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DESIGNS IN YOUR POCKET

The start of a new year is always a time for improving our lives, our homes, and ourselves. Whether you have made a list of resolutions or not, I'm going to show you how to get your design collection in a form that you can carry with you in your pocket, purse, notion bag, or anything else that's always where you are when you're sewing.

Most embroidery machine owners have a very large collection of embroidery designs stashed away in various folders on their computers. If you came to the 11000 from a 10000 or 10001, you may also have a large collection of CompactFlash cards, each with an assortment of designs. Although these cards are very portable, it's not real handy to have to shuffle through them to find the one you want.

With the first generation of machines that used CompactFlash cards, we were limited to the number of designs we could actually put on the card. The number ranges from 100, on models like the 300E and 9500, to 1,200 on the Memory Craft 10001. This is why so many of us have a lot of small cards with no more than a few hundred designs on them.

Today the CompactFlash format is fading in popularity, and small cards are becoming harder to get. Fortunately the Memory Craft 11000 can use the USB flash drives that are readily available, and there are all sorts of drives available in forms that might surprise you. You can use sizes up to 2 gigabytes in your machine without problem. Why the 2 gigabyte limit? There are two different File Allocation Table schemes created for the original IBM, FAT and FAT-32. There are also variations of the original FAT scheme, known as FAT-12 and FAT-16. The Memory



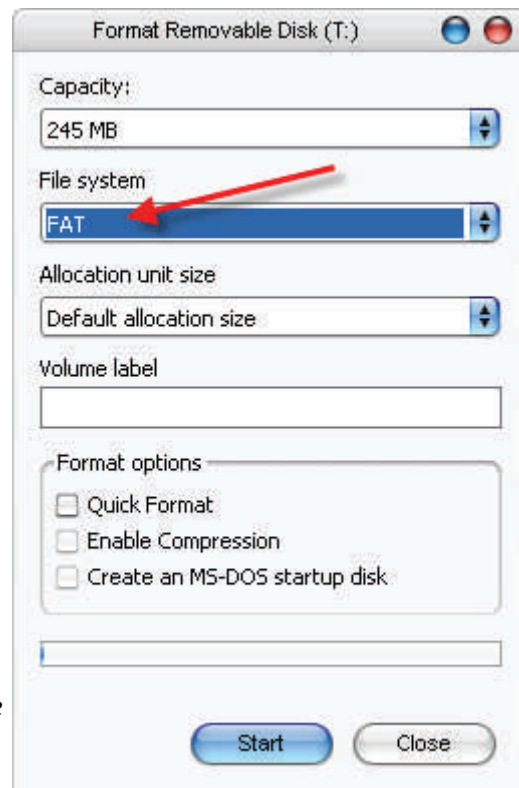
Memorex TravelDrive

This USB based flash drive is readily available online and in computer, electronics, and office supply stores. You can get it in a variety of sizes, but don't get one larger than 2 gigabytes if you plan to use it with your Memory Craft 11000. Prices vary, but the trend is always lower.

Craft 11000 can only recognize the FAT format in devices that are connected to it. The largest amount of storage that can be placed on a device formatted as FAT is 2 gigabytes. Your drive will come pre-formatted out of the box. Plug it into your machine. If you get a “FAT error” message, you will need to reformat the drive using the FAT system. You can do this by touching the SET key on the machine. On page SET2 of the general settings, touch the YES button next to USB Memory. This will format the drive using the FAT system.

You can also format it in your computer by following these steps:

1. Open **My Computer**. Find the drive letter for your USB memory drive or CompactFlash card.
2. Right click on the drive icon you located. From the pop-up menu, choose **Format**. The dialog shown here will open.
3. Make certain that the **File system** option is set to FAT. As previously pointed out, FAT-32 will not work. Neither will NTFS, which may be available on some XP computers. If you don't have an option for FAT, either your device is too large (over 2GB), or you cannot format on this computer. You can check the **Quick Format** option if you wish, although the format operation will go very quickly. Don't check either the **Enable Compression** or **Create an MS-DOS startup disk** option. These options will keep the card or drive from working in your sewing machine.



Now we're ready to start copying our collection to the ATA card or USB drive, which we'll just call a device from here on. You could do this with Customizer 11000 or even Digitizer Pro, but it will take a lot longer that way. If we use Windows Explorer, the process will be somewhat more complex, but you'll be able to finish it before your grandchildren's grandchildren finish high school.

