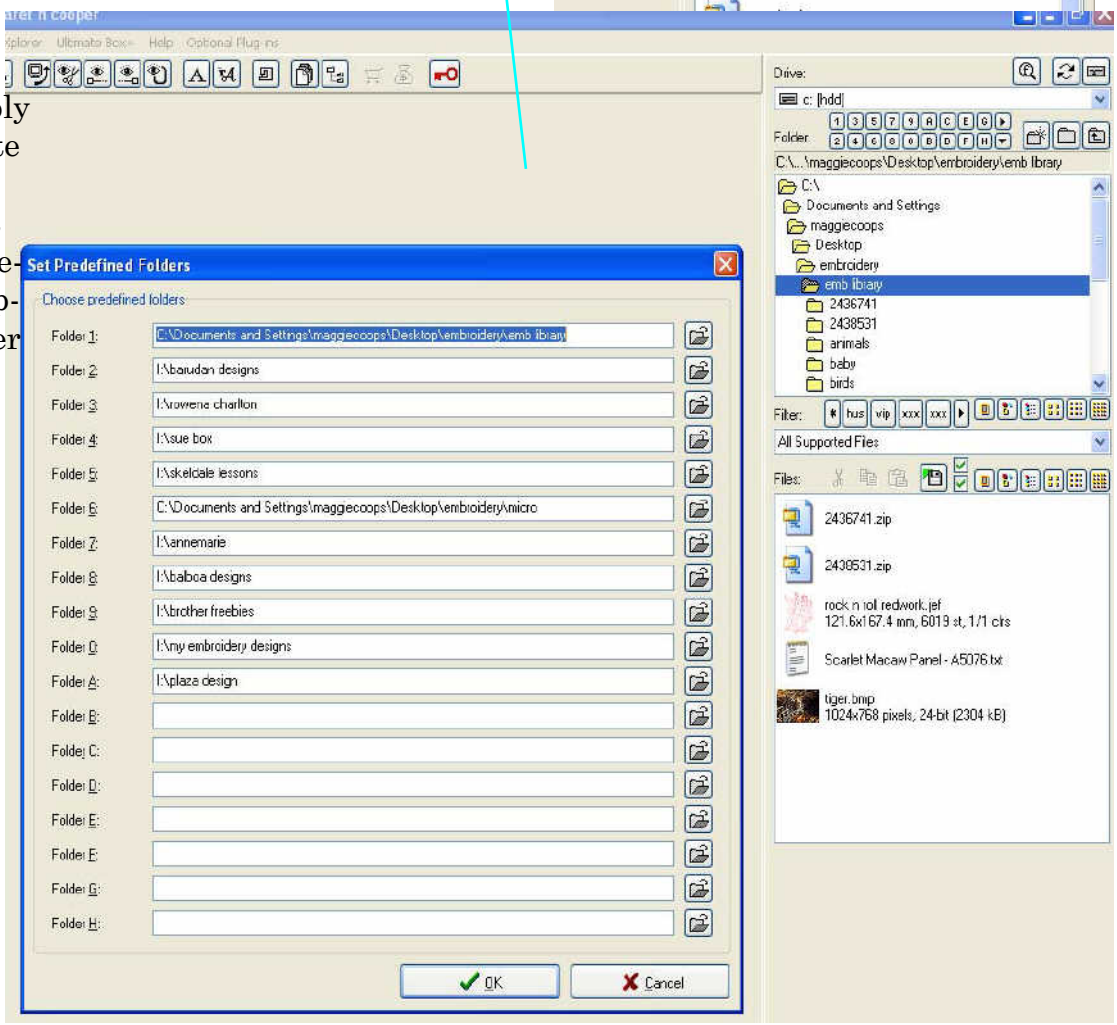
Right hand menu
Top drive frame.
I have a multi card reader for various cards. My computer sees them as drives, which they are, plus I have two USB flash drives.
Embird will search or save to any of the drives you can see in the drop down list, you just click on the small blue arrow to the right and all your drives will display.



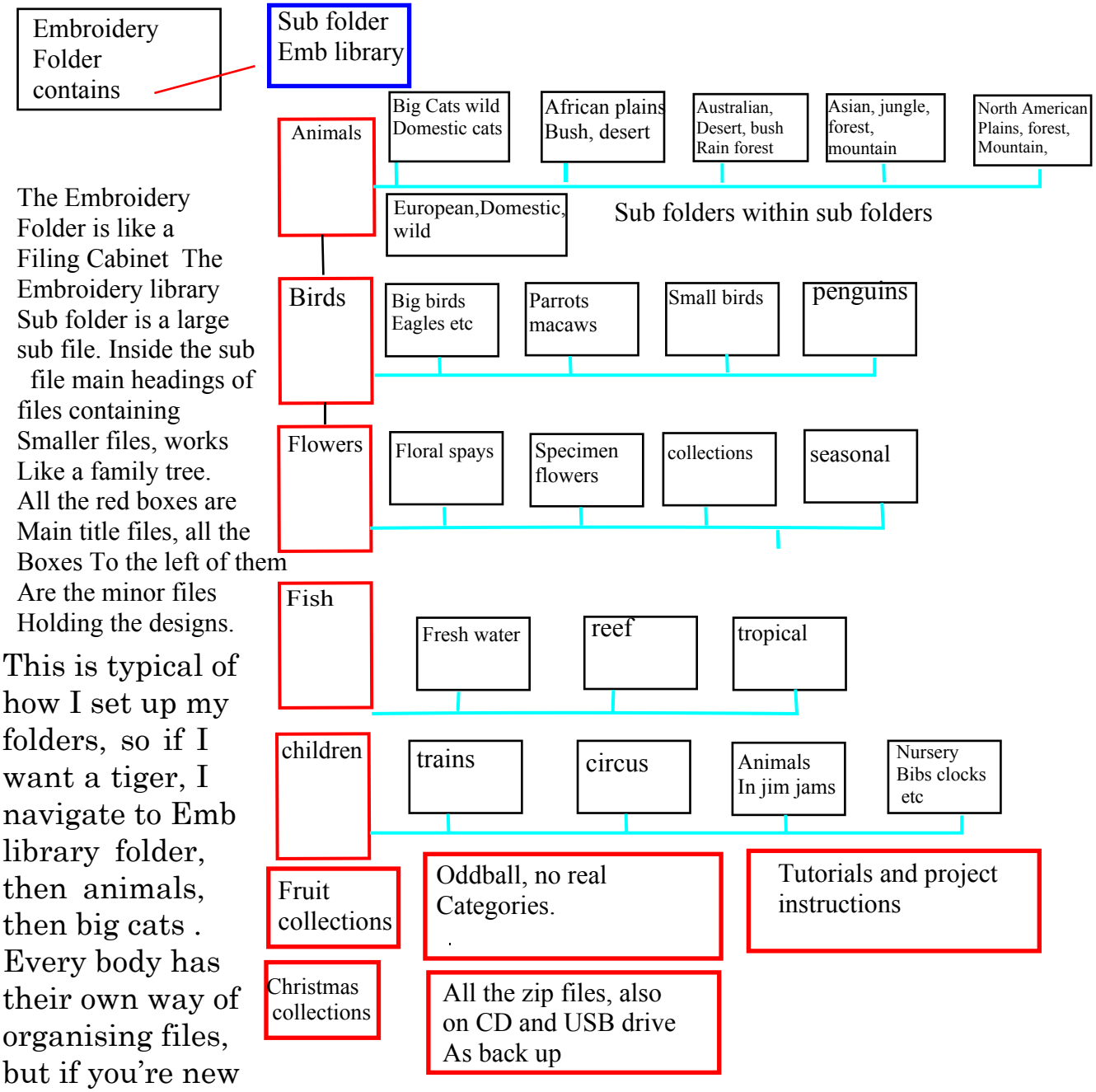




All the numbered boxes, those are your predefined files, to set them up, click the little right facing arrowhead, I've circled it, and a window opens like the one on this page.
Starting at one simply type in your favourite embroidery folders, then when you want to find or import a design, you click the appropriate box number and that folder appears.



