

## Joined-up Text and Circular Themes: Help Sheet 2:

The process of wrapping text around a circle, or other shape, will inevitably disrupt the shape of individual letters and 'force the joins apart' in places or push them closer together. The latter results in 'punching' a series of holes in the text - this unwanted effect becomes more apparent at larger font sizes required in bigger images.

If you are going to apply a filter to your newly created circular text I would apply the filter before trying to 'plug the gaps'. Many filters will also deform the text and it is worth waiting to see what happens - the effect may be to cover up these initial imperfections. If it doesn't produce a satisfactory outcome you can always hit undo or revert to an earlier stage by moving back up the Undo History tree.

Typical gapping between letters l and o (magnified at 400%):



Paths method for repairing gaps between letters (Slow and painful but accurate):

Use the Zoom Tool to magnify the region affected, by 'drawing' a box around the area.

The Text to Path process has forced the letter l to move over the path occupied by the letter o

Zoom in even further to get a better view of the overlapping paths.

When filled, the selection shows the pixels more clearly.

Now, if selected and filled, you will see that there are no pixel gaps. (The selection can no longer fit any pixels between the two adjoining letter paths.)

Double click on the Path tool to reveal the Tool Dialog. Click on the path to display the nodes of the individual control points. Make sure that the Design option is selected in the Tool Dock.

If you make a selection from the path (Select>From Path) you will be able to see the dashed boxes that mark the offending pixels at this level of magnification.

Don't forget to dismiss the selection before continuing. Use the Path tool to select and drag the nodes so that the paths of the two adjoining letters lie on top of each other - or are as close as possible to each other. (You may have to adjust the control points for some of these nodes too.)

Continue this process for each of the gaps between letters that concern you or until you lose the will to live. As I said earlier - it is a slow, sad business - but it is very effective.