The first step in the process is to open **My Computer**. If you formatted the device using the steps above, it may already be open. Find the icon for your device and double click on it. This will open a window that will either be empty, or will contain one folder. Based on what you find, you will perform one of the following steps:

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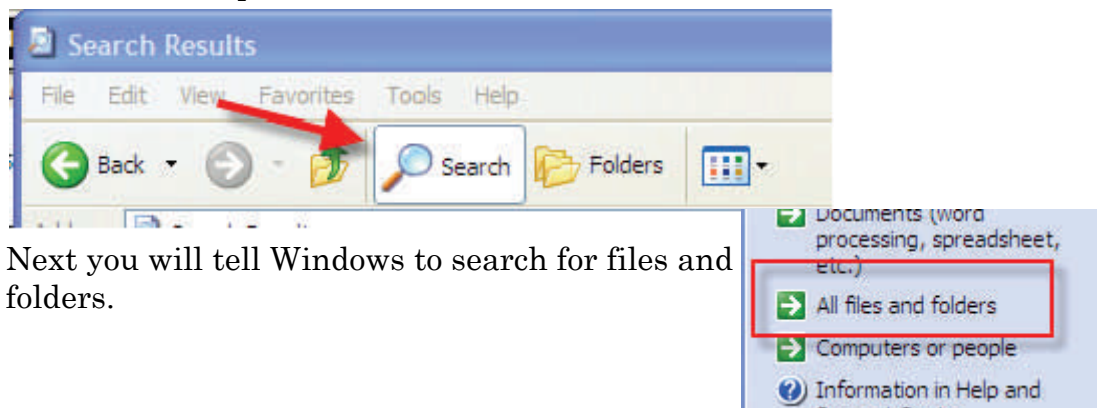
1. The folder is empty. Right click in the empty space and choose **New** from the pop-up menu. Choose **Folder** from the next menu. Finally type **EMB** as the name of the new folder. Continue to step 2.
2. A single folder named **EMB** is shown. (If you also see a folder called **ORD**, just ignore it. Double click on the EMB folder to open it.

It's important to understand that the **EMB** folder is sacred to the MC11000. It is the only folder that the machine will look at for designs. Anything that you put on the device that is not in this folder will be ignored. In addition, only folders inside the EMB folder will be considered for designs. Dragging and dropping individual JEF files into the EMB folder will not work. They will simply not be seen.

Now we're ready to load up the device. We already have the EMB folder open in a window from the above steps. The next step is to open a window for the folder that contains our designs. I keep my designs in separate folders inside a folder called **Embroidery**, which is itself contained in the **My Documents** folder created by Windows. If you use a similar system, then your are ready to start. If you don't know where your designs are located, it's a bit more complicated.

Many times, in the course of helping a customer, I'll ask "Where are your designs?" If the answer is "I keep them in Buzz Tools" (or Embird or Customizer or...) I know we're in for a search! That's because Buzz Tools, Buzz Xplore, Embird, Customizer, etc. are not places, but tools. They can be used to manipulate designs, but the designs themselves are still stored on the disk drive in your computer, in folders. If you have absolutely no idea where the folders are, use this procedure to find them:

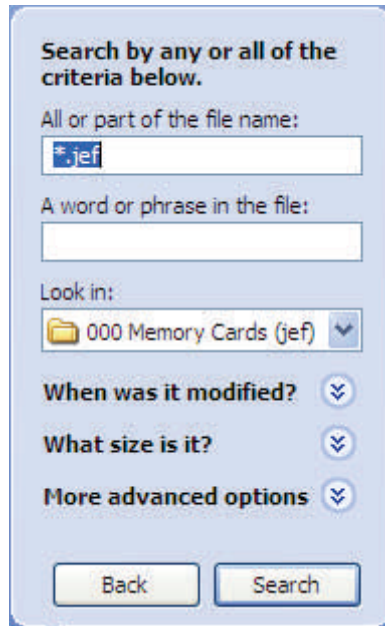
1. Open **My Computer**. Unless you know for certain that your designs are not on your hard drive, open drive C. If they are on a different drive, you are probably sufficiently advanced to find them yourself, but if not, open the drive where they are.
2. Now that you have the drive open, go into **Search** mode by clicking the button at the top of the screen.



