Psychedelic Furry Looking

A DIY guide to creating a psychedelic furry 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 folder before starting up Gimp.



The resources:

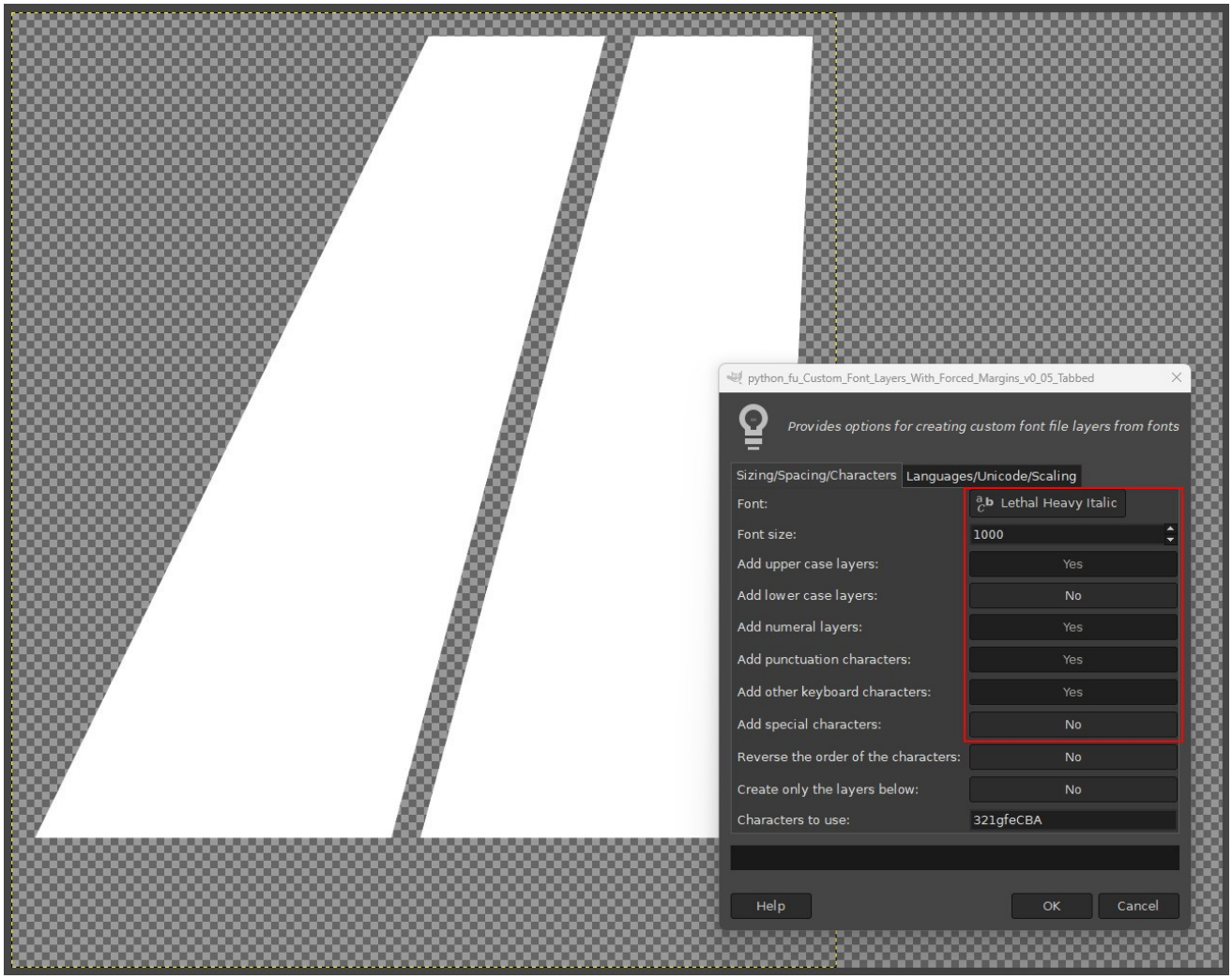
Custom font plug-ins: install those you need into your Gimp user plug-ins folder
Lethal_KerningPaths1000.svg: kerning paths to copy to a folder of your choice
zebra_1000.jpg: image to copy to a folder of your choice

Step 1: Create the basic set of characters

Create a new image – any size will do – to make the custom font and set your chosen foreground colour.

