Lesson: Working With Text on a Path

by: LuAnn Hartley

Supplies for Lesson:
- Artistic Sewing Suite
- Dongle
- External Mouse

True Type Fonts

All fonts that are installed in windows are available and can be used with Creative DRAWings. You can even copy and paste text from any text editor to Creative DRAWings and convert it to stitches. The program also lets you add text in different languages and convert to stitches.
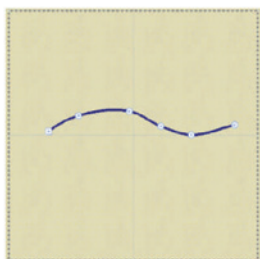
Working with Baselines on a Path

You can create curves or a straight line and add text. The text will follow the curvature or line. To do this, first you have to create the path you want the text to be placed on by using any of the drawing tools such as freehand or outline. Then you can create the lettering you want to use and apply it to the baseline.

1.   Creative DRAWings > Create New > Next > New graphic > Hoop – SQ200 x 200 (or appropriate hoop for your machine) > Next

2.   Embroidery Smooth – click on + sign beside Embroidery Smooth and a menu drops down > Select Cotton 2 > Finish
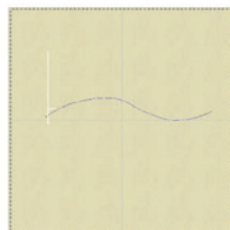
3.   Select **Create Outline Shape** > Move cursor over arrow in right hand corner > Left click and drag to open out the window > Select **Create Outline Shape**

4.   Left click to start drawing line > Continue to make curved line by left clicking at each angle turn > Right click to set line.

5.   Text > Font – Comic Sans MS > Size – between 2.5" and 3" > Bold
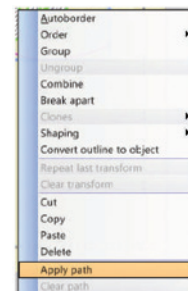
6.   Position cursor on left side of drawn curved line directly above the line > Left click once – A flashing line appears > Type **Home** > Select **Rectangle selection** to set stitches.

7.   Before you can place the lettering on the baseline, you have to select them both. With Home still selected, hold down the control key and left click on the path line. Both should now be selected and highlighted.

8.   Right Click > Select **Apply path** > The text is now following the drawn line.
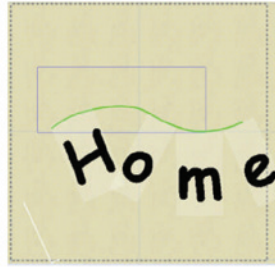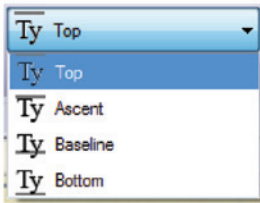

9.   You now have several ways to edit and change the text. Select Text > The Tool options window (located above the design area) is now open. You can change the font, size, and style of the existing text. You can also add or delete letters. There are also other options: Text placement, Text alignment, Offset.

Text Placement

This determines where the text will set on the baseline. There are four different ones to choose from.
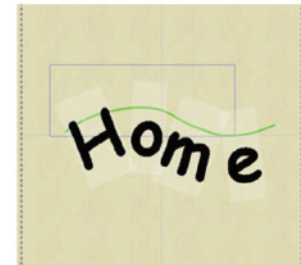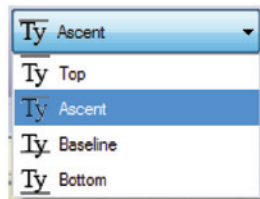
1. Tool options > Text placement – click on drop down menu > Select **Top**

This positions the text under the line keeping it a small distance from the curved line.
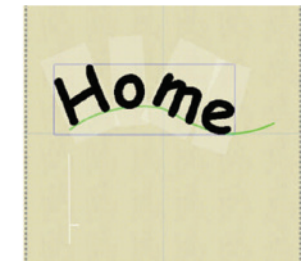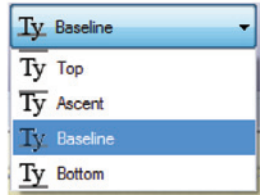
2. Tool options > Text placement > **Ascent**
This positions the text exactly under the curve. This option has capital letters, or any letter with up extensions such as "h" to touch the line from with the text still being below the line.
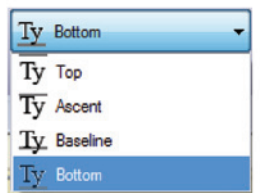
3. Tool options > Text placement > **Baseline**
The text is now positioned on the curve. Characters such as "g" will drop down under the curve.
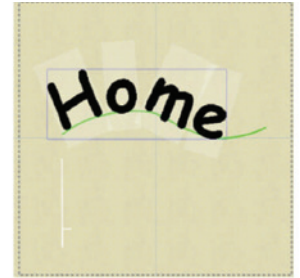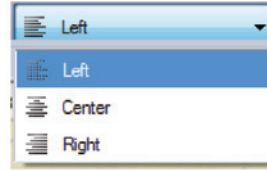
4. Tool options > Text placement > **Bottom**
This option positions the text over the curve completely. The text will be above the line with a small amount of distance between the text and the line. Any character such as "g" will be positioned directly on the line.
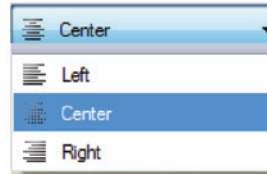
Text Alignment
You can change the position of the text on the baseline. There are 3 different alignments to choose from.
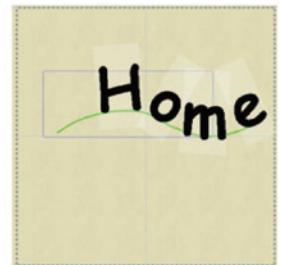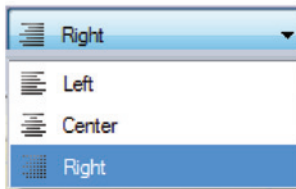
1. Left – This is the default option and sets the lettering to start to the left on the baseline.

2. Center – Centers the lettering on the baseline.

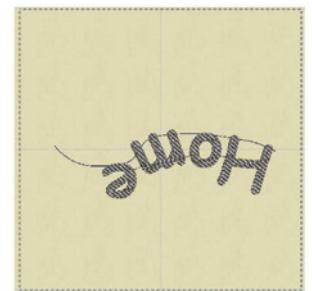3. Right – This sets the lettering to start from the right side of the baseline.

Offset
This changes the distance of the text. It changes the distance between the letters but has no effect on the baseline position. The default is zero. The offset value can take a positive or negative value and moves the letters accordingly.

Reverse Direction
If your baseline was drawn from left to right, the text will also be placed from left to right on the path of the baseline. On the other hand, if the baseline was drawn from right to left then the text will be placed from right to left but will be positioned below the path.

When the lettering appears in the opposite way from what you expected, you can simply check the **Reverse direction** checkbox and the text will flip directions.