3. Next you will tell Windows to search for files and folders.

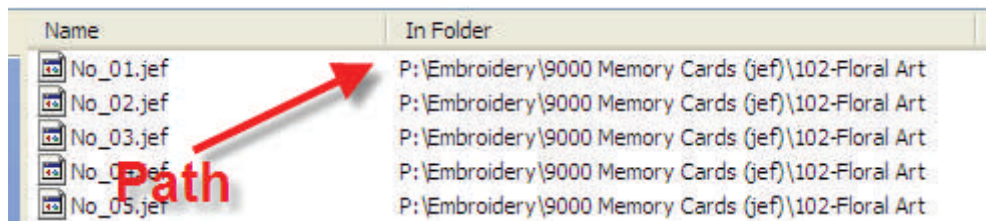
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4. Enter the search criteria in the next box. We're just looking for files in the **jef** format. By entering “*.jef” we are telling the computer to match any file that ends in **jef**.



The screenshot shows a Windows search criteria dialog box. At the top, it says "Search by any or all of the criteria below." Below this, there are three input fields: "All or part of the file name:" with the text "*.jef" entered; "A word or phrase in the file:" which is empty; and "Look in:" with a dropdown menu showing "000 Memory Cards (jef)". Below these fields are three expandable sections: "When was it modified?", "What size is it?", and "More advanced options", each with a downward arrow icon. At the bottom of the dialog are two buttons: "Back" and "Search".

5. After you click the **Search** button, Windows will start listing all of the available files that match the criteria. Next to each file will be the **path** to the file.



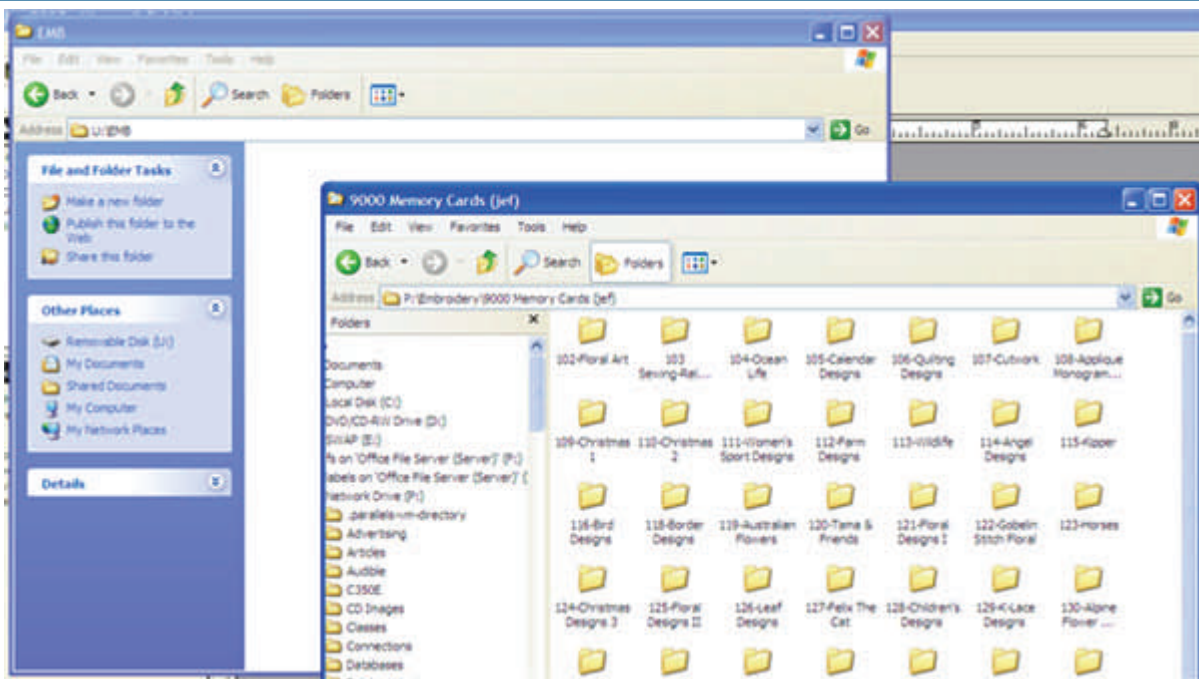
The screenshot shows a table of search results. The table has two columns: "Name" and "In Folder". The "Name" column lists five files: "No_01.jef", "No_02.jef", "No_03.jef", "No_04.jef", and "No_05.jef". The "In Folder" column lists the same path for each file: "P:\Embroidery\9000 Memory Cards (jef)\102-Floral Art". A red arrow points from the word "Path" (written in red) to the first entry in the "In Folder" column.

