

Industrial Looking

A DIY guide to creating an industrial looking custom font with a height of 1000 pixels.

Everything you need to make this custom font is in the accompanying resources folder apart from the font. Download the OSL licensed font using the link below and install it in your Gimp user Fonts.



The resources:

Custom font plug-ins: install those you need into your Gimp user plug-ins folder

metal_studs_45degrees.pat: install to your user pattern folder

BlockTag1000.svg: kerning paths to copy to a folder of your choice

Rust.jpg: image of a rusty plate to copy to a folder of your choice



Step 1: Create the basic set of characters

Open the Custom Font Layers from Fonts with Fixed Margins dialog:

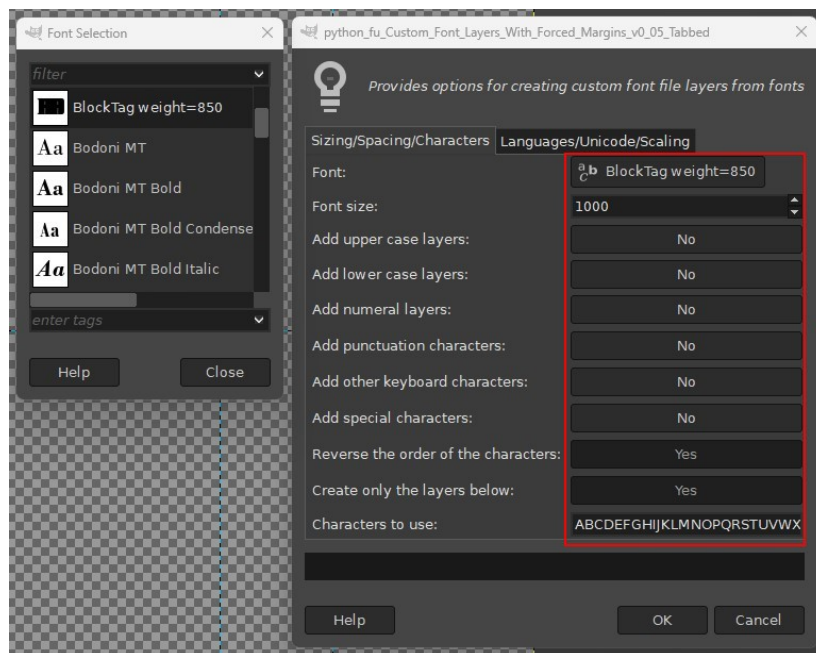
Filters>Custom Fonts>Constructing Tools> Custom Font Layers from Fonts with Fixed Margins

Replace the default dialog values on the first tab with those shown highlighted below.

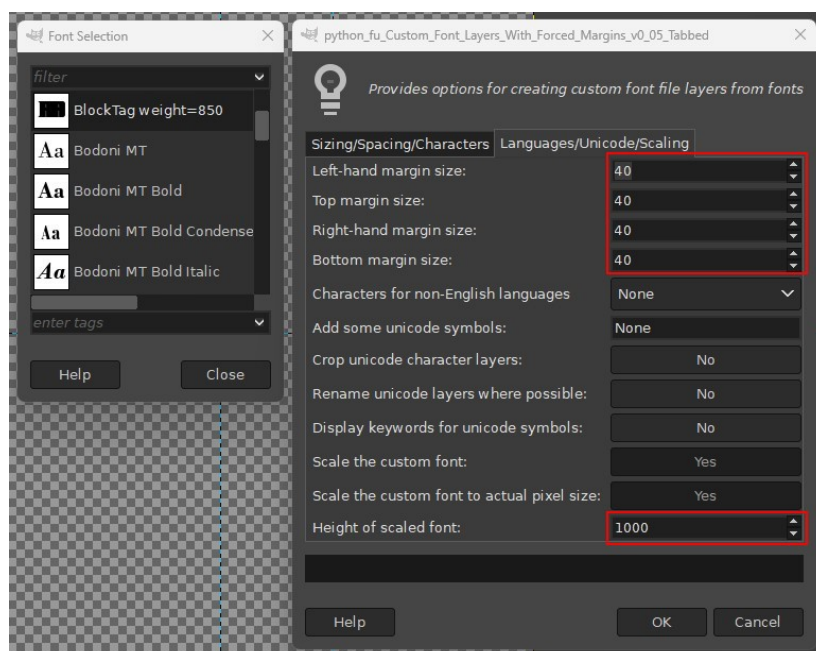
Copy the ‘characters to use’ from the list below and paste them into the dialog option.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ1234567890?!,.;'()+(&/=-

(The lower-case characters are copies of the upper-case characters and so are not required in this custom font.)



