

Getting Started

Welcome to *SewClean* - the embroidery file duplicate cleaner. You may use *SewClean* to find and select duplicate embroidery files on your hard drive (or removable, writeable media) and to safely remove them. Duplicates may be deleted to the Recycle Bin (where they may be recovered if desired) or moved to a user-defined folder for future deletion.

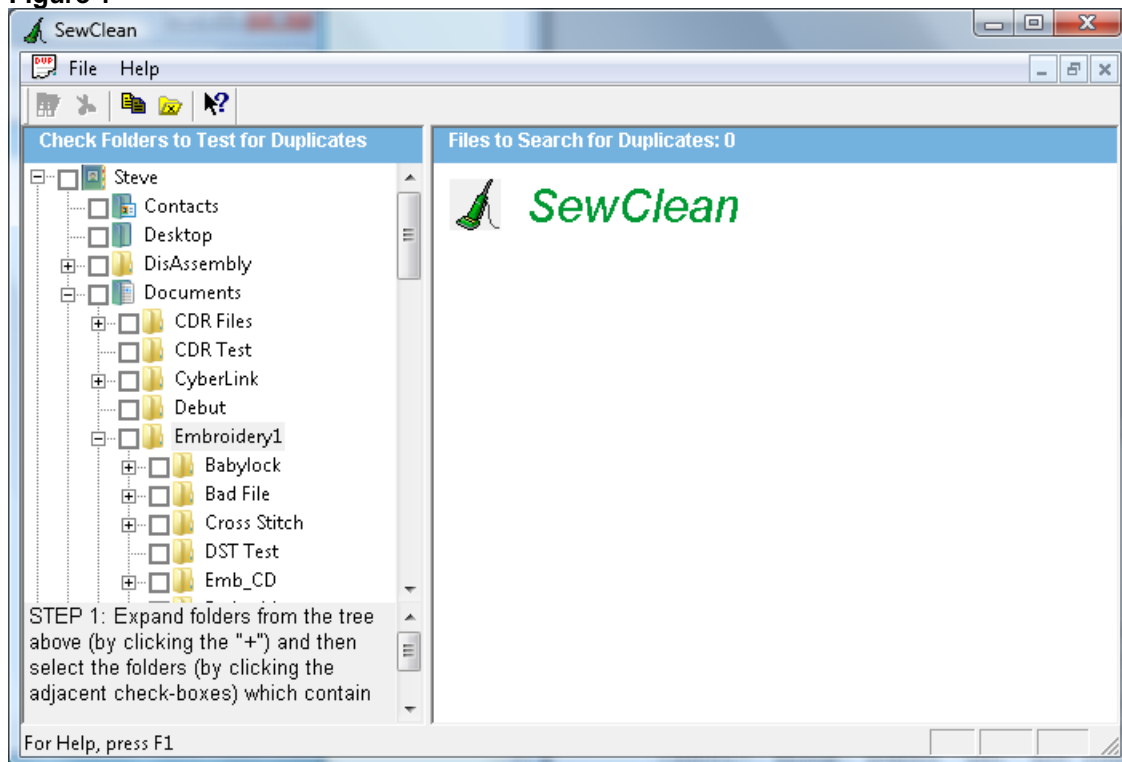
The *SewClean* workspace is divided into two panes. The left pane contains the folder "tree" showing all the folders on your computer, including any attached removable media drives and networked drives. The tree can be expanded or collapsed by clicking on the "+" marks beside the adjacent drive name. The right pane is a work pane which displays different aspects of the search, as will be described below.

The following discussion mirrors the various steps that appear as reminders at the bottom of the various panes:

STEP 1:

To begin using *SewClean*, expand the folder tree in the left pane which displays the top-level folders on your computer (including connected external drives and networked drives). Click on the "+" sign to open subdirectories. This is similar to folder navigation in Windows Explorer®, except that only folders (and no files) are displayed. In this way, you can navigate to a folder - or group of folders - containing the embroidery files that you want to check for duplicates. In Fig. 1, the *Documents* folder has been expanded to reveal several sub-folders which are known to contain embroidery files.