Name	In Folder
No_01.jef	P:\Embroidery\9000 Memory Cards (jef)\102-Floral Art
No_02.jef	P:\Embroidery\9000 Memory Cards (jef)\102-Floral Art
No_03.jef	P:\Embroidery\9000 Memory Cards (jef)\102-Floral Art
No_04.jef	P:\Embroidery\9000 Memory Cards (jef)\102-Floral Art
No_05.jef	P:\Embroidery\9000 Memory Cards (jef)\102-Floral Art

For reasons too long and unimportant to explain, the **My Documents** folder on my computer is represented as drive P. So what this search is telling us is that these designs can be found by opening drive P, then the **Embroidery** folder, followed by the **9000 Memory Cards (jef)** folder, and finally the **102-Floral Art** folder.

For the purpose of illustration, we want to look at the folders that contain designs, not individual designs. So for this example, we need to open all of the folders up to and including the **9000 Memory Cards (jef)** folder so that we can drag the folders inside of it into the EMB folder already open. Once we have this folder open, we are ready to proceed to the last step, copying the folders to the card or USB drive. Position the windows so that they overlap. This allows you to bring either folder to the top just by clicking on it.

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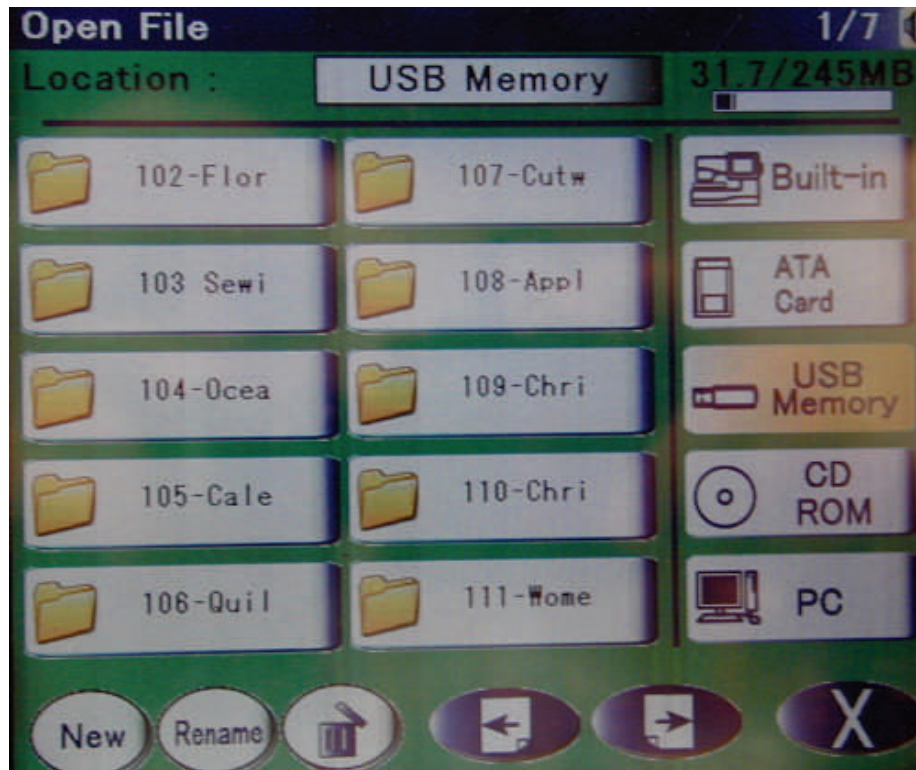
Now we're ready to start copying our design collection to the card or drive to be used in the machine. This can be done simply by dragging folders from the top window and dropping them into the bottom one, but that method is risky. If you happen to “stutter” while moving the mouse, you can create a bunch of folders labeled “Copy of” and the folder name. Then you have to delete the duplicates. A better way is to select the folders you want to use. (Hint—type **CTRL-A** to select all of them.) After they are selected, type **CTRL-C** to copy them to the clipboard. Then click on the window with the EMB folder and type **CTRL-V**. This will “paste” the folders into that window, which is done by copying them.

While you are copying folders to your device, there are some important rules to remember:

1. No folder should contain more than 100 designs. If it does, the sewing machine may do weird things when you try to use that folder. This does not cause lasting damage to the machine, and turning it off and back on will make things right again. Delete designs from the problem folder until you have no more than 100.
2. If you copy “loose” designs that are not in a folder, they will be invisible in the sewing machine. Create a folder on the card or USB drive first, by right clicking and choosing **New -> Folder** from the pop-up menu. Then put the loose designs into that folder.
3. Folder names are important. When you open the card or USB drive on the machine, only the first 8 letters of the folder name will be visible. If you have long folder names like “My very special favorite designs 1” and “My

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very special favorite designs 2” they are going to look alike on the screen of the machine. For this example, I have chosen the 9000 Memory Cards, which I have saved on disk in jef format. Each folder has a name beginning with the original 3-digit card number, so it’s easy to find what I want.



