

New Guide to FontSlab with tabbed dialog Part 2: Spacing Options

SPACING

This is the second part of the new guide to FontSlab.

The FontSlab 0.14-tab plug-in is included in the Resources folder for Part 1 of the guide.

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

Argos_George_Canary_letters_only custom font file
loopy path path file

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

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

Spacing between characters can have a dramatic effect on the appearance of your text. FontSlab has a number of options that can influence this. The first two examples show the effect of the changing size of the space character in text along a path.

Open FontSlab
Enter some text
Choose the custom font
Set the 'Font size' value (100)
Set the 'Text size step' value (-1.0)
Hit 'OK'

Those magnificent men in their flying machines: They go up down - flying around

python_fu_Font_Slab_v0-14-tab

To manipulate fonts along a path in Gimp

Colour & Fonts Size & Spacing Rotate, Repeat, Reverse Tutorials Help

Text: Those magnificent men in their fl

Use custom font

.xcf font file: Argos_George_Canary.xcf

Font: Sans

Shade FG to BG colour along text: Don't use

Colour text from current gradient: Don't use

Gradient for text colours:

Mode to apply colours to custom fonts: Grain merge

python_fu_Font_Slab_v0-14-tab

To manipulate fonts along a path in Gimp

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Font size: 100

Match the text size to the length of the path: Don't use

Text size step change: -1.0

Change size with spaces: Don't use

Adjust spacing between characters: 0

Use text size modifiers: Don't use

Initial text size: 100

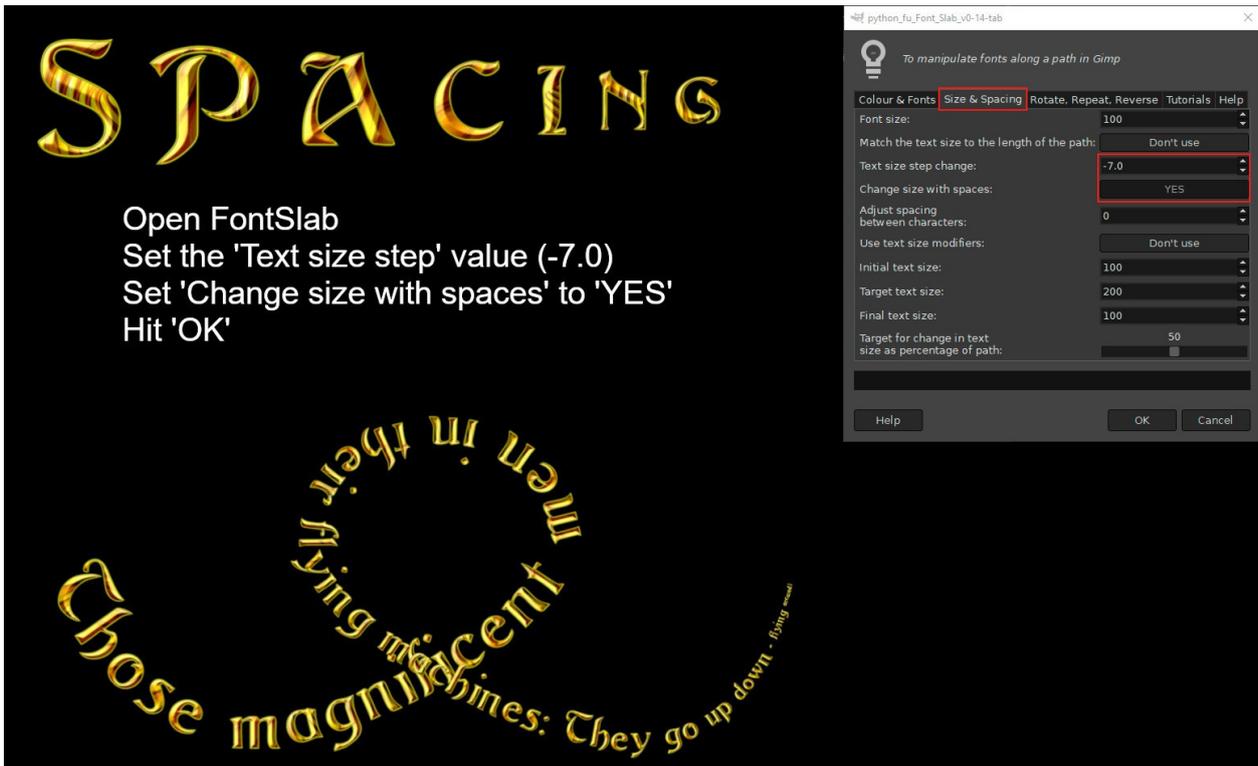
Target text size: 200

Final text size: 100

Target for change in text size as percentage of path: 50

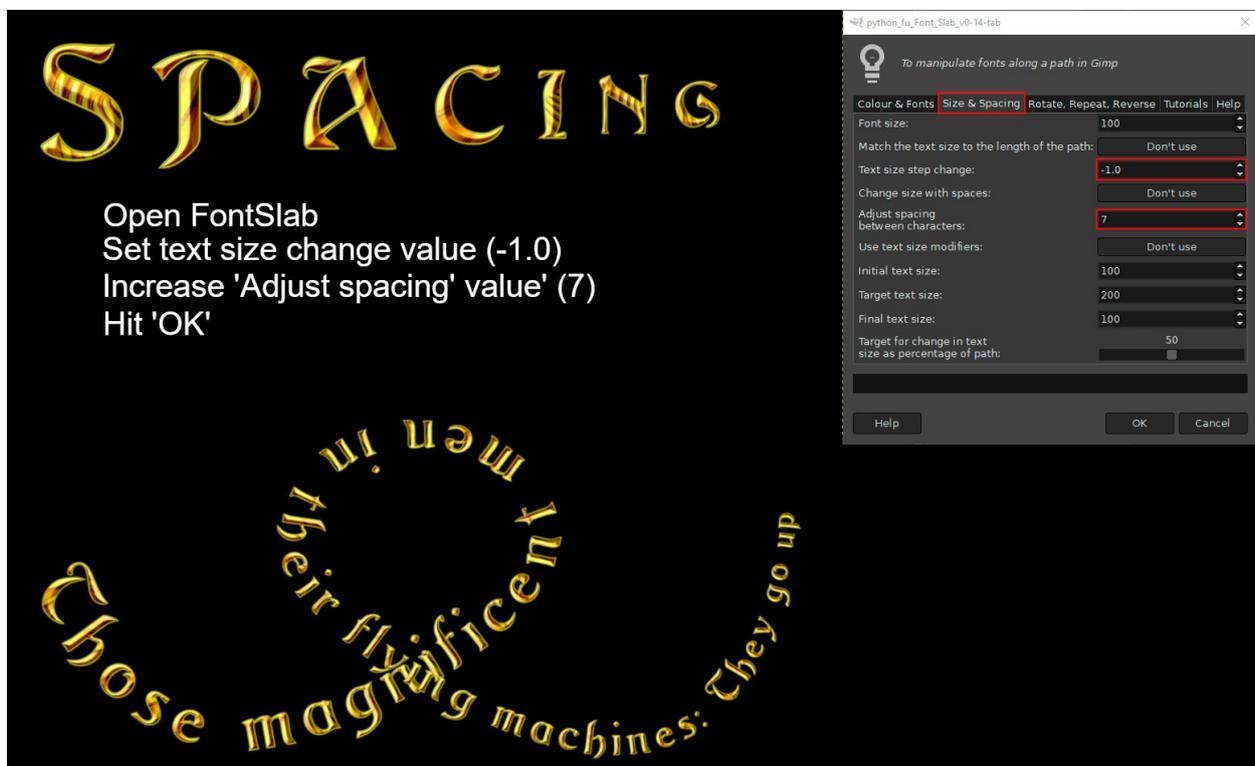
Help OK Cancel

This next example applies the step change (and also the space character size) value to whole words rather than to characters i.e. the space size changes more. You will need to increase the step size to see the effect. The advantage of this is to give weight to those words nearer the start of the path.