Figure 1



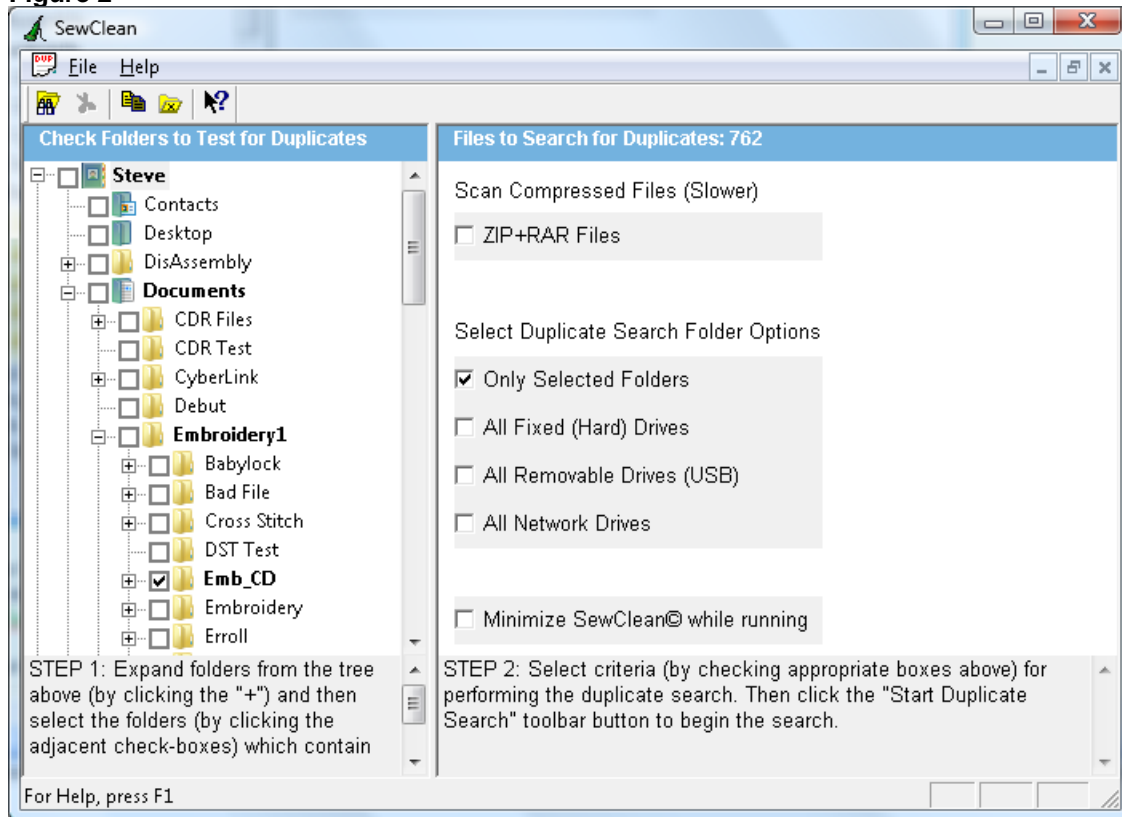
Once the folders have been expanded, you can click (with your left mouse button) the adjacent check-box(es) to begin searching them for embroidery files. Generally, the higher up (closer to

the "root" folder) in the tree hierarchy that you click a check-box, the more subfolders will be searched for duplicates, and therefore the longer it will take to perform the search. Therefore, to speed up the search process, you can restrict the search to a smaller subset of all folders on your system.

STEP 2:

Once you have chosen the subset of folders to be scanned (by clicking the appropriate checkboxes), the empty screen on the right of the *SewClean* workspace will populate with check boxes that allow you to select options for controlling how the duplicate search will be performed. (See Fig. 2 where the folder *Emb_CD* has been checked.)

Figure 2



Note that the title bar on the right pane indicates the number of files found in the checked folder(s). In this case, there are 762 files in the folder and its subfolders that will be checked for duplicates when *SewClean* executes.

Next, there are various options which can be chosen that effect the way duplicates are found:

- **ZIP + RAR Files.** If this item is checked, then when *SewClean* scans the various computer folders for duplicates, it will look inside all compressed archive files too. This can significantly slow down the duplicate search process. If you only use zipped files to archive (backup) your embroidery files, it is recommended NOT to check this option.
- **Only Selected Folders.** Check this option to restrict the duplicate search to the folders you selected (checked) in the left pane. Otherwise, *all* folders on your computer will be searched (subject to restrictions set by the following items).