Replace the default dialog values on the second tab with those shown highlighted below.



Click on 'OK' and save the custom font with a suitable name.

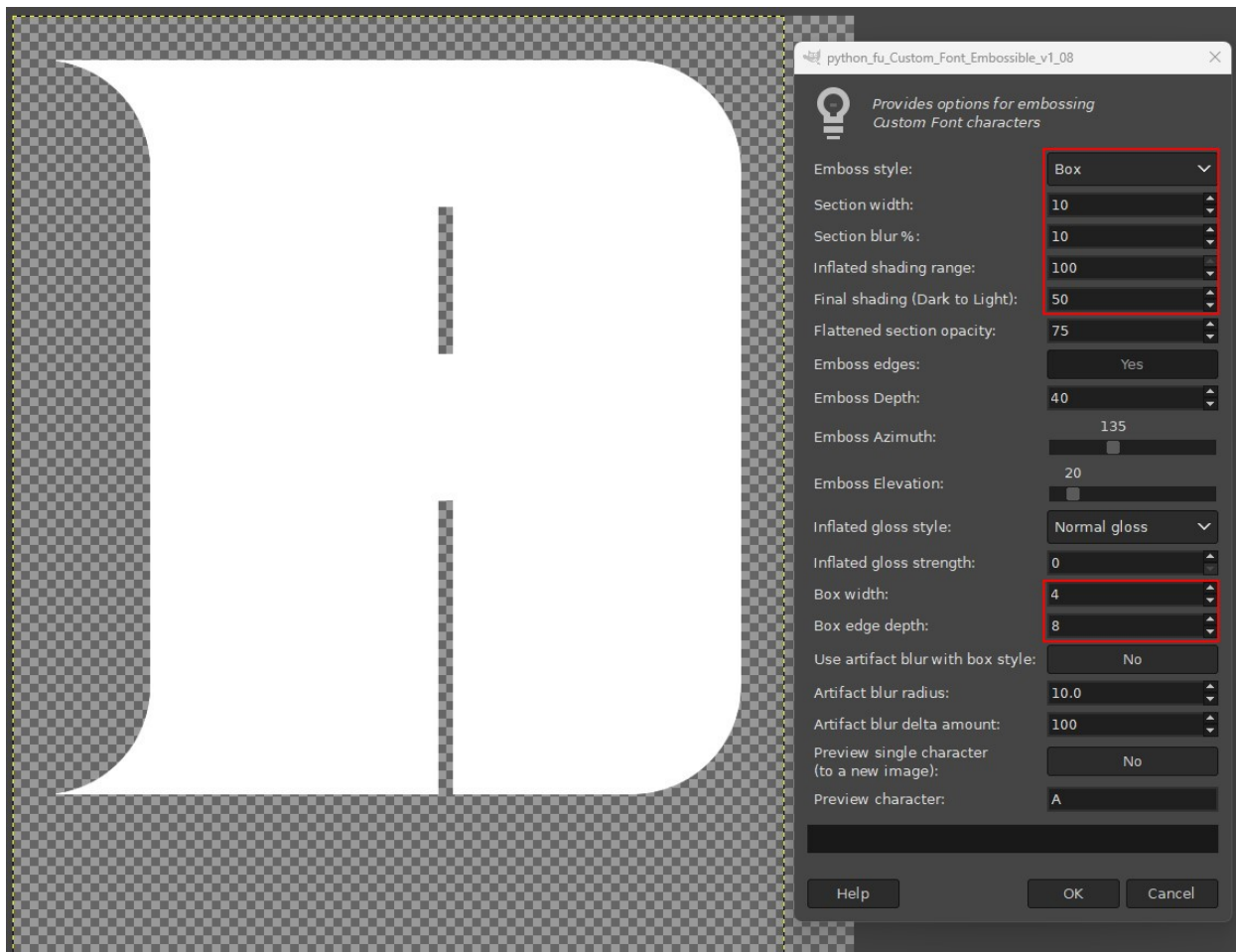


Step 2: Create the embossed box characters

Use Custom Font Embossible to create these edged characters

Filters>Custom Font>Constructing Tools>Custom Font Embossible

Replace the default dialog values on the first tab with those shown highlighted below.



Click on 'OK' and save the file with a new name. Leave the file open for the next step.