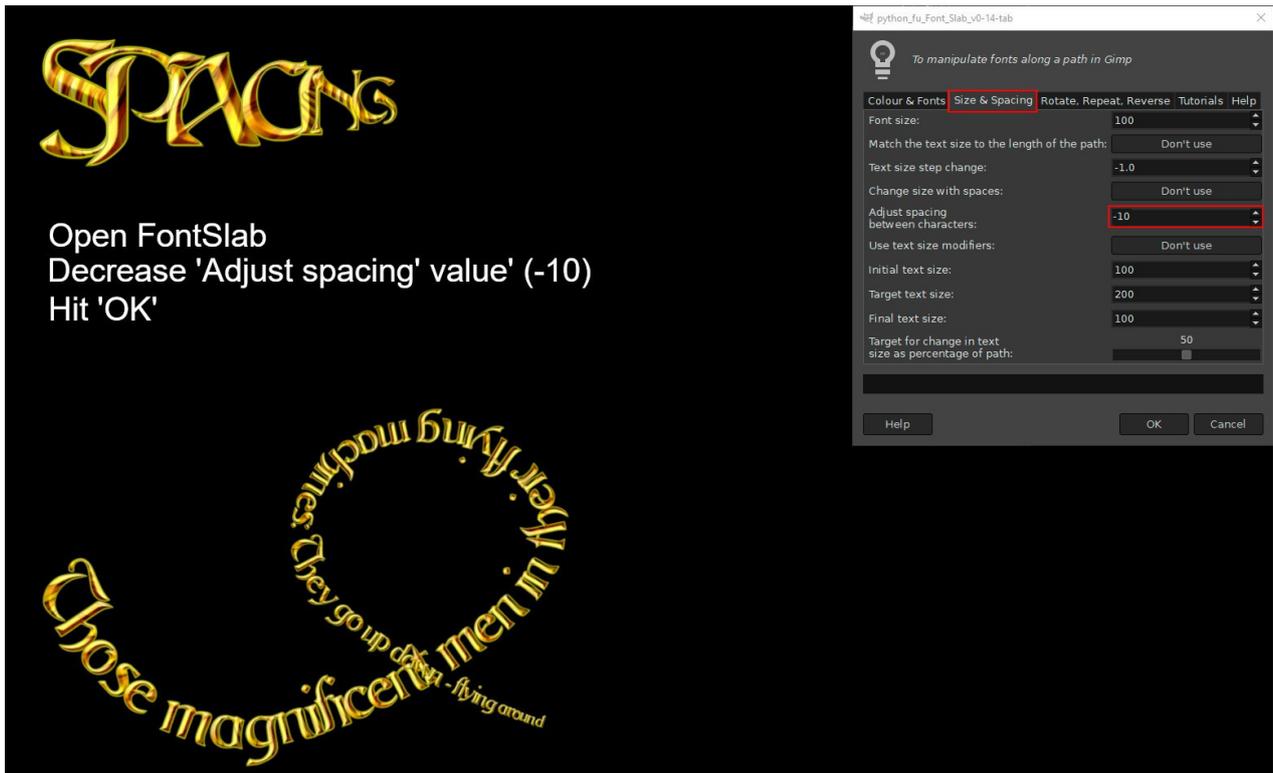
The image shows a Gimp window titled 'python_fu_FontSlab_v0-14-tab'. On the left, the word 'SPACING' is written in a large, golden, serif font. Below it, instructions are listed: 'Open FontSlab', 'Set the 'Text size step' value (-7.0)', 'Set 'Change size with spaces' to 'YES'', and 'Hit 'OK''. On the right, the 'Size & Spacing' dialog box is open, showing settings: 'Text size step change' set to -7.0, 'Change size with spaces' set to YES, and 'Adjust spacing between characters' set to 0. Below the dialog, a circular path contains the text 'Those magnificent machines: They go up down - flying men in their flying machines'. The text is golden and follows the curve of the path, with the spacing between words increasing as they move away from the start of the path.

FontSlab also has an option to directly adjust the spacing between characters independently of any changes in the text size step. Here the spacing is increased between the characters along the path.



The image shows a Gimp window titled 'python_fu_FontSlab_v0-14-tab'. On the left, the word 'SPACING' is written in a large, golden, serif font. Below it, instructions are listed: 'Open FontSlab', 'Set text size change value (-1.0)', 'Increase 'Adjust spacing' value' (7)', and 'Hit 'OK''. On the right, the 'Size & Spacing' dialog box is open, showing settings: 'Text size step change' set to -1.0, 'Change size with spaces' set to 'Don't use', and 'Adjust spacing between characters' set to 7. Below the dialog, a circular path contains the text 'Those magnificent machines: They go up down - flying men in their flying machines'. The text is golden and follows the curve of the path, with the spacing between characters increasing as they move away from the start of the path.

The spacing between the characters can also be reduced. The example below uses a rather extreme value to illustrate the option.



Small, subtle changes can have a big effect on the over-all appearance of a line of text.