- **All Fixed (Hard) Drives.** Check this option to scan all the fixed drives in your system. This excludes external or network drives.
- **All Removable Drives.** Check this option to scan removable drives (USB) that are currently attached to your computer.
- **All Network Drives.** Check this option to scan all network drives.

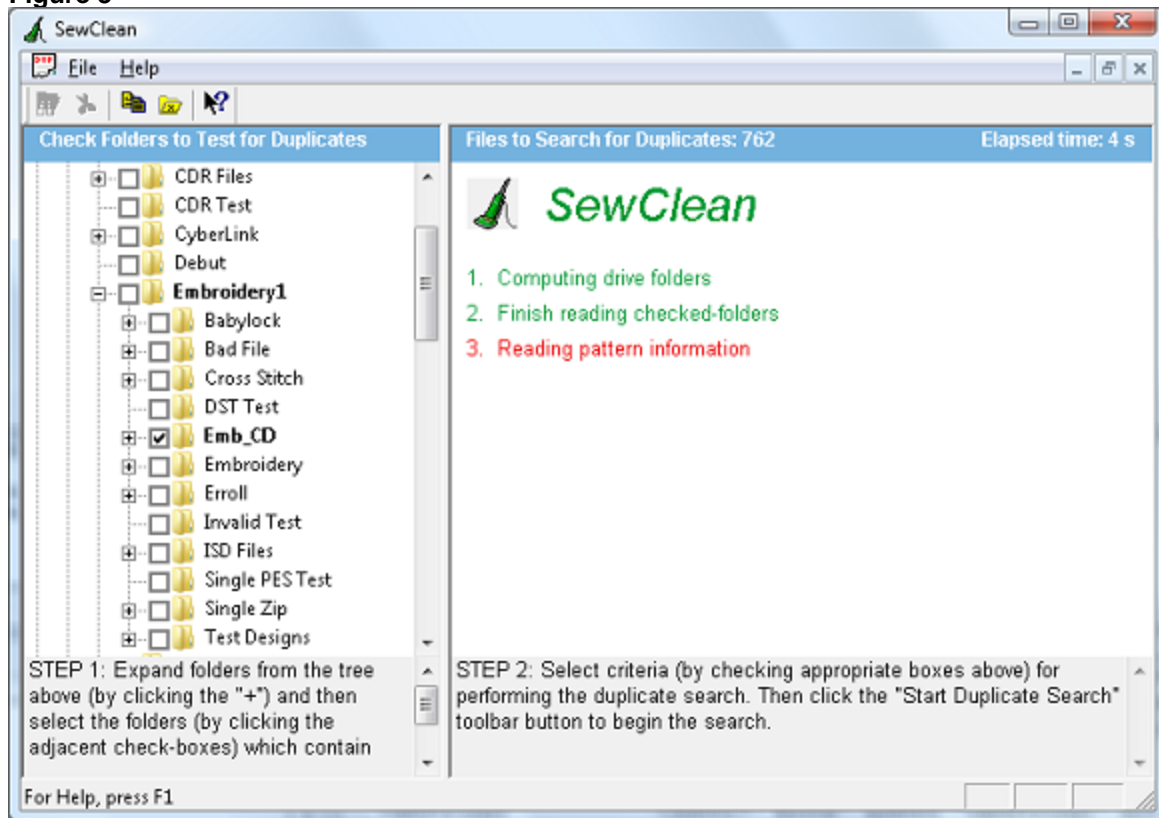
There is a button at the bottom of the right pane that can be checked to "minimize" *SewClean* while it searches for duplicates on your system. (*SewClean* will minimize when the duplicate search button is clicked.) This is a useful option if your search path contains a lot of folders and files. Since the search may take several minutes, while *SewClean* is performing the duplicate search, you can run other applications. When *SewClean* is finished, it will automatically maximize itself.

Complete STEP 2 by clicking the ["Start Duplicate Search"](#) ("spyglass" button ,).