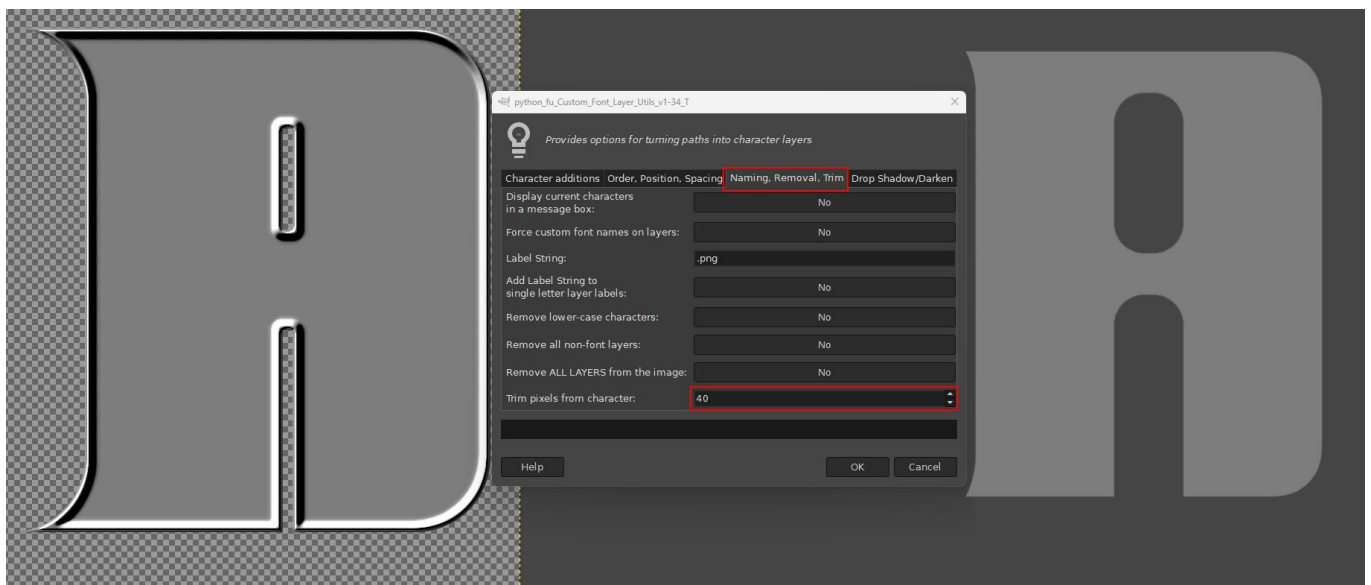


Step 3: Create a set of characters to use for a smaller, inner box effect

These are made by trimming down the characters you have just made.

Use the relevant trim option from the Custom Font Layer Utils dialog and enter a value of 40:

