Great Knit Designs

Knitware

BACKUP/RESTORE & UPDATING DATA FILES

Revised from Knitware Help

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Disclaimer: The information provided in this technical note is intended to help you understand how to effectively backup and restore Knitware files. If you are not technically confident with the idea of performing these operations, GET ASSISTANCE or GUIDANCE from someone who has more experience with your computer. This needs to be someone who can work directly with you and your computer – it is NOT something that can be done by GKD/Knitware support.

Introduction

It is **very good practice** to back up your data files on a regular basis in case of system failure. Knitware does not have an in-program backup utility, so you must do it manually.

If you only have a few patterns or custom sizes on file you may not wish to bother with this, but if you have a large number of patterns or custom sizes that you would like to preserve, doing backups on a regular basis is highly recommended.

Usually, you want to backup the internal data files used by your Knitware programs to store your pattern data and your custom size data. These data files are created and stored in the folders in which you installed your Knitware programs. Each Knitware program has its own installation folder, and its own set of data files. Data files are not shared (and cannot be shared) between Knitware programs.

It is also recommended to make one master backup of your Knitware installation folders right after you finish your installation of your Knitware programs. It's a good idea to activate the programs with their respective serial numbers before doing the backup.

This document provides information on the Knitware installation folders and key data files that you will want to backup on a regular basis. It does not provide any procedures for performing any kind of backup, as there are numerous methods to do so – usually determined by the type of computer system you are using and/or backup utility programs that you or someone else may have chosen to purchase for your system.

Knitware Installation Folders

The Knitware programs are generally installed in the following folders:

- Sweaters: *C:\Program Files\Knitware\Sweaters 2.50*

- Skirts & Shawls: *C:\Program Files\Knitware\Skirts 2.50*

- Basics/Critters: *C:\Program Files\Knitware\Basics 2.50*

[These installation folders may be different if your default system partition is not the conventional C:, or if you chose to specify a different folder name when you installed your Knitware program(s).]

Knitware Data Files

Generally, for any of the Knitware programs, the important files to back up on a regular basis are those with names beginning with 'patt', 'design' and 'size'. Specifically, these important data files are listed in the following sections

Pattern Data

- Sweaters:
  - o Main data base files: *Patts250.DB, Patts250.PX, Patts250.MB, Design230.DB*, and *Design230.VAL*
  - o Supporting files: all of the "*Patts250.XG..*" and "*Patts250.YG..*" files

- Skirts & Shawls:
  - o Main data base files: *Pattk250.DB, Pattk250.PX, Pattk250.MB, Design230.DB*, and *Design230.VAL*
  - o Supporting files: all of the "*Pattk250.XG..*" and "*Pattk250.YG..*" files

- Basics/Critters:
  - o Main data base files: *Pattd230.DB, Pattd230.PX, Pattd230.MB, Design230.DB*, and *Design230.VAL*
  - o Supporting files: all of the "*Pattd230.XG..*" and "*Pattd230.YG..*" files

Size Data

- Sweaters:
    - Main data base file for custom sizes: *size.DB*
    - Supporting files: *size.MB, size.VAL*
    - Other files: *sizes.DB*
- Skirts & Shawls:
    - Main data base file for custom sizes: *size.DB*
    - Supporting files: *size.MB, size.VAL*
    - Other files: *sizes.DB, sizes.VAL*
- Basics/Critters:
    - Main data base file for custom sizes: *SizeCstm.DB*
    - Supporting files: *SizeCstm.MB, SizeCstm.VAL*
    - Database file for standard sizes: *SizeStd.DB*

Backing up Knitware Data files

You can "backup" files in Windows and Vista by copying them to another location on your hard disk.

Ideally, though, you should back up important files on your system to something like a CD or DVD that is separate and distinct from your hard disk. To accomplish this, you usually need a special utility program to write to the CD or DVD drive. If you purchase your computer with Windows or Vista already installed, you will most likely have a backup program provided with your system. This is a critical program to learn to use, so be sure you do so as soon as you get your computer system set up.

It is also possible today to purchase "USB drives" for easy-to-use backups. These are hard drives that plug into a USB port on your computer and can be used like another hard disk when you want to back up files. You do not need to run any special programs to do this – just move the files over to the specified backup folders on the USB drive in the same manner that you move files between folders on your hard drive.

Master Backups

A master backup of your Knitware files is a backup of your entire installation folder. You should make one master backup of your Knitware installation folders right after you finish your installation of your Knitware programs. It's a good idea

to activate the programs with their respective serial numbers before doing the backup.

If you use Knitware frequently, it does not hurt to make additional master backups of the folder from time to time – this is cautious and wise (spoken from experience ☺).

Incremental Data Backups

As you build your collection of patterns and custom sizes with Knitware, it is a wise idea to backup the data files on a regular basis. This is sometimes called an "incremental data backup", "incremental backup", or "data file backup". That way, if anything happens to your system and/or you need to rebuild your Knitware folder for some reason (such as, moving your Knitware programs to a new computer), these data backups can make it possible to restore all of the patterns and custom sizes that existed when you last backed up the data files.

Doing this on a regular basis can save you a lot of time (and anguish – again, from personal experience. ☺)

Of course, if you choose to do master backups on a regular basis, you do not need to do these incremental data backups, as your data files will be preserved in the master backups.

Restoring Knitware Data Files

There are a number of situations when you may need to restore the Knitware data files that you have backed up. The following sections describe these scenarios and provide instructions or guidelines for how to restore your files.

Upgrading/Updating to a New Version

There are two levels at which you might upgrade your Knitware programs:

- Installing a new **upgrade**: An upgrade is a whole new version of a program. For example, if you have been using Knitware version 2.40, and wish to use the current version of 2.50.2, then you need to upgrade to version 2.50.
    - o Upgrades must be purchased, usually at a lower price than a new license.
    - o Knitware upgrades will normally install into a different folder than any other version that has been installed on the computer system.
    - o You **cannot** restore file backups of a previous Knitware version into the folder of the newly-installed upgraded version.

2. Using the latest **master backup** of your Knitware folder, copy the Knitware installation folder from the backup media on top of your newly-installed folder.

You have now restored your current Knitware installation, complete with activated full program and all pattern and custom size data.

Restoring Lost Pattern or Custom Size Data

Have you ever accidentally deleted a pattern or a custom size from your Knitware database and not had a written record of how you had defined the data? I have! ☺

Well, if you have been good about making either master backups or data backups of your existing Knitware folder, and your last backup had occurred after you created the now-lost pattern or custom size, you can reclaim the lost data.

To do this:

1. Stop the Knitware program.

2. Make a master backup of your current Knitware folder, just as protection.

3. Go back and read Knitware Data Files on page 2 to identify the data files you need to restore.

4. Get your latest Knitware backup made (*not* the one you just made).

5. Copy the desired data files from the backup to your current folder.

6. Restart your Knitware program – the recovered pattern or size data should be available to you again.

Important Note: Although this is great for recovering data that had been backed up before you "lost" it, this **will** cause you to lose anything you created *since* making the backup you are using for this restoration.