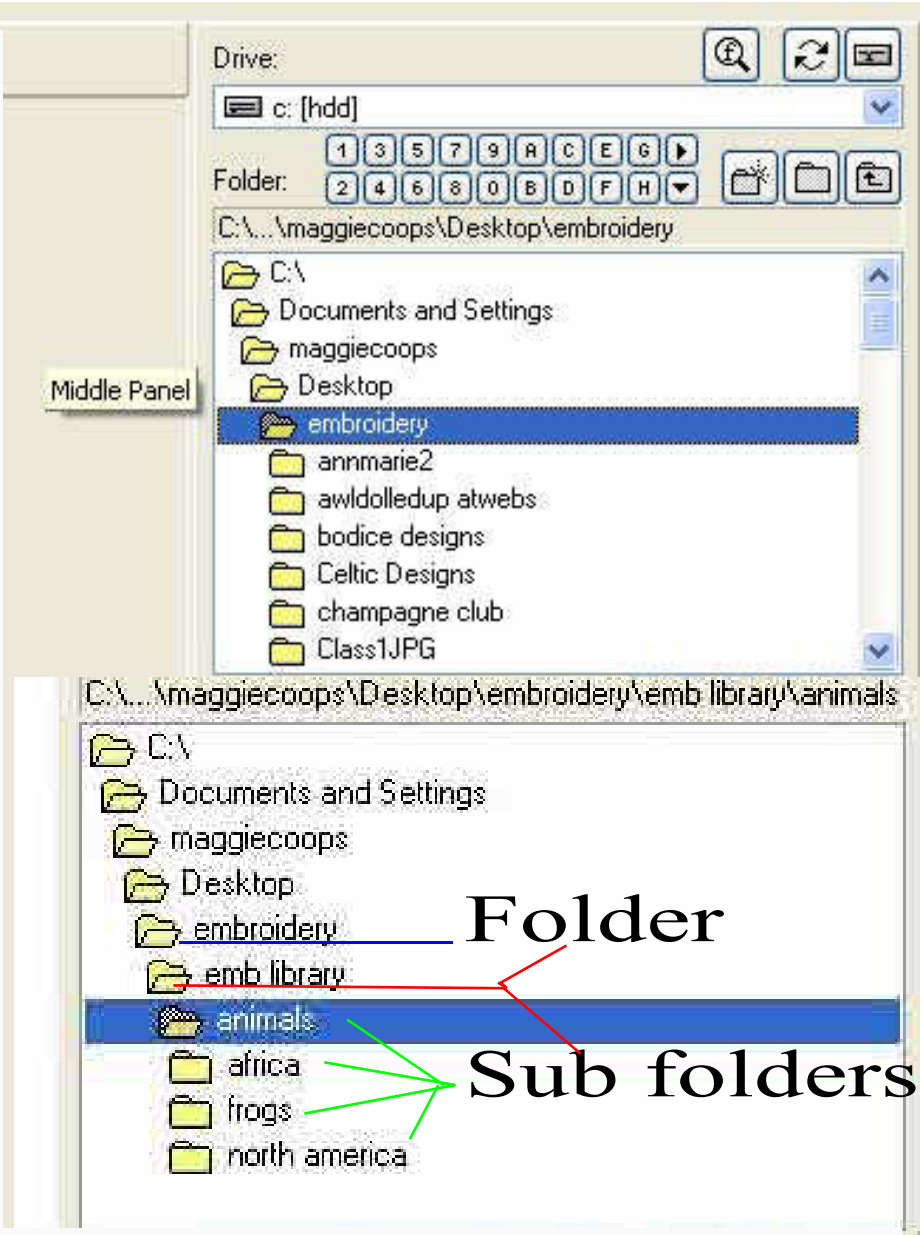
I have one huge embroidery folder on my desktop. Inside I have folders for every embroidery related site I have bought designs from, the groups I belong to, for instance there is a MachineEmbroiderySelfHelpers folder with sub folders inside. If I buy a design it goes in it's correct folder, i,e embroidery Library, inside there are sub folders categorising the designs, animals, flowers, birds, and then they are sub divided again. Sounds confusing but it stops me forgetting where I got designs from, I pop a text file in with the URL of the site and the designer. It means I don't have designs dotted around duplicated etc. It also means all my groups tips, lessons or general interests are grouped tidily, saves hours of ferreting through files and folders for some vaguely remembered tip on Embird.



The Embroidery Folder is like a Filing Cabinet The Embroidery library Sub folder is a large sub file. Inside the sub file main headings of files containing Smaller files, works Like a family tree. All the red boxes are Main title files, all the Boxes To the left of them Are the minor files Holding the designs.

This is typical of how I set up my folders, so if I want a tiger, I navigate to Emb library folder, then animals, then big cats . Every body has their own way of organising files, but if you're new to computers and embroidery,the earlier you organise a file storage system the better. It wont take long to discover your tying yourself up looking for designs.

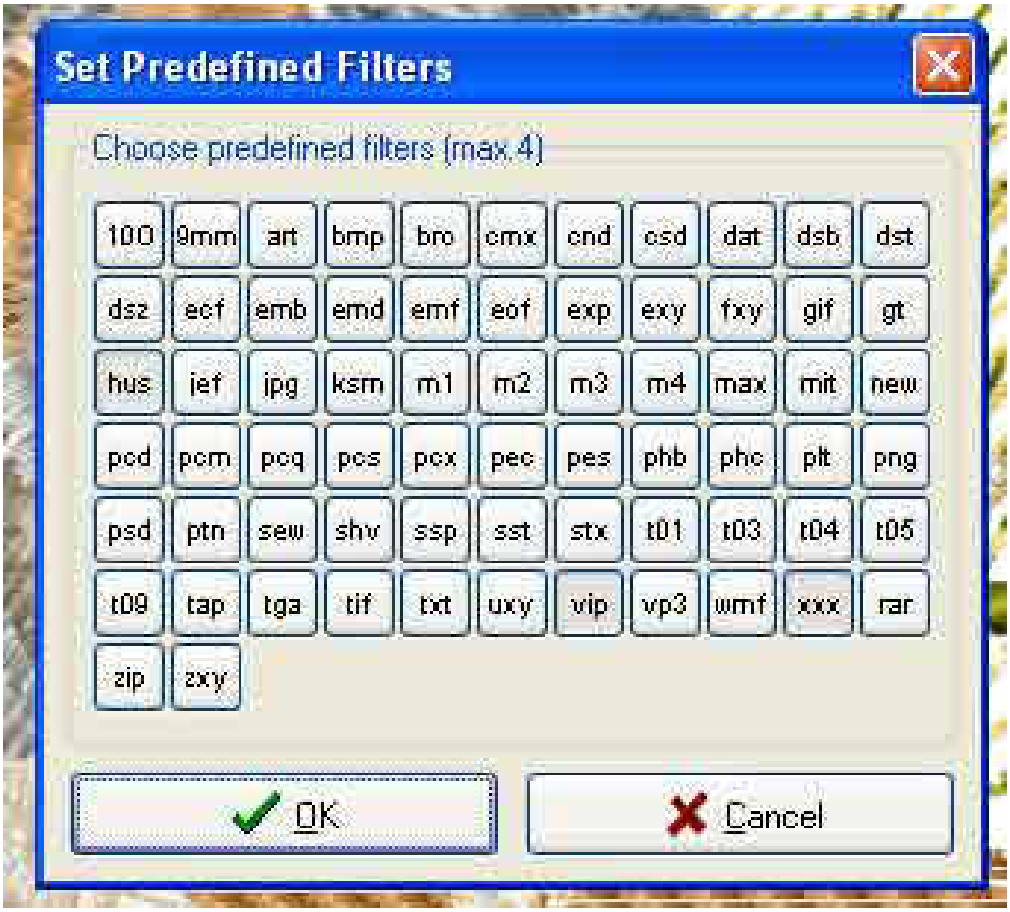
This is the menu I use most of the time in Manager, it's here where I select my folder then design file. You can see my navigation route in the box below all the numbered buttons, (predefined files area) There's my desktop folder embroidery, and the first few folders in alpha order. To open a folder you scroll down the list if it's not a predefined one, find it, select it . You can see here I navigated to my desk top, then my embroidery folder Selected Embroidery Library folder, then selected one of its sub folders, animals.