Filters>Custom Fonts>Utility Tools>Custom Font Layer Utilities



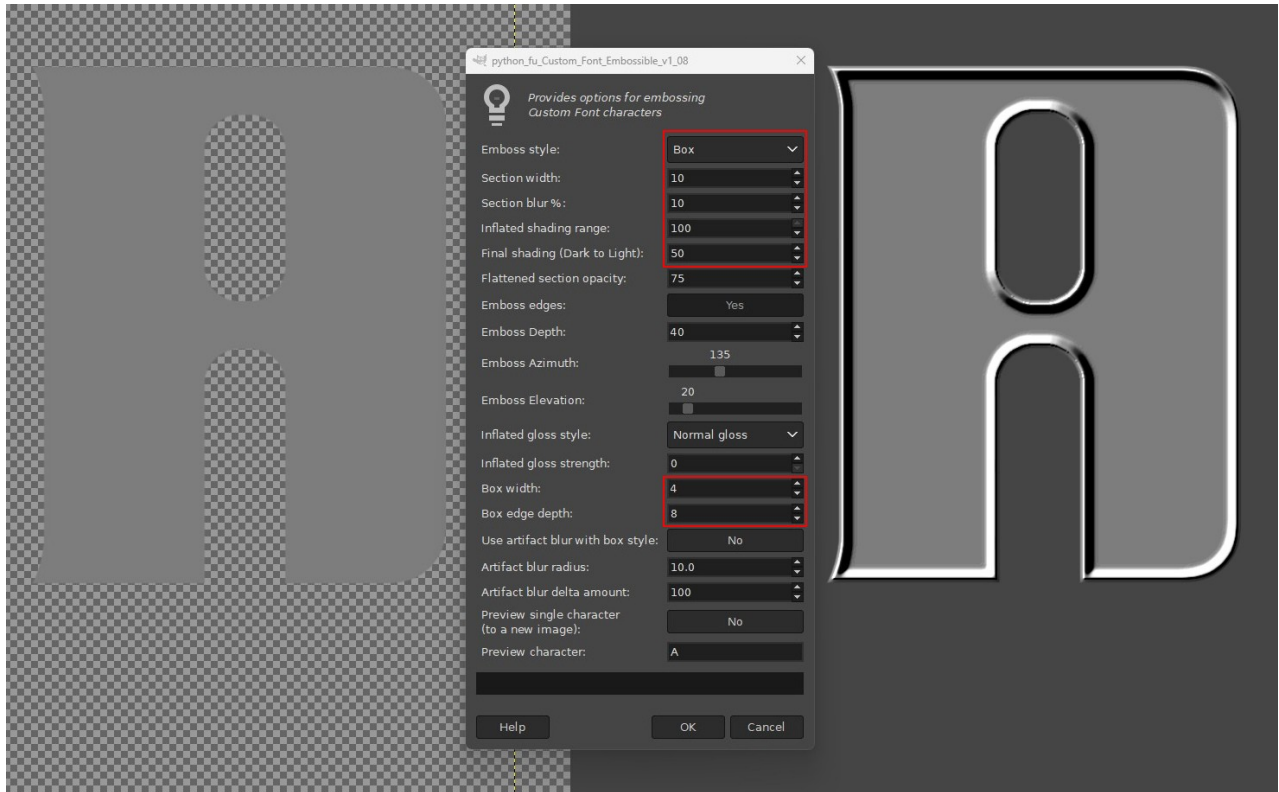
Save the custom font file with a suitable name (I used 'BlockTag1000_SmallBox').

Step 4: Add an embossed box effect

Use Custom Font Embossible to create these edged characters

Filters>Custom Font>Constructing Tools>Custom Font Embossible

Use the same values as in Step 2



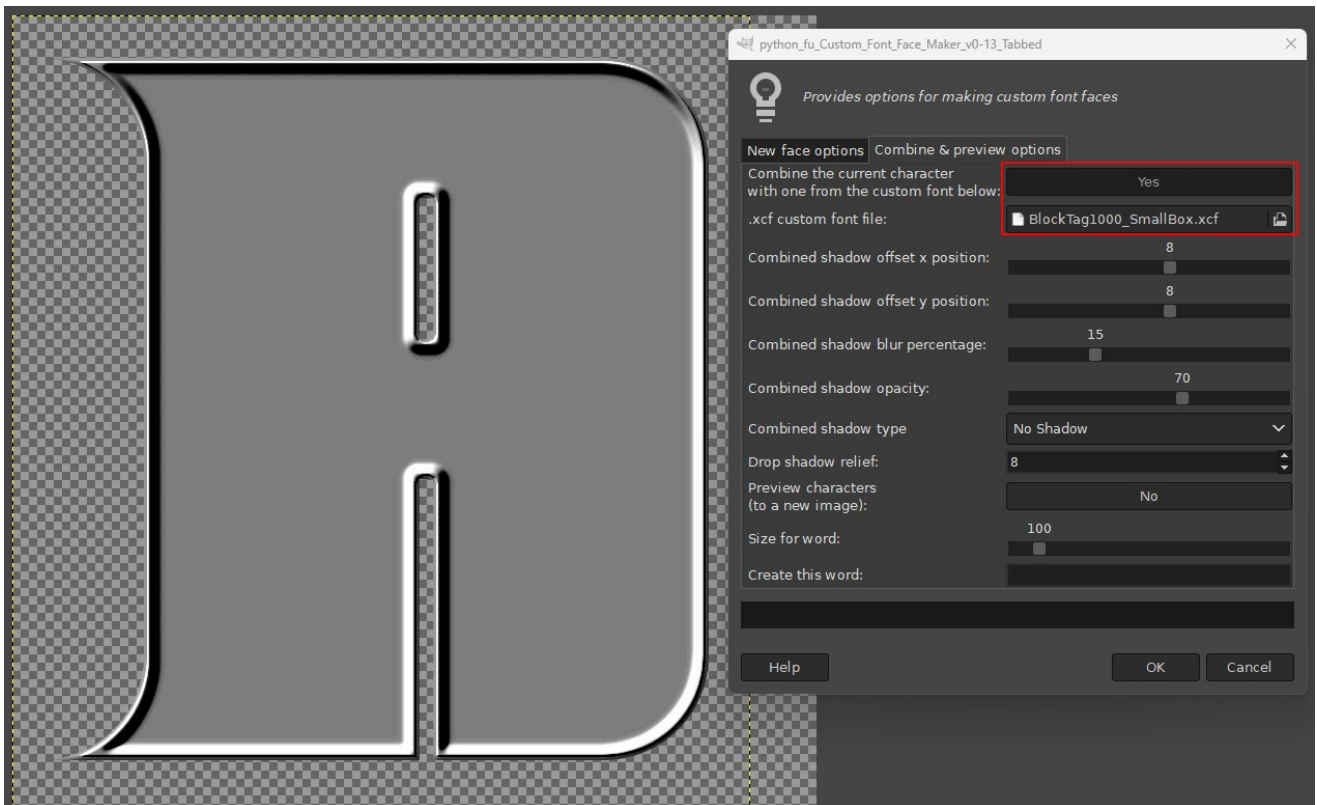
Re-save the file.

