Splitter and Stitcher

Splitter is a plug-in for splitting a custom font image file into smaller image files; Stitcher is the companion plug-in for stitching these files back together again.
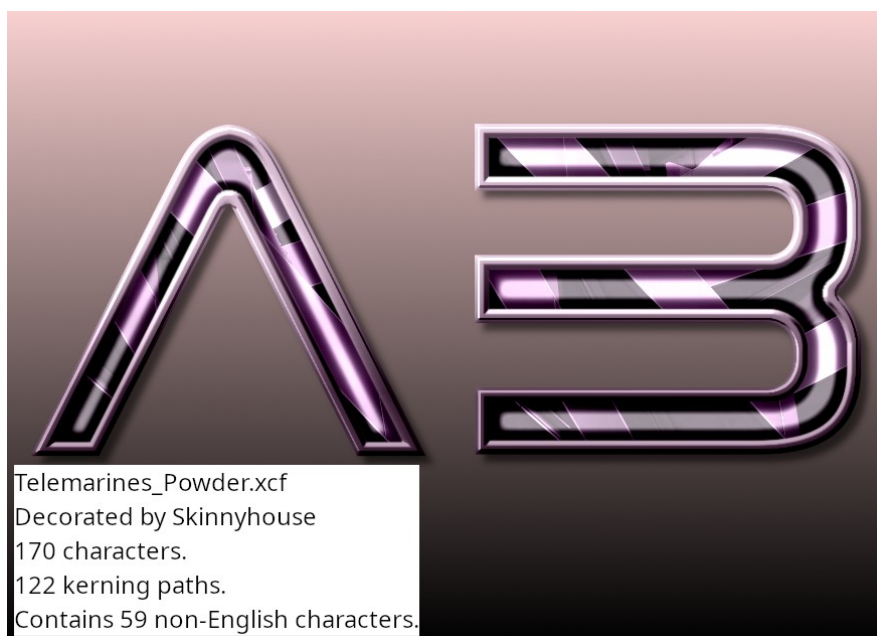
Download the two plug-ins, extract the files and place them in your user plug-ins folder.

Some custom font files can be larger than the filesize limit imposed by websites – even after being compressed. The only option left is to split the custom font up into smaller files and upload these smaller files. After downloading these file have to be re-assembled manually in Gimp.

These two filters try to automate this process as mush as possible.

An example:

I recently uploaded this custom font to GimpLearn in compressed format:
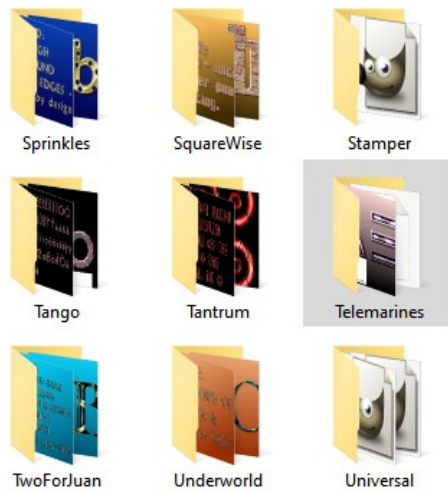

Windows informed me that the file was 27.8MB (GimpLearn's current filesize limit is about 20MB) and, when compressed in 7z format, Windows told me that it was now 10.5MB. Job done on GimpLearn but the filesize limit on GimpChat is set at about 6MB. It was obvious that I needed to split the file into manageable chunks in order to post it on GimpChat.

Before beginning the splitting process you should really create a new work folder in a suitable location and give it an appropriate name.

Work on a copy of the file in this designated folder to avoid accidents.

I tend to group my custom fonts in folders derived from the same family font name.

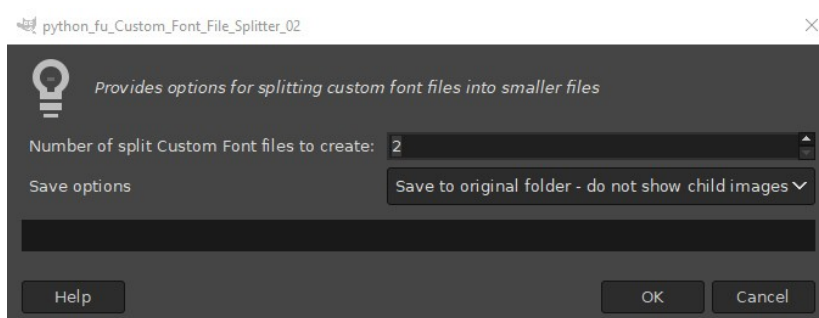 I created a work folder called Split in my Telemarines family folder.

Then I placed a copy of my custom font file in that folder.

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Telemarines_Powder	21/02/2023 22:24	GIMP 2.10.32	28,543 KB

With everything set up I called up the Splitter plug-in from its location in Gimp:

Filters>>Custom Fonts>>Utility Tools>>Custom Font File Splitter v02...

The dialog has just two options:

The first option will decide how many file images to use in the splitting procedure.

Deciding on how many files to split the original custom font into can involve a bit of educated guesswork. I noted from my compressed upload to Gimp that the compression rate was good with that file; 27.8MB to 10.5MB – smaller than a half of the original size – so I went with the default two file value thinking that I would need to compress the two files in any case.

You may need to use a higher value here.