4. The more folders you put on your device, the longer you’ll be staring at the “Do not remove/Do not turn off” icons. However using this example of 63 folders, and over 1,600 designs, the “hang” time was

no more than 30 seconds. The reason for the wait is that the machine is reading all of the folders on the device. If you have a fairly small number of folders, but have a lot of designs in each folder (Remember, no more than 100!), it won’t take long to build this screen, and the pages will turn quickly. You also won’t have to turn as many pages to get what you want. Each page holds 10 folders, so if you keep the total number of folders to 50 or less, you’ll be able to get to any page in just 3 turns.

Now you know the secret to carrying your entire design collection around in your pocket or purse. Each time you buy new designs, you can add them to your device, either in a new folder, or in existing folders. If you have too many to fit in a single device, just get another one. Prices on these, especially USB drives, are dropping all the time. Now that USB 2.0 is becoming the standard, the older USB 1.1 devices are usually discounted. Your machine uses USB 1.1, so either type will work with it. The only difference with USB 1.1 is that it is slower than USB 2.0, so it will take longer to get the designs into the drive. You’re only going to do that once, so who cares if it’s slow?

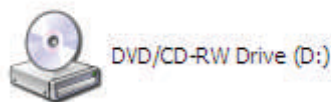
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Once you get used to the idea of having all of your designs in such a portable form, you might think that this is a good backup for those on your computer. It is, to a point. The secret about CompactFlash and USB drives that nobody told you is that they don't last forever. How can a device with no moving parts wear out? It's all about the chemistry. The process that records data in these devices relies on material that deteriorates with use. Each data bit is designed to be written to about 100,000 times before it just stops recording new data. If you only put your designs in the device once, then this isn't something we need to spend much time worrying about. But there's still a chance that you could lose the device, damage it, or as happened to me, pull it out of the machine and have it fall apart in your hand.

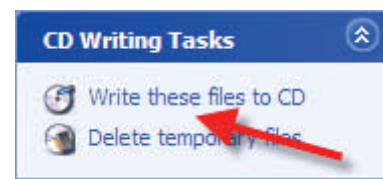
To avoid losing your designs, it's best to make a permanent backup using a CD-R. Almost all computers now come equipped with drives capable of "burning" a CD. Backing up your USB device is about as simple as making it:

1. Open **My Computer**. Find the CD drive and open it.

Devices with Removable Storage



2. Next open your storage device, starting from a new **My Computer** window. Open the EMB folder.
3. Select all of the folders. (**Edit** -> **Select All** from the menu, or **CTRL-A** from the keyboard.)
4. Drag the selected folders into the CD drive window. You can also use Copy/Paste. Type **CTRL-C** to copy all of the folders in EMB. Then click on the CD drive window. From the keyboard type **CTRL-V**. This will copy the selected folders to the CD.
5. Insert a blank CD into the drive and click the option shown to start the burn.



6. You may need more than 1 CD, as they hold about 700MB, and you can have up to 2GB of designs. The good news is that they don't cost much and they last a very long time. If you get into the habit of burning a new CD backup each time you add designs to your USB device, you will never have to shed tears over lost designs!

And that, dear readers, brings us to the end of another issue! This issue is a first in a couple of ways. First, it was done as a desktop publishing document instead of a web page. That will eliminate all problems with printing. Second, it was written entirely on an Apple MacBook Pro. I've made the switch and I'm not going back. Yes, it was not without some trouble and strife, but virtually all of

Late Breaking News!

After a very long delay, the version 1.2 update to Customizer 11000 is finally available. You can download it from the Janome Global Website using this link:

www.janome.co.jp/e/e_downloads/c11k120.html

I have done only minimal testing on this software, but I have verified that it does provide the compatibility with the new 5 x 7 hoop RE that we have been waiting for.

the trouble came from the need to continue using Microsoft XP and Office software for my existing PC-based programs. Much of the trouble was due to the horrible "Windows Product Activation" system, which kicked in when using XP under the Parallels virtual machine. It was even worse for the Microsoft Office Professional, which I bought and paid for. Since it was pre-installed on a Dell computer, Microsoft will not allow it to be used on another computer. For the time being, I'm using an outdated version of Office. This will be replaced as I move to

Apple equivalents.

Please let me know what you thought of this issue. I want all comments, good and bad. If you hated it, what would you rather have seen? If you loved it, I'd like to know that too. Send your responses to jim@onlinesewing.com. As always, thanks for reading!