Step 5: Combine the two box characters

Open the larger box characters that you made in Step 2 and use Face Maker to combine the two differently sized boxes.

Filters>Custom Font>Decorating Tools>Custom Font Face Maker

Make sure that 'Normal' mode is set on tab 1 of the filter dialog and then use the '.xcf custom font file' option on the second tab of the dialog to navigate to the file that you created in Step 6.



Click on 'OK'.



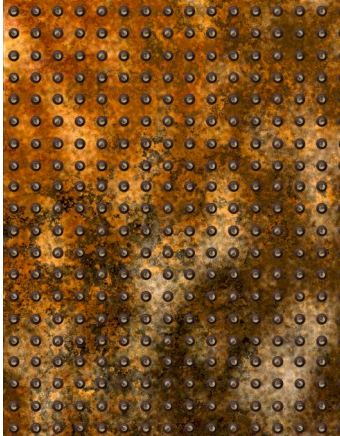
Save the file.

Step 6: Add a decorative face to the characters

Open the rust.jpg image in Gimp (navigate to the folder that you copied it into) – or use a texture of your own.

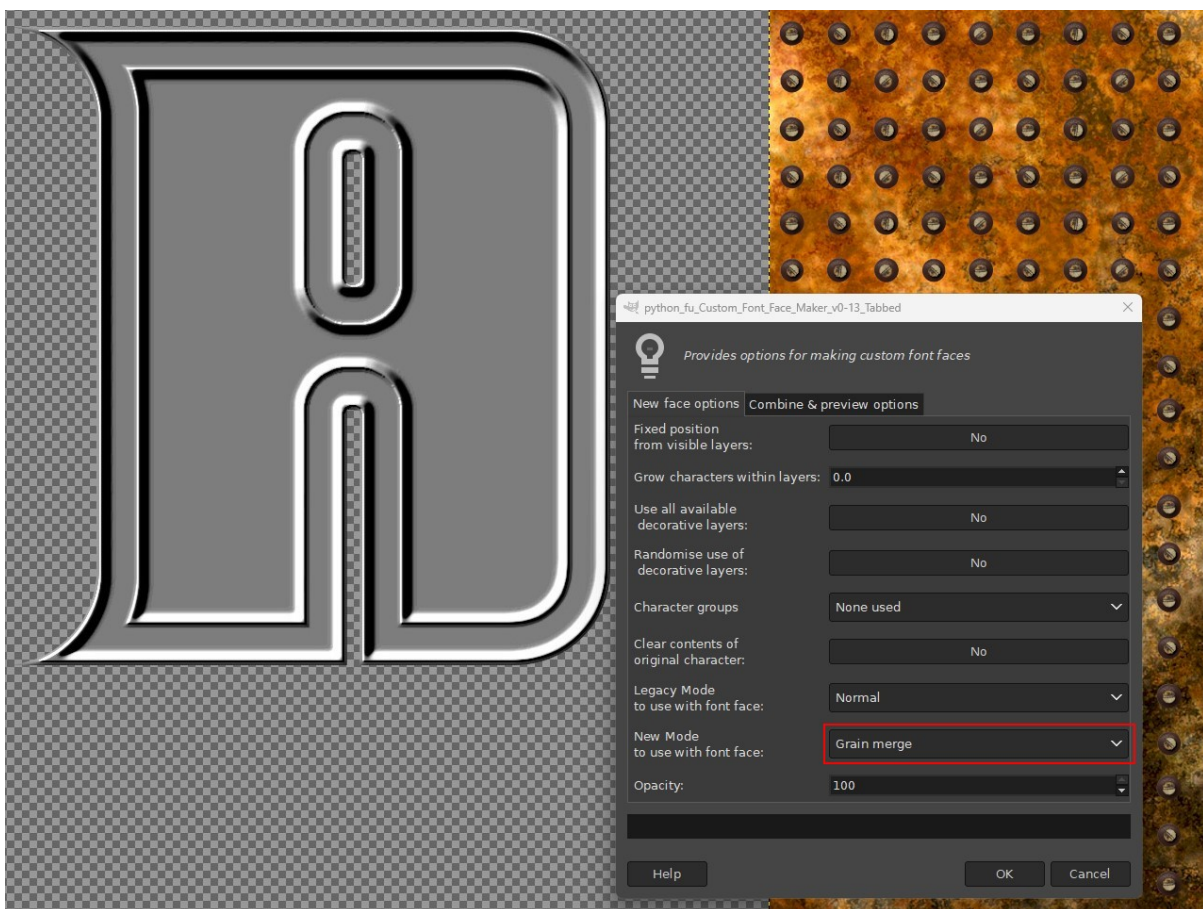
Copy the image layer (Ctrl+C) and then paste it as new layer into the custom font file that you created in Step 5.