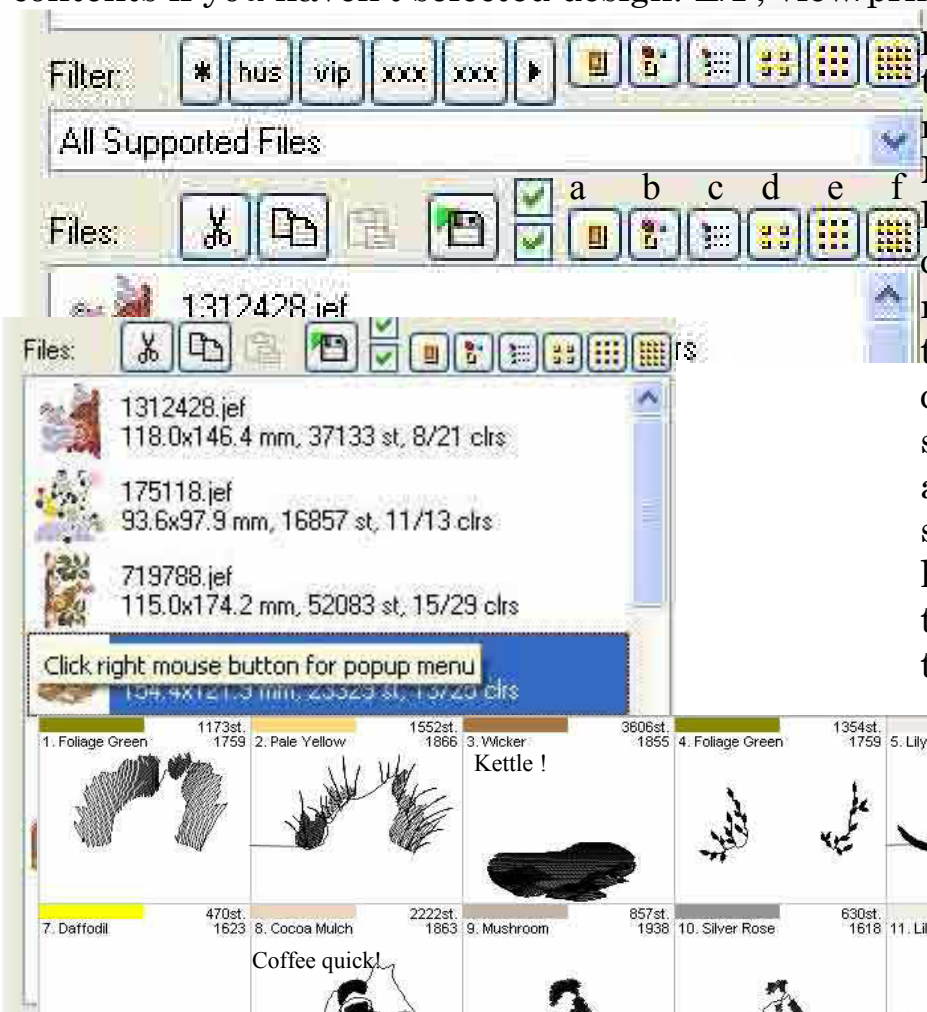
As I have 3 embroidery machines, each with their own formats, I have several designs repeated in various formats, so I could have a single design but in 6 different design formats, so that means sifting through great long lists to locate the one I want. But Embird provides me with a filter which will only allow me to see the design format I want at that moment. Lets say I'm going to use my Janome,so I need a Jef format, well Embird will let me hide all formats except Jef, saving me having to sift through all the non Jef formats.
I'll look at how that's possible on the next page.



You'll find nestled between the navigation pane and the design thumbnails pane, a row of boxes and icons. These are all very useful to you and will become increasingly so as you get more familiar with Embird. So let's explore.
Row 1; Filter, look across to the right facing arrow, select it, and a drop down menu appears. The graphic below. You select from 1 to 4 extensions, I notice mine is showing Hus,Vip, and Singers,xxx twice. I can't remember what I was doing the last time I set my filters. Any way the filter will screen out all extensions that aren't included in my choice. I can override it by selecting no 2, "all supported Files" if I know I only have two formats in a folder. Back to no 1. The icons to the right are all folder options, and you must be wary of them.
A: print design snap shot, **it will print EVERY DESIGN in your folder and sub folders!** B: View/print colour layers, it will show or print every colour layer of every design in your folder and sub folders. In fact every icon on this bar processes the contents of the main folder and all its sub folders. That's a lot of ink if you selected print,or screens if you selected view.



So now I've frit the life out of you, relax, the row of icons below "all supported files" is much friendlier. These all deal with single files only. The top layer is fine if you want to print out a record of all your designs and their details. I would be here for months feeding my printer!
From the left on row 3, cut, copy, paste, total commander plug in, 2 little boxes both ticked. Top one preview design, bottom box preview window, yes to both. A;print/export design snapshot. Prints only the design you select. B; view/ print colour layers, graphic below. Very useful if you want to know sewing order. C; view/print thread list, I use this one a lot to assign colours to needles for my big machines. D; view/print file thumbnails, shows only the the design or file contents if you haven't selected design. E/F, view/print loads of thumbnails to a page . We'll look at the bottom toolbars next but on a new page I think.
Nearly forgot, the colour layers, each box shows the colour ribbon at the top, it's number according to the thread catalogue you choose, the number of stitches in that colour, Then a drawing of the area stitched in the colour. Dead handy if you want to know the order and if you have time to pop the kettle on.