There are three save option choices:

No save - just show images in Gimp

Save to original folder and show images in Gimp

Save to original folder - do not show child images

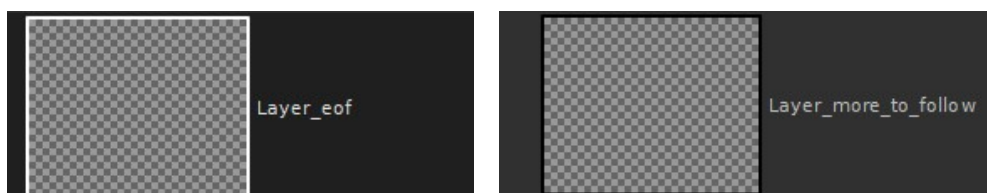I clicked on 'OK' to proceed with the default save option:

Now check the work folder again:

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Telemarines_Powder	21/02/2023 22:38	GIMP 2.10.32	13,266 KB
Telemarines_Powder_1	21/02/2023 22:38	GIMP 2.10.32	15,281 KB

The original file was reduced in size by half of the number of layers and the new file contains the missing layers. New files have a numeric suffix added so that you can easily tell which is the parent file and which are the children files.

The filesizes are different because characters vary in the amount of layer-space that they occupy.

The files will now have one additional blank layer, named in order to help with the process of re-assembly. The final child file in the sequence for each parent file will have a layer named 'Layer_eof': Any other files will have an additional final layer named 'Layer_more_to_follow'. These extra layers will all be removed in when the files are stitched back together.

With many custom font files splitting them apart may reduce the size enough to meet a website filesize limit. It may be necessary, as in my case, to use compression to reduce the size even more. Use your favourite file compression utility program.

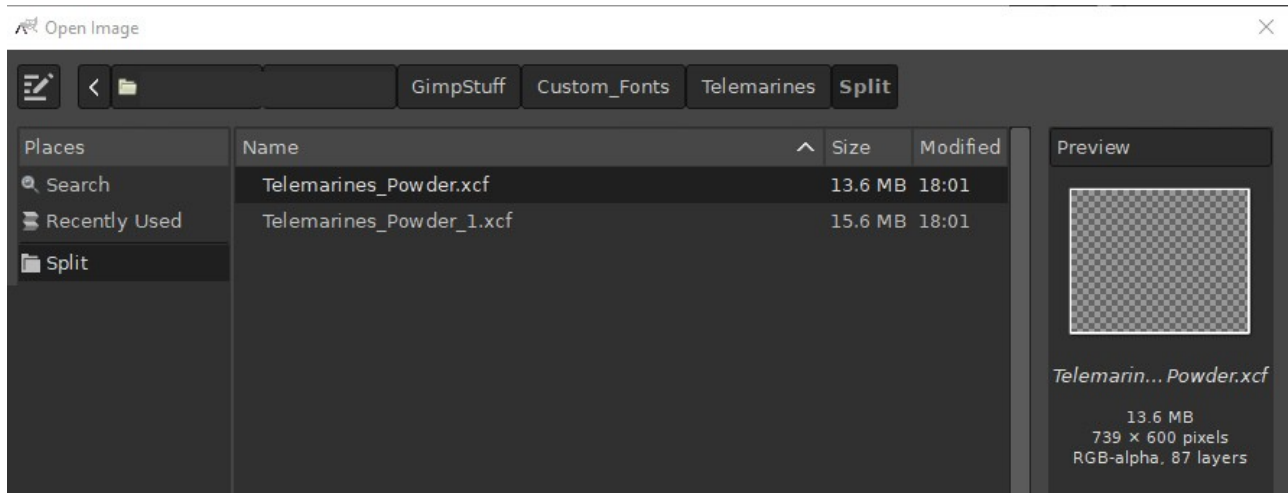With 7z I was able to compress both files enough (well just, in the case of the child file)!

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Telemarines_Powder.7z	22/02/2023 19:08	7Z File	4,937 KB
Telemarines_Powder	22/02/2023 18:01	GIMP 2.10.32	13,270 KB
Telemarines_Powder_1.7z	22/02/2023 19:09	7Z File	5,669 KB
Telemarines_Powder_1	22/02/2023 18:01	GIMP 2.10.32	15,281 KB

Using Stitcher to stitch the files back together

Let's assume that you have downloaded all the custom font files needed and extracted them, if necessary, and placed them in a suitable work folder somewhere.
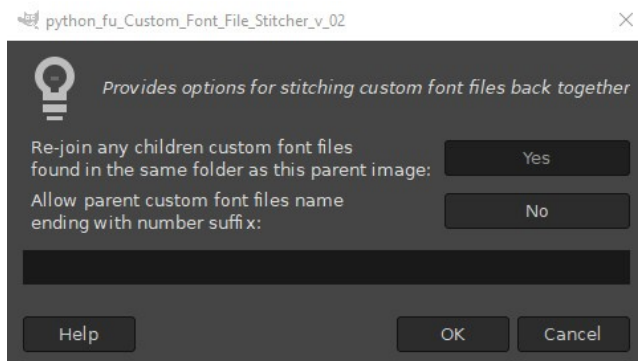
Fire up Gimp, navigate to and open the parent file i.e. the one that does not have a numbered suffix:

File>>Open…

Call up the Custom Font File Stitcher filter dialog:

Filters>>Custom Fonts>> Utility Tools>>Custom Font File Stitcher v 02…

Click on 'OK' and let the plug-in stitch the children files back together with this parent image.

Save the extended file and delete any unwanted files from your work-folder.

By default the filter does not let you use 'stitcher' with any parent files ending with a number suffix in the format of an underscore followed by numbers e.g. '_1'. The second option provides a means of accessing such a file.