STEP 3:

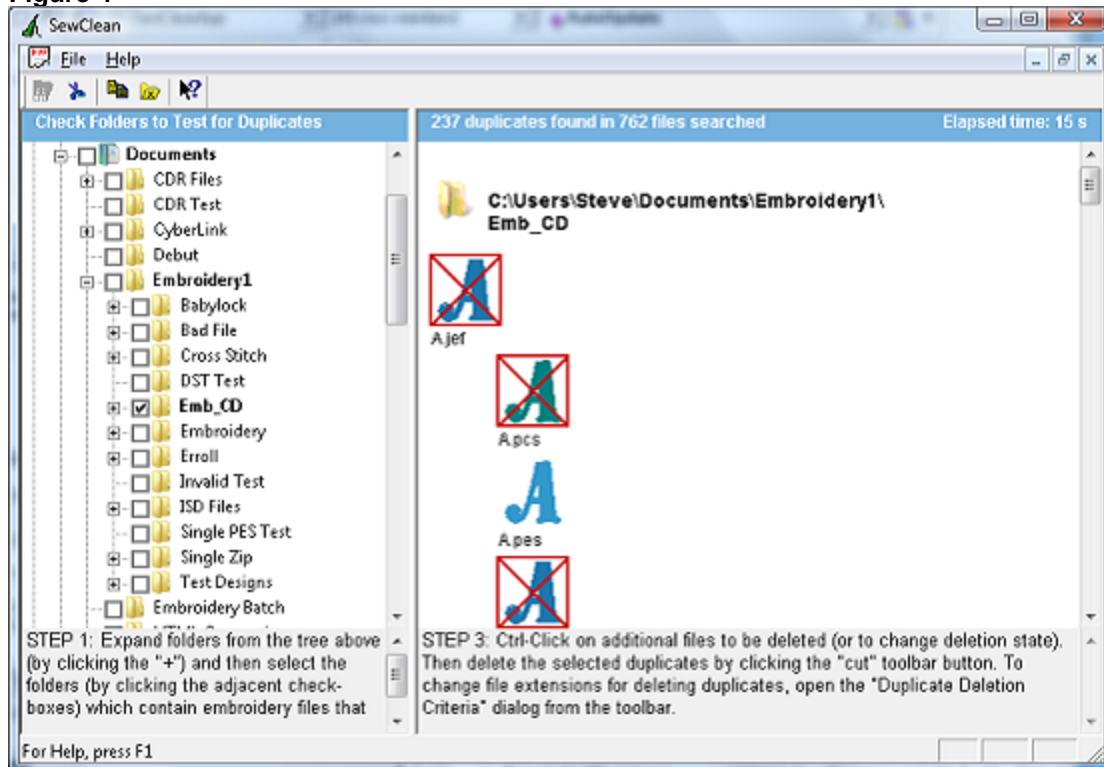
While *SewClean* is searching for duplicates a status report will be printed out in the right pane (see Fig. 3). This indicates what activities are currently being performed. Depending on how many folders are being scanned, this may take anywhere from several seconds to minutes. The most time-consuming part of the scan is the last (third) part, where the embroidery files are read to find the pattern information. The elapsed time for the search appears in the upper right corner of the pane title bar (see Fig. 3).


Figure 3




When the scan is completed, the files with duplicates are displayed in the right pane. (See Fig. 4.) The file path information (where the duplicates are located on your system) is indicated, along with icons showing the embroidery pattern contained in the files. The "primary" file is shown left-justified in the pane, with the proposed duplicates indented beneath it. Duplicates in the same folder display no additional folder information, whereas files in folders that are "children" of the primary folder have their path indicated *relative* to the primary folder. Duplicates that are neither in the same or child folders have their *full* paths displayed.


Figure 4



Depending on how the [Deletion Criterion](#) were selected (you can change them by clicking the toolbar button ) , certain duplicates will appear with a red "X" through them to indicate they are ready to be deleted. At this point, you should review the duplicates that were selected by *SewClean*, based on your deletion criteria and determine if any are incorrect ("false" duplicates). This can occur in "rare" cases when the stitch count, color count and pattern size criterion used for matching are met for two files, but the pattern is still different. In such case, visual inspection of the duplicate icons chosen for deletion is the only way to remove such files from the deletion list. This can be done by holding down the **Ctrl** key and clicking on the icon of the "false" duplicate(s).

Performing this action will remove the red "X" from the file you click and remove it from the deletion list. If a particular icon is *not* "X"-ed out, and you want to add it to the deletion list, just **Ctrl** click on the file icon. Finally, you can clear *all* the selected files at once by clicking on a blank part of the right pane.

Complete STEP 3 by clicking on the ["Delete Duplicates"](#) toolbar button  . This will delete the selected ("X"-out) duplicates and send them to the folders that were selected in the ["Duplicate](#)

[Folders](#)" dialog. You can change the destination folders for deleted duplicates at any time by clicking the  toolbar button.