Edit>Paste as>Paste as New Layer in Place (Ctrl+Alt+P)



Use the Face Maker plug-in:

Filters>Custom Font>Decorating Tools>Custom Font Face Maker



Set the new mode to '**Grain merge**' (make sure that the combine option on tab 2 is off) and click on '**OK**'.



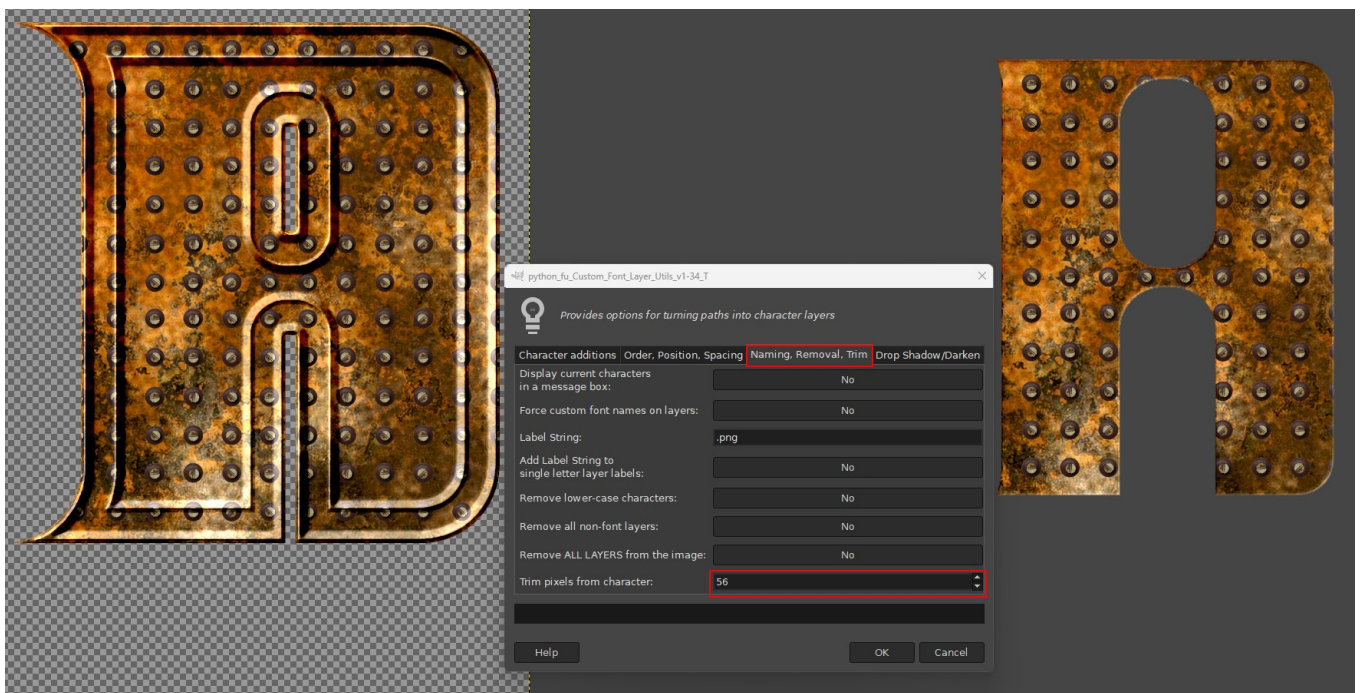
Step 7: Make a panel for the inner section of the custom font

Open the dialog for Custom Font Layer Utilities:

Filters>Custom Fonts>Utility Tools>Custom Font Layer Utilities

Use the relevant trim option from the Custom Font Layer Utils dialog and enter a value of **56**:

(You can always test out the trim on a single character image to be certain; just copy a layer and paste it as a new image. You may have to rename the layer afterwards.)



