

New Guide to FontSlab with tabbed dialog Part 5: Repeats & Reversals and Applying Colour



This is the last set of options.

There is also a zipped Resources folder to accompany this guide which includes:

Copasetic_GoldStrap_letters_only custom font file
spirangle path path file
top oval path path file
bottom oval path path file

Unpack the resources folder and save it to your preferred location. The path files should be imported to the images (I used a new image size of 1000x800) you create for this project.

Fire up the Gimp and add a bowed path to your image either by using the path tool or by importing the relevant path file from the path tool dock.

Repeated text

This option simply repeats the available text as many times as it can along the current path.

Call up the FontSlab dialog:

Filters>>Custom Fonts>>Using Tools>>FontSlab Tabbed v0.17

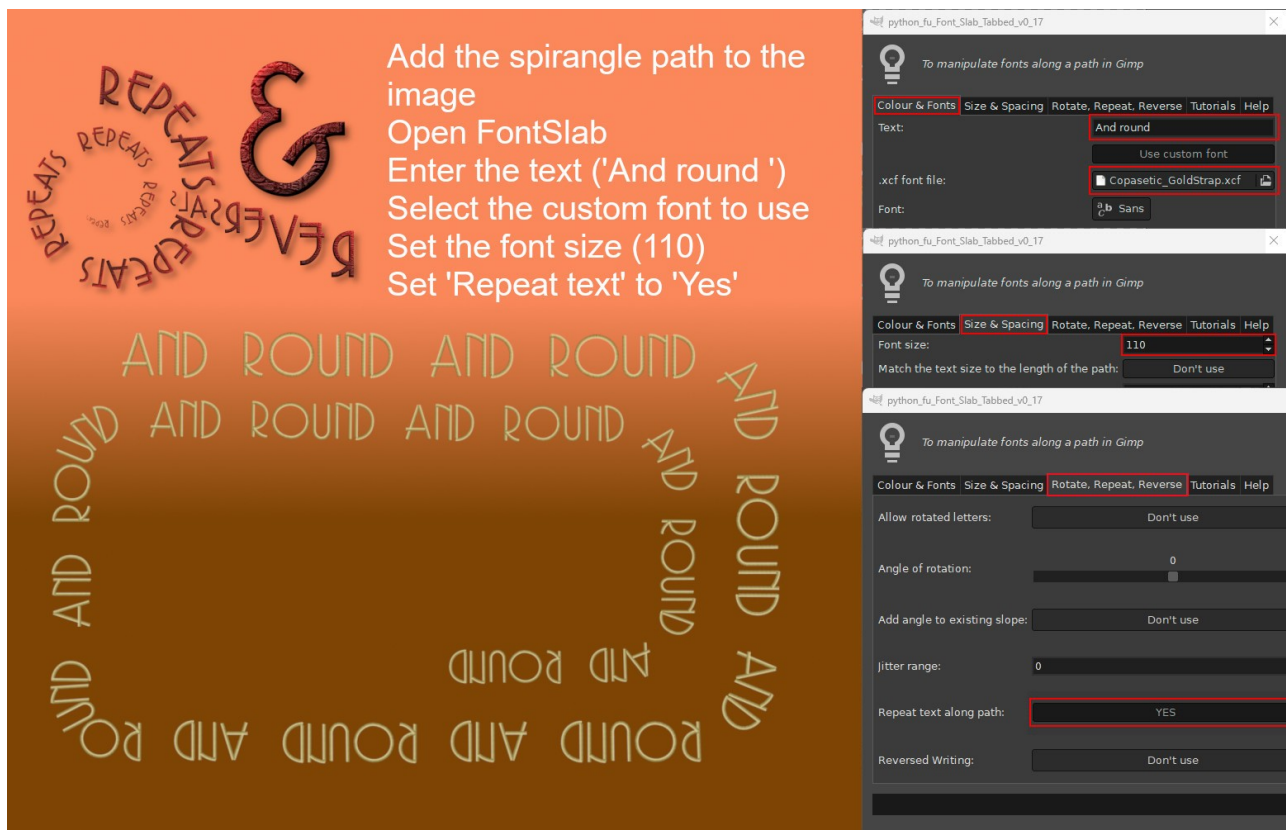
Enter your text (with a trailing space character).

Choose the custom font that you want to use.