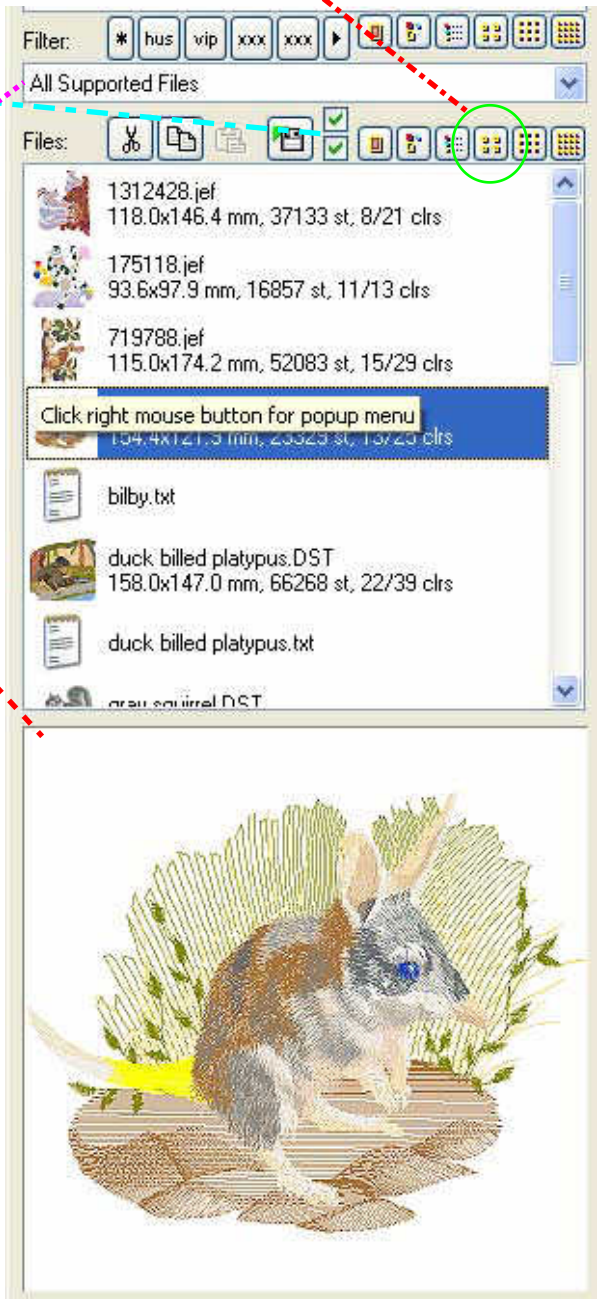




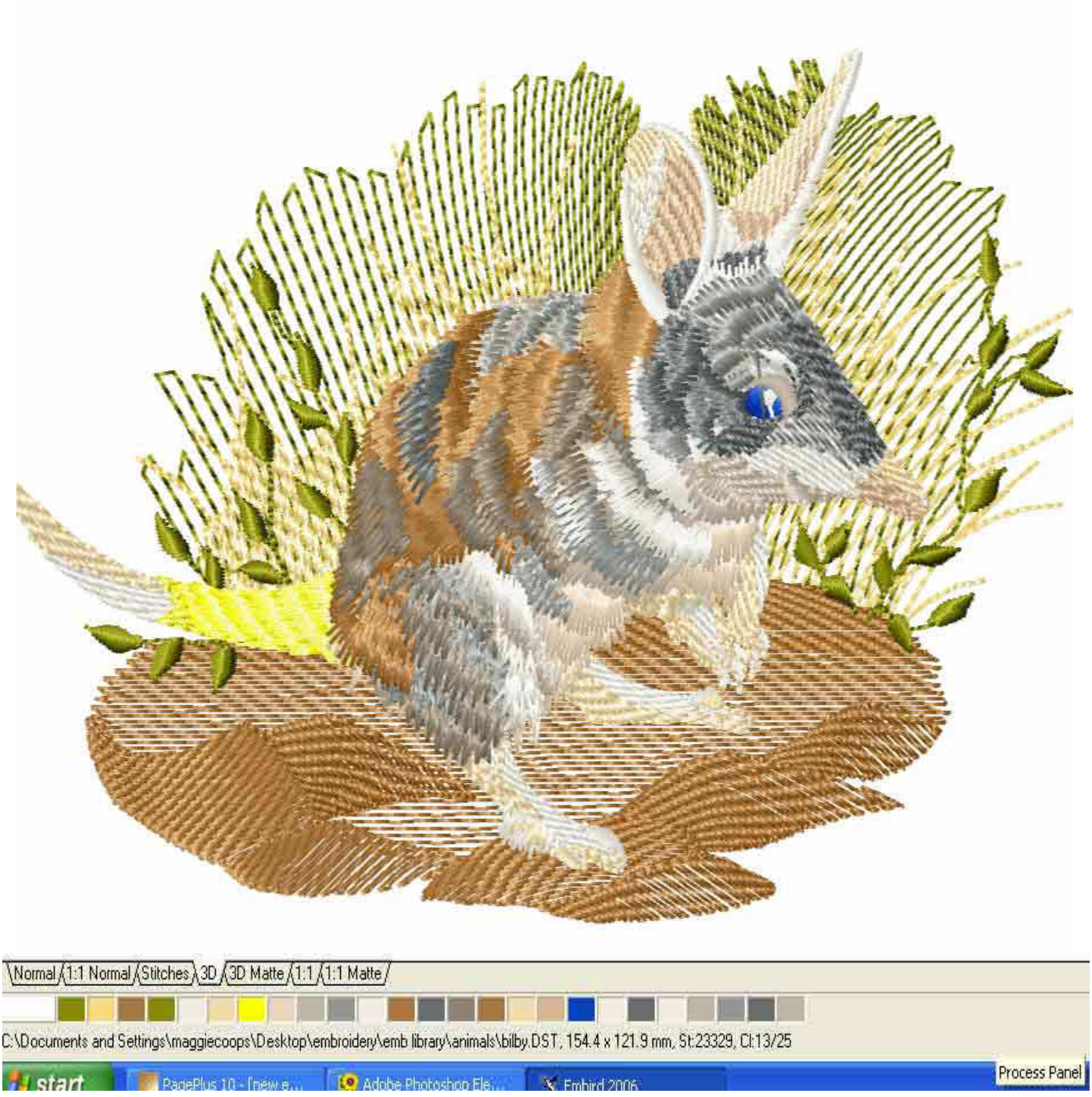
On this page you can see I have highlighted my design that sits in the animal sub folder of Embroidery Librarie's folder. I asked for a thumbnail of the design by selecting the icon I circled in green.
The yellow strip along the bottom of the thumbnail tells me, it's design number, its name, its format (dst) the number of stitches, its size and finally the number of colours and colour changes.