Click on **'OK'**.

Save the file with a new name.

I used 'BlockTag1000_StudInner'

Step 8: Add a decorative face to the characters created in Step 7

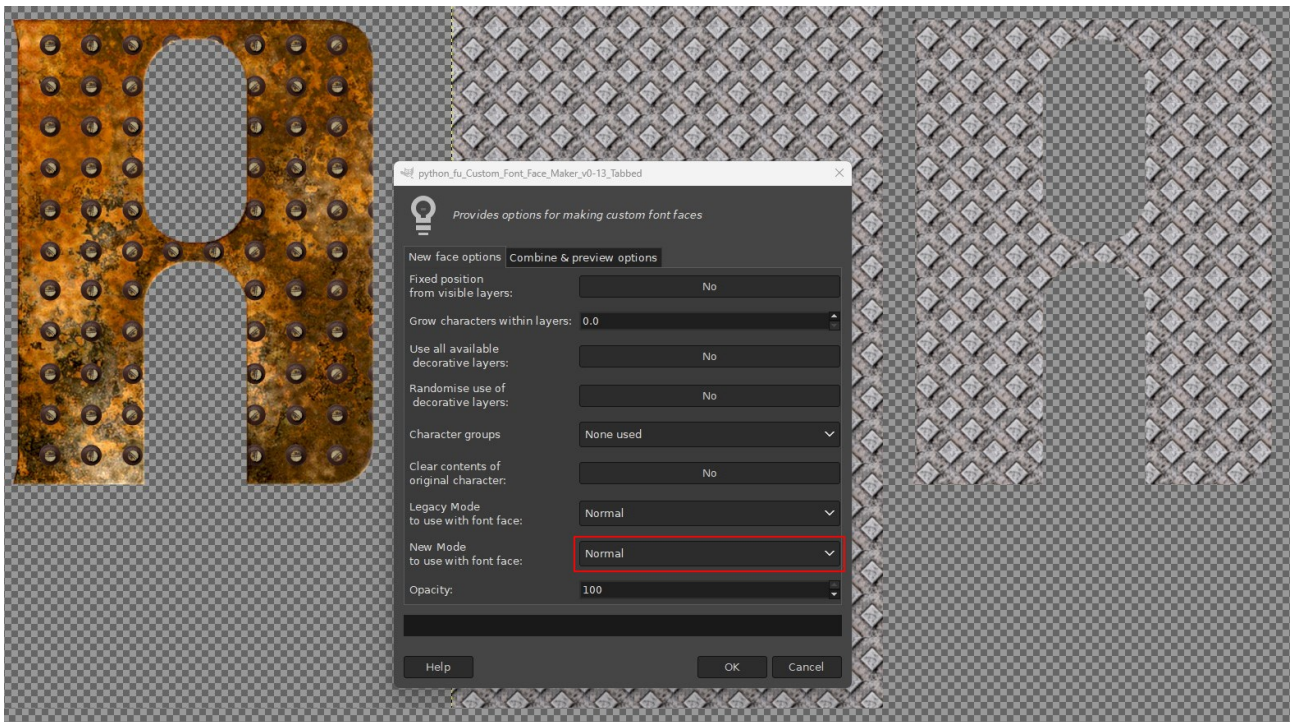
Add a new layer to the file that you created in Step 9. Open the Pattern dialog and select the metal_studs_45degrees pattern. Fill the layer with the pattern:

Edit>Fill with Pattern (Ctrl + ;)

Open the Face Maker dialog:

Filters>Custom Font>Decorating Tools>Custom Font Face Maker

Use **‘Normal’** mode:



Click on **‘OK’** and save the file again.