Set the Font size value (110)

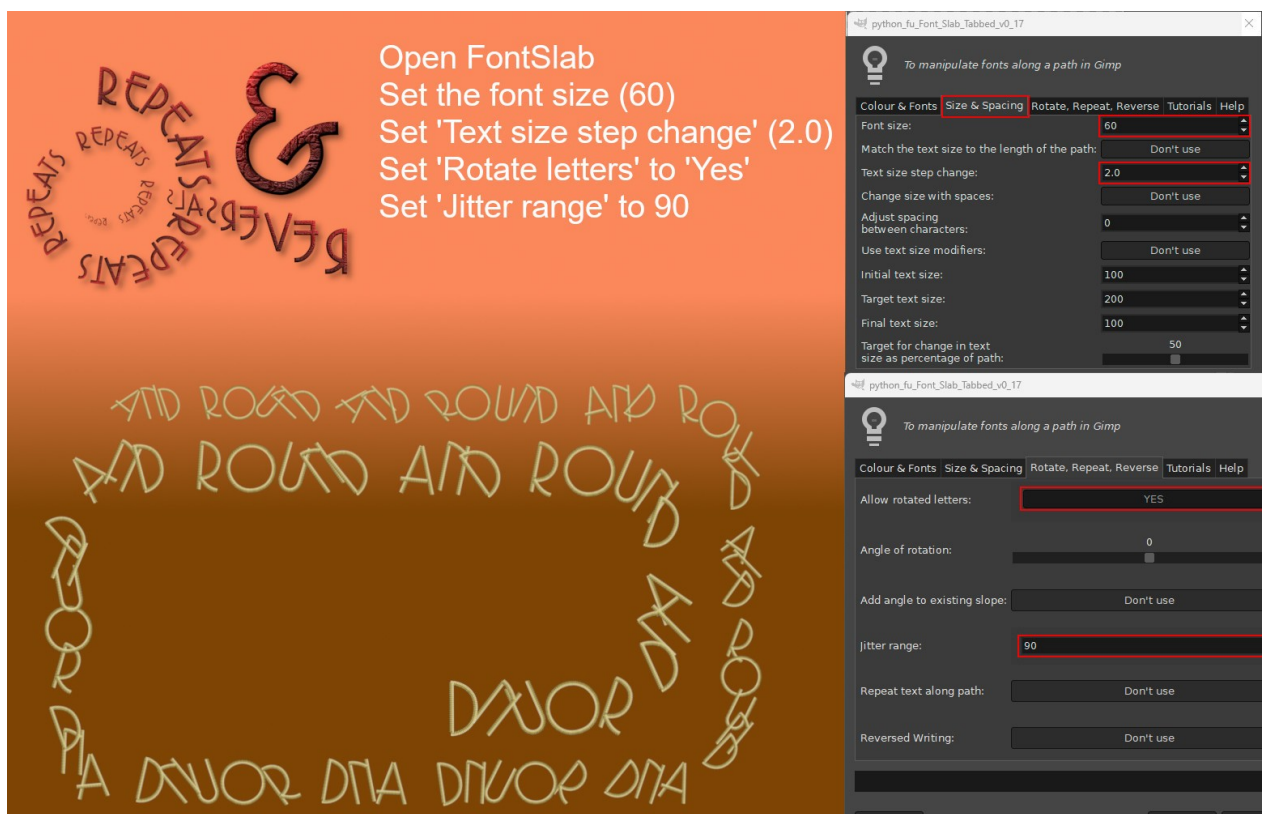
Set the 'Repeat text' option to 'Yes'.

If you are using the spirangle path from the resources folder, set the 'Text size step' option to a small value.



The repeated text option works with most of the other options so feel free to try different variations along the path.

My example below uses a gradual increasing text size step with a rotating jitter amount of 90.



Reversed Characters

This option was created for one specific purpose; to draw letters as they would look from behind, as if they were placed on the far side of a circle. If you need to do this you will find the option useful.

My example deals with the text 'STONES' placed on the far side of a circle (viewed as an oval). Add a suitable path to your image (or use the top oval path from the Resources supplied).