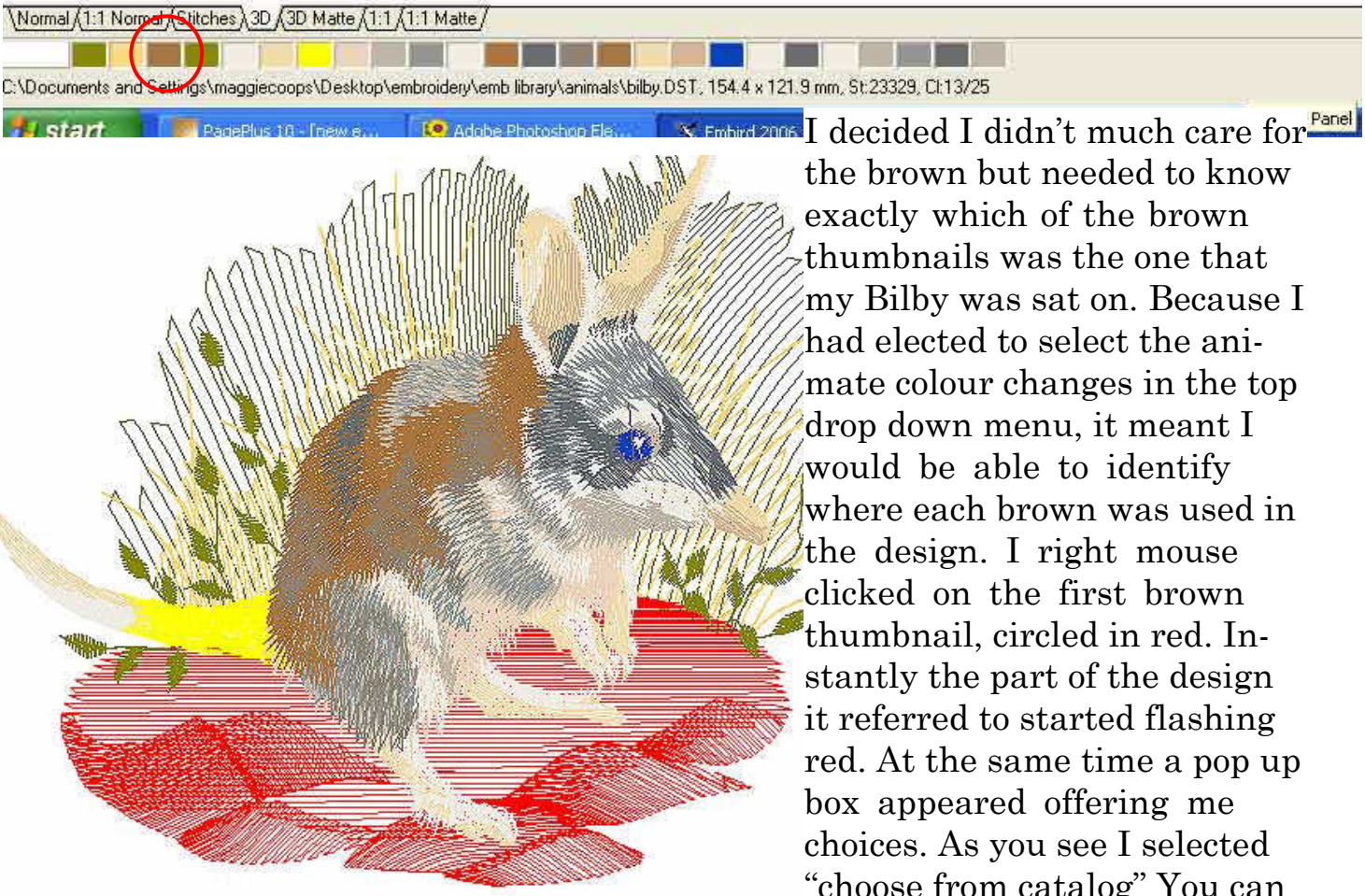
As both the little boxes are ticked I can see my designs, the colour change text files and any other items in the folder. You can see I have set the filter for all supported files
Had I selected Jef or Pes, only those would have shown up.
By having both the boxes selected I can see a preview of the design
That way I don't have to open a design to see what it is. Sometimes though a design is so busy it's hard to tell exactly if its the one I want or not, so I have to open it.



On the next page I'll show you why it's handy to tick animate colour changes on the drop down menu, and how to change design formats without losing the original format.

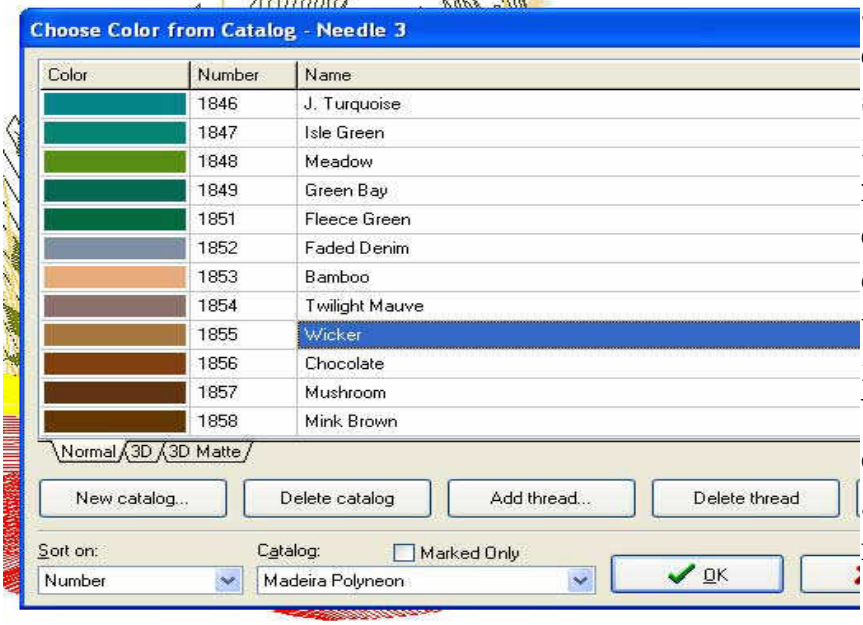


This is the design I'm using to show you how you can change colours without having to go into Editor. First you have to find the design you want to alter the colours in, you use your preview panes in the right hand side of the screen. When you find it, double left mouse click and it appears in the centre panel of manager. Along the bottom is the "process bar"It shows which type of view has been selected, in this case 3D, beneath the view tabs there are thumbnails of the colours used, the first is always the colour of the background used for the display, here it's white. If you hover your mouse over each one it will display "needle 1 > 25" those are the needle assignments for industrial machines. You can use them to identify how many times you have to change your top thread. Below the colour thumbs there is a legend displaying the navigation route for the design and also stitch count, size and colours. It is the process bar you use to carry out colour changes.