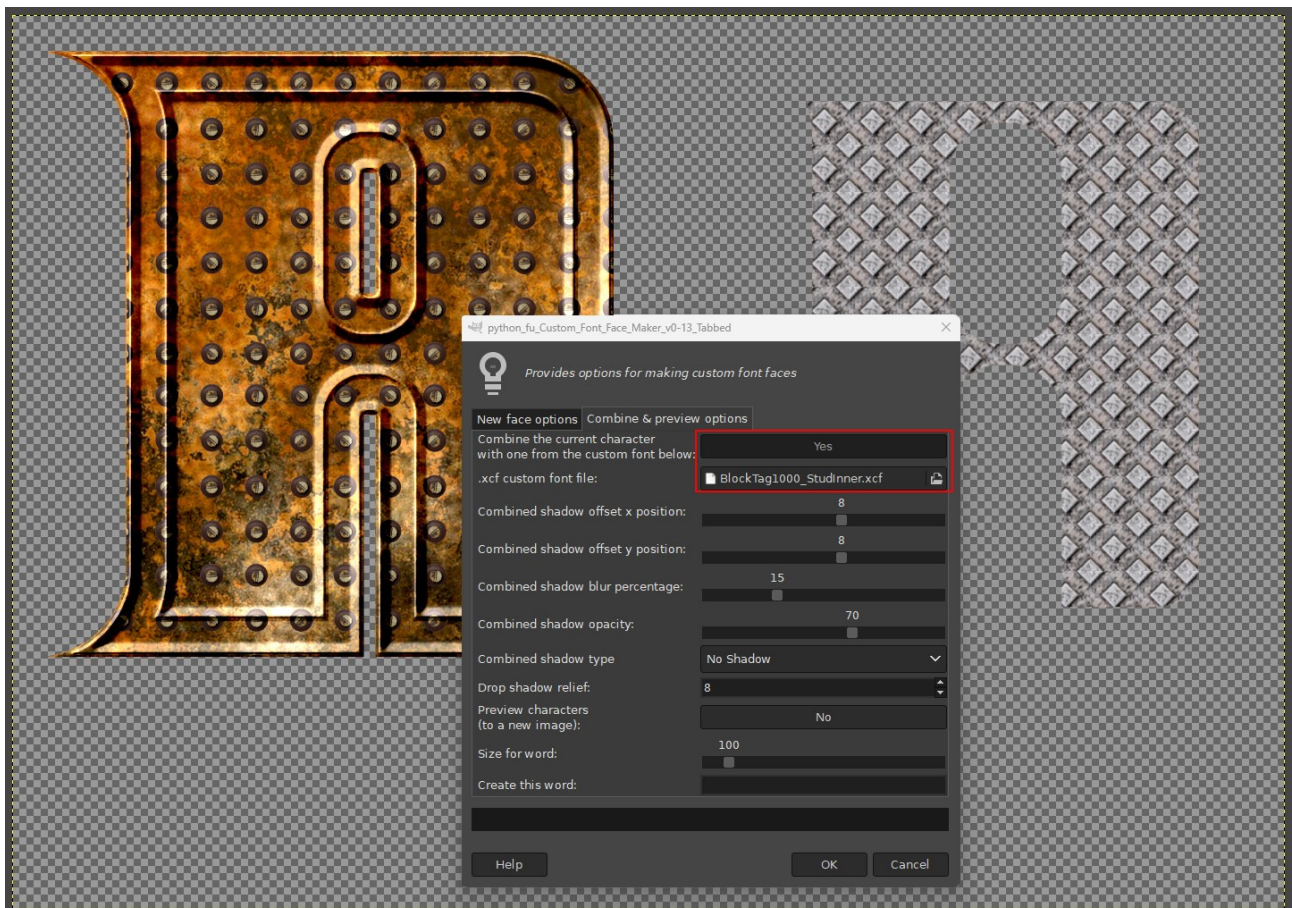
Step 9: Combine the rusted and the stud custom font files

Open the rusted characters – or make it active if it still open in Gimp.

Open the Face Maker dialog:

Filters>Custom Font>Decorating Tools>Custom Font Face Maker

On tab 2 set the combine option to **‘Yes’** and locate the file that you saved in Step 8 for the **‘.xcf custom font file’** option. You should still be using **‘Normal’** mode on tab 1.



Click on **‘OK’**.



This is the final version of the custom font so save the custom font with a new name if you need to.

Step 10: Add the kerning paths (optional)

If you want to use custom font tools to display the custom font characters you will need to add kerning paths to make the characters fit more closely together – as in the image in Step 11, above.

Right click in the Paths tool dock and use the ‘**Import Path**’ option to add kerning paths.

Navigate to the location that you used to save the file to:

BlockTag1000.svg

Click on ‘**Open**’ to add the kerning paths to the custom font.
Save the custom font.



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