Open FontSlab

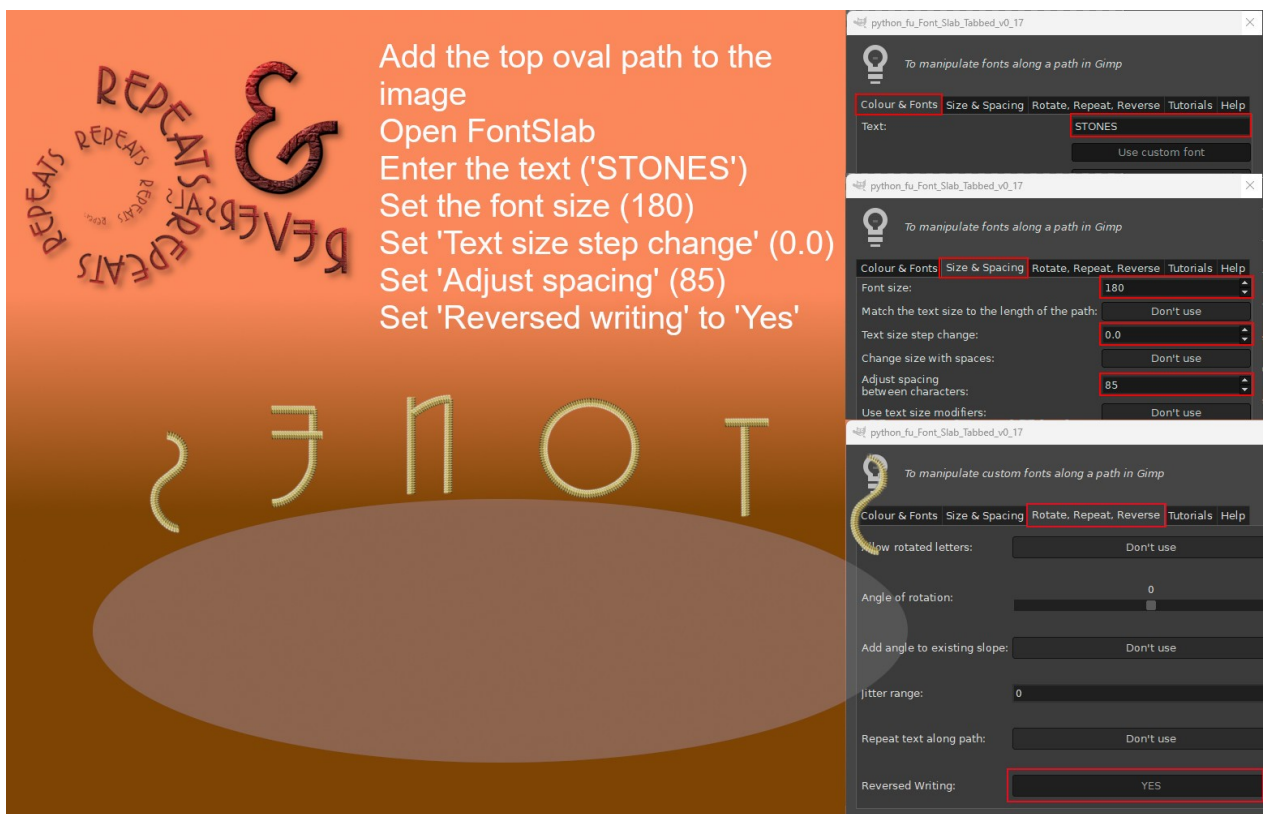
Enter the text.

Set the font size value of 180.

Set the 'As Reversed Writing' option to 'Yes'.

Set the 'Adjust spacing' value to 85 in order to pad the characters out along the path.

Press 'OK'.



To complete the illusion we need to add the text on the near side of the circle.



Use the path tool to make a path for the bottom of the oval
Open FontSlab
Enter the text 'STANDING'
Set the 'Font size' (300)
Set 'Adjust spacing' (30)
Set 'Text size step' (0.0)
Set 'As Reversed Writing' to 'Don't Use'

The image displays three screenshots of the GIMP 'python_fu_Font_Slab_Tabbed_v0.17' plugin interface, showing the settings for creating a 3D text effect.

Screenshot 1 (Top): The 'Colour & Fonts' tab is selected. The 'Text' field contains 'STANDING'. The 'Font size' is set to 300. The 'Adjust spacing' is set to 30. The 'Text size step' is set to 0.0. The 'As Reversed Writing' option is set to 'Don't Use'.

Screenshot 2 (Middle): The 'Size & Spacing' tab is selected. The 'Font size' is set to 300. The 'Match the text size to the length of the path' is set to 'Don't use'. The 'Text size step change' is set to 0.0. The 'Change size with spaces' is set to 'Don't use'. The 'Adjust spacing between characters' is set to 30.

Screenshot 3 (Bottom): The 'Rotate, Repeat, Reverse' tab is selected. The 'All rotated letters' is set to 'Don't use'. The 'Angle of rotation' is set to 0. The 'Add angle to existing slope' is set to 'Don't use'. The 'Repeat text along path' is set to 'Don't use'. The 'Reversed Writing' option is set to 'Don't use'.

Applying Colour:

Custom fonts are all about colour and texture, so it might seem strange to want to apply colour to the characters along a path. The colour can be applied by either shading i.e. sampling colours from the current foreground and background colours or by taking colours from the currently selected dialog gradient. (Obviously if you want to just apply one colour set both background and foreground to the same shade.)

The effect of the colour change is determined by the nature of the existing custom font and the mode used to apply the colour. One useful technique is to fade the custom font into the background colour.

The example below uses custom fonts in shades of grey created with the Embossible filter.



Using Alternative Characters:

Some of my own custom fonts come with a selection of alternative characters. You can use these characters with the option on the first tab of the dialog. If they are available you can use them randomly, or to capitalise words and sentences or, with certain custom fonts, to attempt to replicate a joined-up effect.