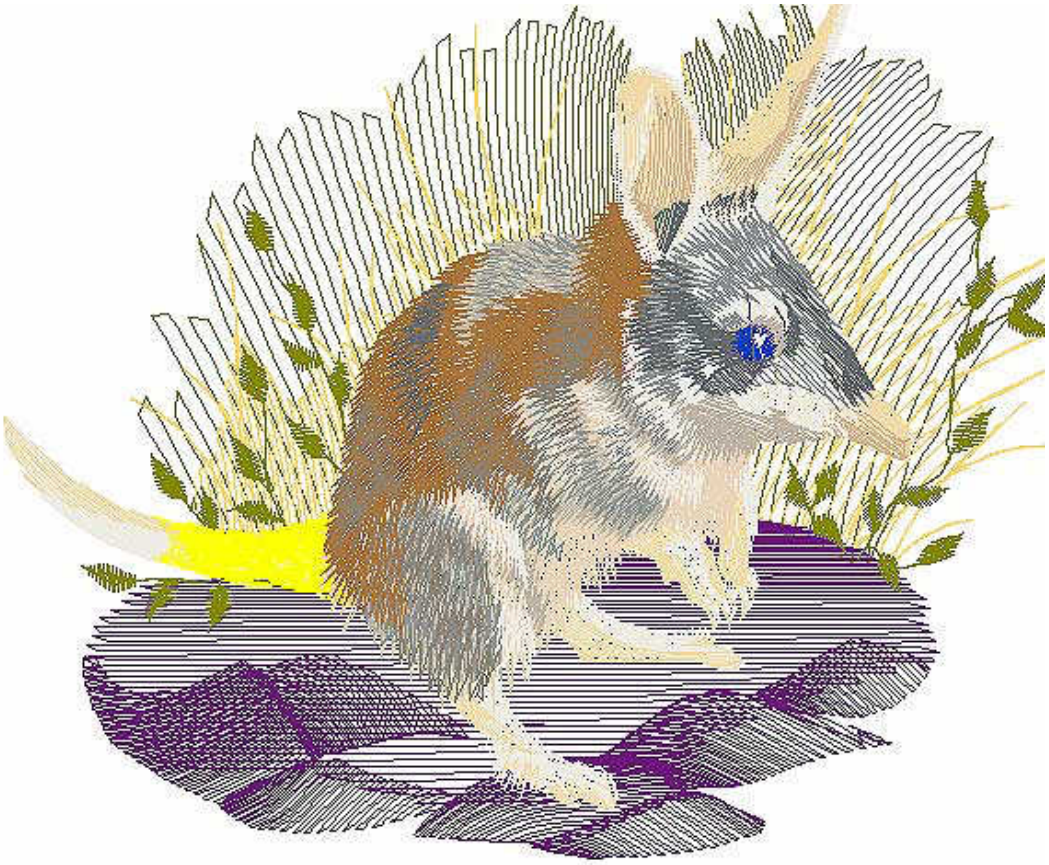


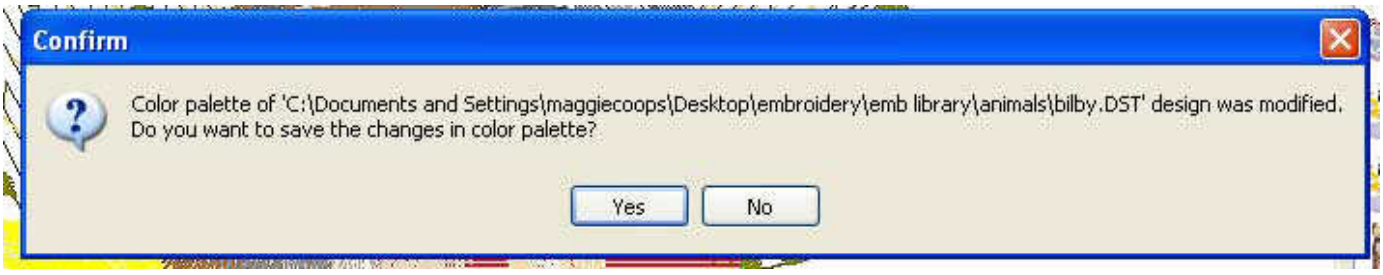
I decided I didn't much care for the brown but needed to know exactly which of the brown thumbnails was the one that my Bilby was sat on. Because I had elected to select the animate colour changes in the top drop down menu, it meant I would be able to identify where each brown was used in the design. I right mouse clicked on the first brown thumbnail, circled in red. Instantly the part of the design it referred to started flashing red. At the same time a pop up box appeared offering me choices. As you see I selected "choose from catalog" You can elect to choose from palette and you will be given the colour palettes of most of the machines supported. They're a bit limited.

As I chose catalog, I got the catalog box, It contains just about every major brand and as long as you haven't marked any threads, you get all of the colours available. If you have set up the threads you own by marking them, you are confined to those colours. As I like colour and own a zillion reels of different makes, I don't set up a thread list, just choose my threads according to the backgrounds they'll be stitched on, plus I like changing colours around, you get some weird results that way.

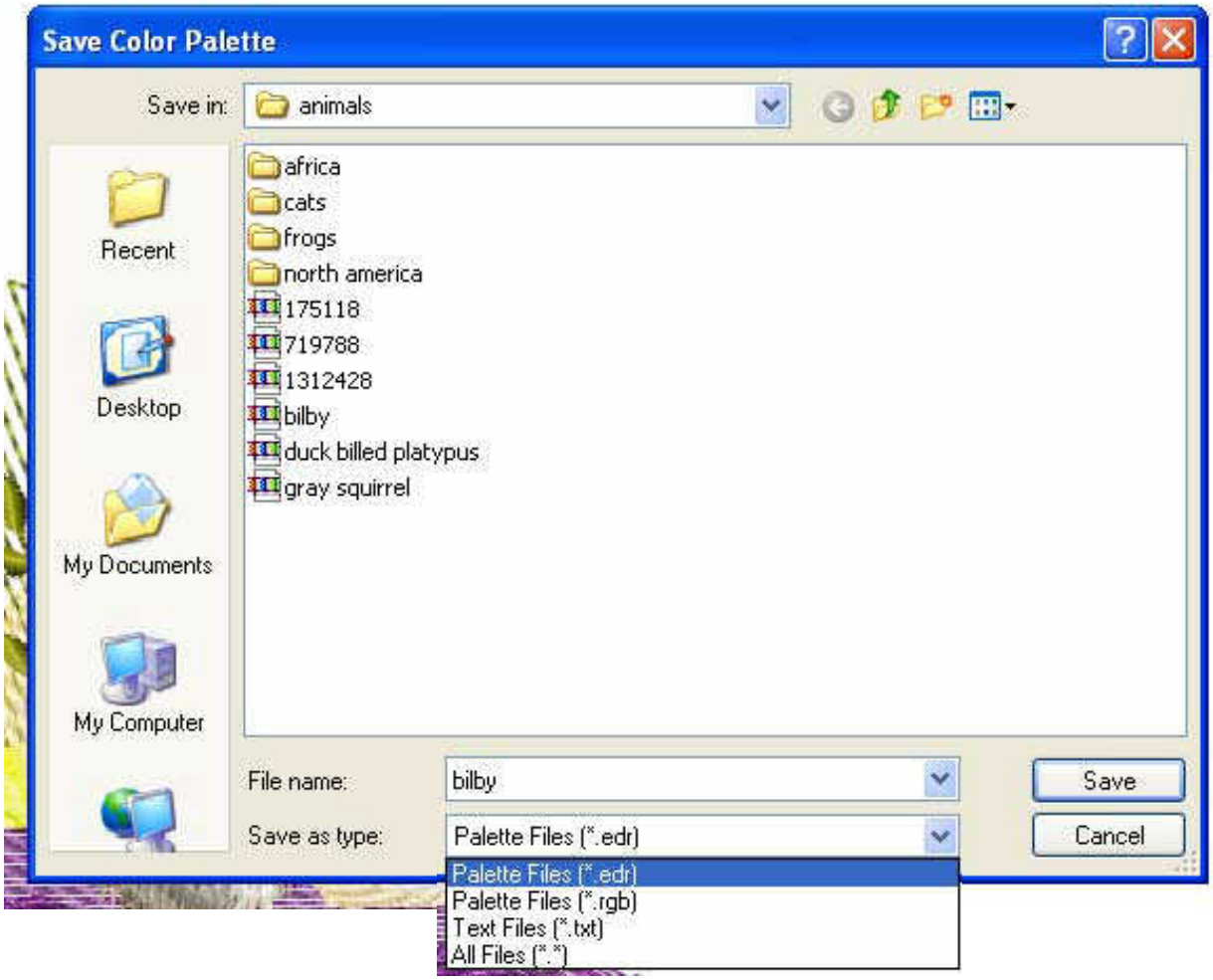






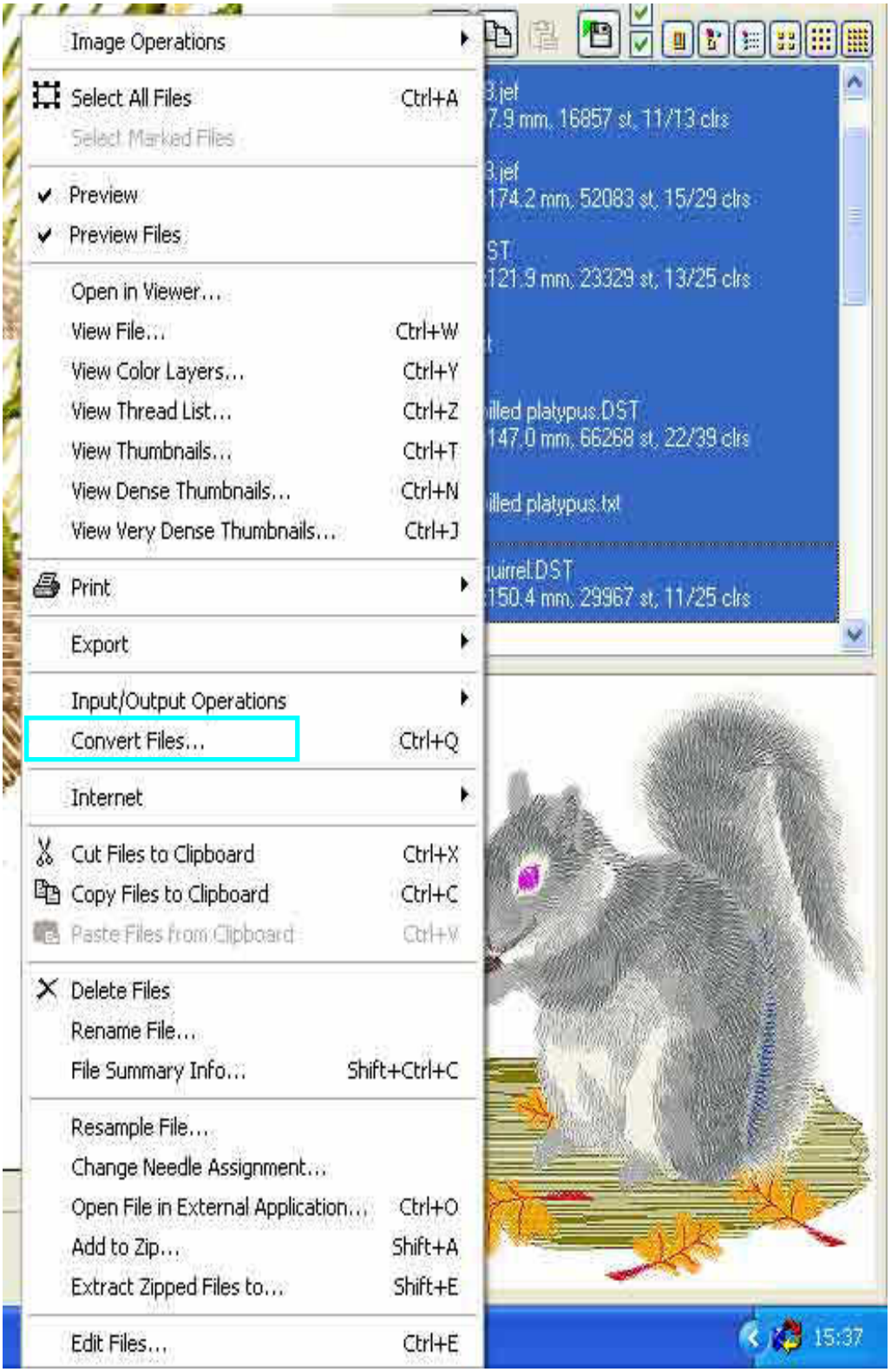


I changed the first brown to purple, (top graphic, third thumbnail) asked the program to apply change, (first option on the process bar to the left). You can see the effect in the centre graphic, I then decided I preferred the original colour and asked the program to "restore colour palette" at this point a warning pop up appears asking if I want to save changes in the colour palette, I selected no. The design reverts to its original colours. You can experiment changing colours for as long as you want before asking the program to "save colour palette" the moment you select that option a new pop up window appears, and I'll show you that on the next page.

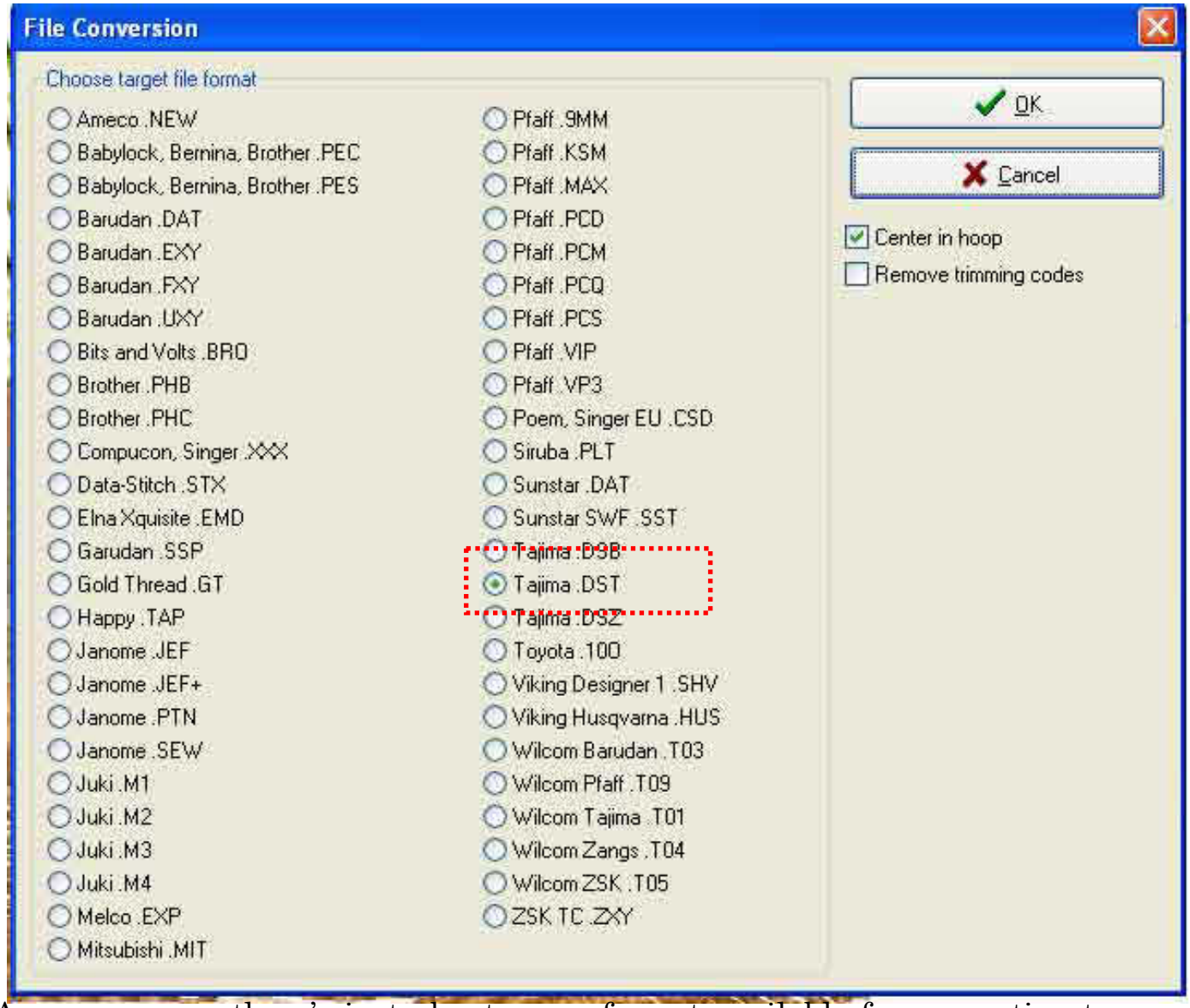


This is the “save colour palette” pop up window. As you can see there are options to save in Embirds EDR format, RGB (red green blue computer colours format) text format, now unless you want a huge parcel of hard work, ignore all options except the edr format. If you purchase designs in DST or any format that doesn’t include colour information, always try to get the colour change text files. As long as they have the thread brand and numbers Embird can read them and automatically make an EDR file for them. Just make sure both the design file and the text file have the same name and are in the same file, or Embird wont find the colour change sheet.
The next thing I’m going to look at is how to convert stitch file formats to suit your embroidery machine.

Now to examine changing stitch file formats into a format to use on your machine. I can't always get whole collections because the old Jef format doesn't support a hoop size large enough for some of the designs, so I buy a stitch format for a machine with the larger hoop sizes, then use Embird Manager to do a stitch file conversion. For the large designs I simply use Editor to split the designs, but that's for the next PDF.



In this graphic you can see I have highlighted a number of files to convert by holding down my Ctrl key whilst selecting files. When I had selected the ones I wanted to convert, I right mouse button clicked on one of the highlighted files, and the pop up menu appeared. You can see I have placed a turquoise rectangle around the "convert files" command, I selected this and you'll find the result on the next page.

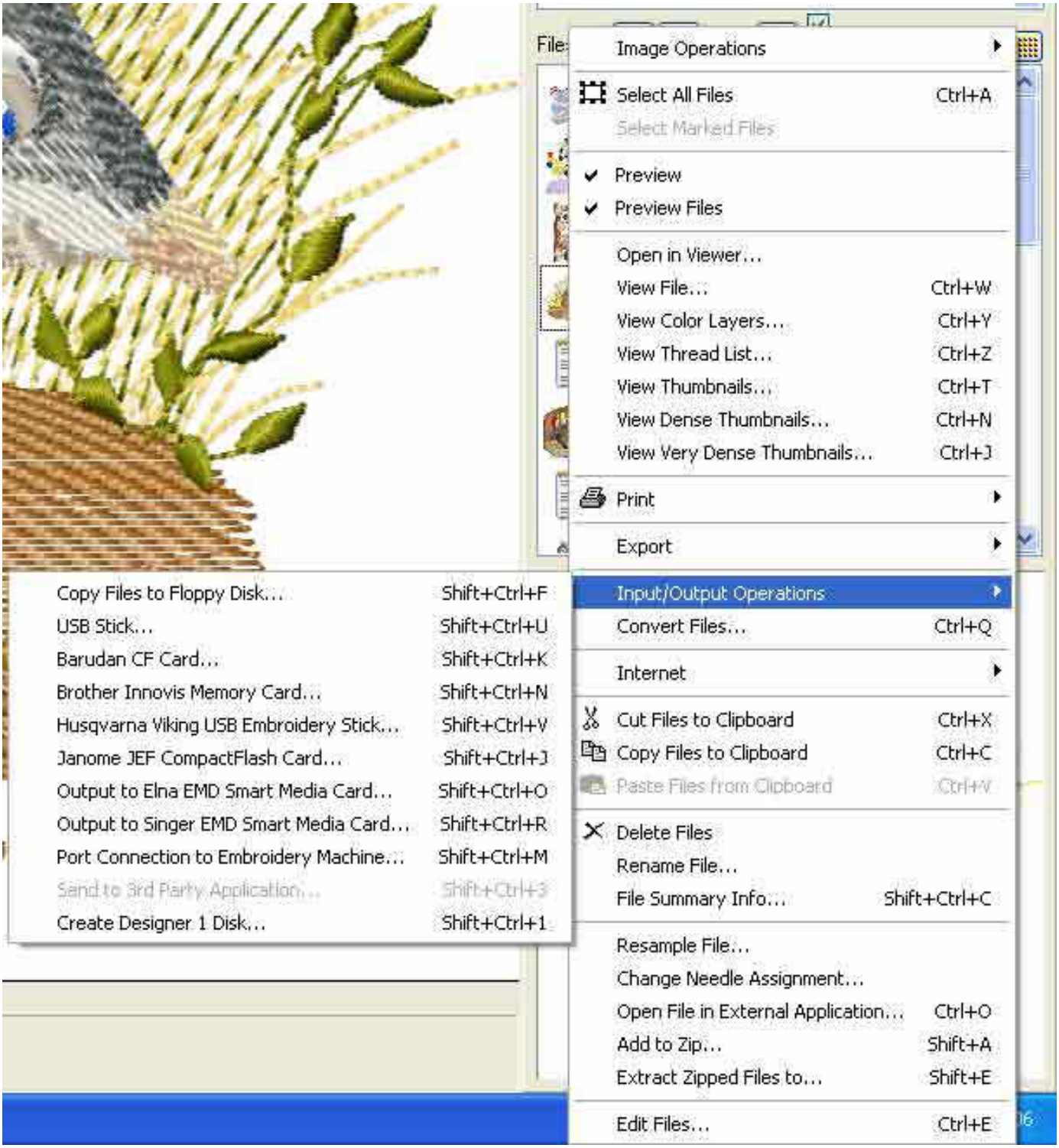


As you can see there's just about every format available for converting to. There are a few exceptions, ART springs to mind, and some of the newest stitch formats for the most up to date models, but I have no doubt they'll be included as well eventually. I've chosen Tajima DST as my choice, My two industrial machines both use this format, if I wanted to use my Janome 10001 I would have chosen Jef, the one without the plus sign as that's for the 11000, a machine I haven't got, yet.

Once the choice was made, I made certain the " centre in hoop" option was highlighted, and left clicked on the green tick OK box. Seconds later the



finished Pop up box appeared, all the chosen files had been converted, but best of all the original stitch formats still existed as well.



Using the same pop up menu as the convert files, you can write your designs to CD, USB stick, (I use one for my new industrial machine, so handy) or media cards. The port connection to machine appears to be for the Barudan industrial machines only, I haven't been able to fool Embird into speaking to my Toyota exp machine as yet, but give me time. I use this menu to write to my Janome compact flash card, there have been complaints that some Janome machines can't read Embird CF writes but I've never had this problem, says me crossing my fingers.

I hope you have found something of use in this little intro to Embird Manager I'll be looking at editor next, there's so much to cover so it might take two PDF docs just to cover the basics. I'd better get started :>) mad mags