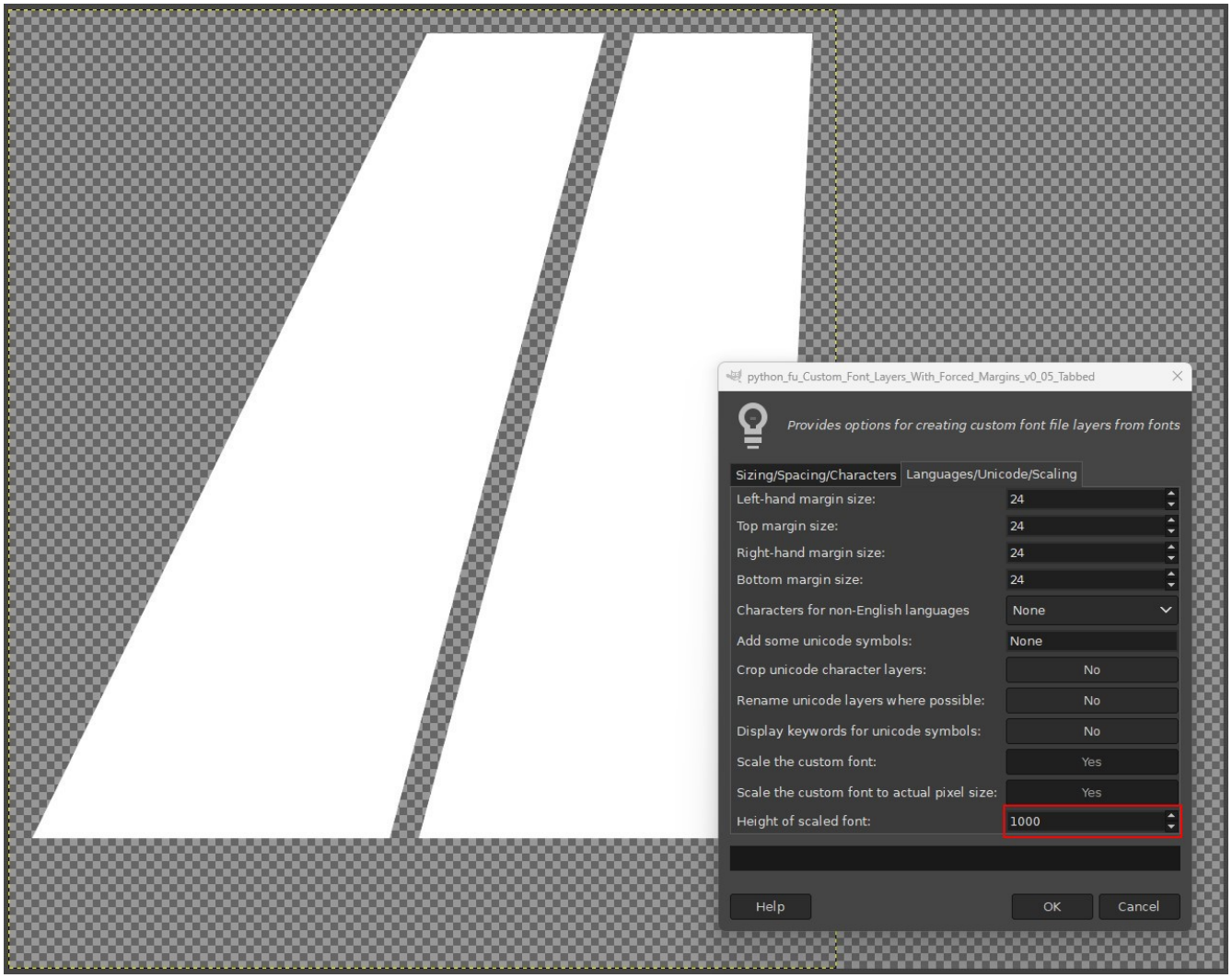
Open the Custom Font Layers from Fonts with Fixed Margins dialog:

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



(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.



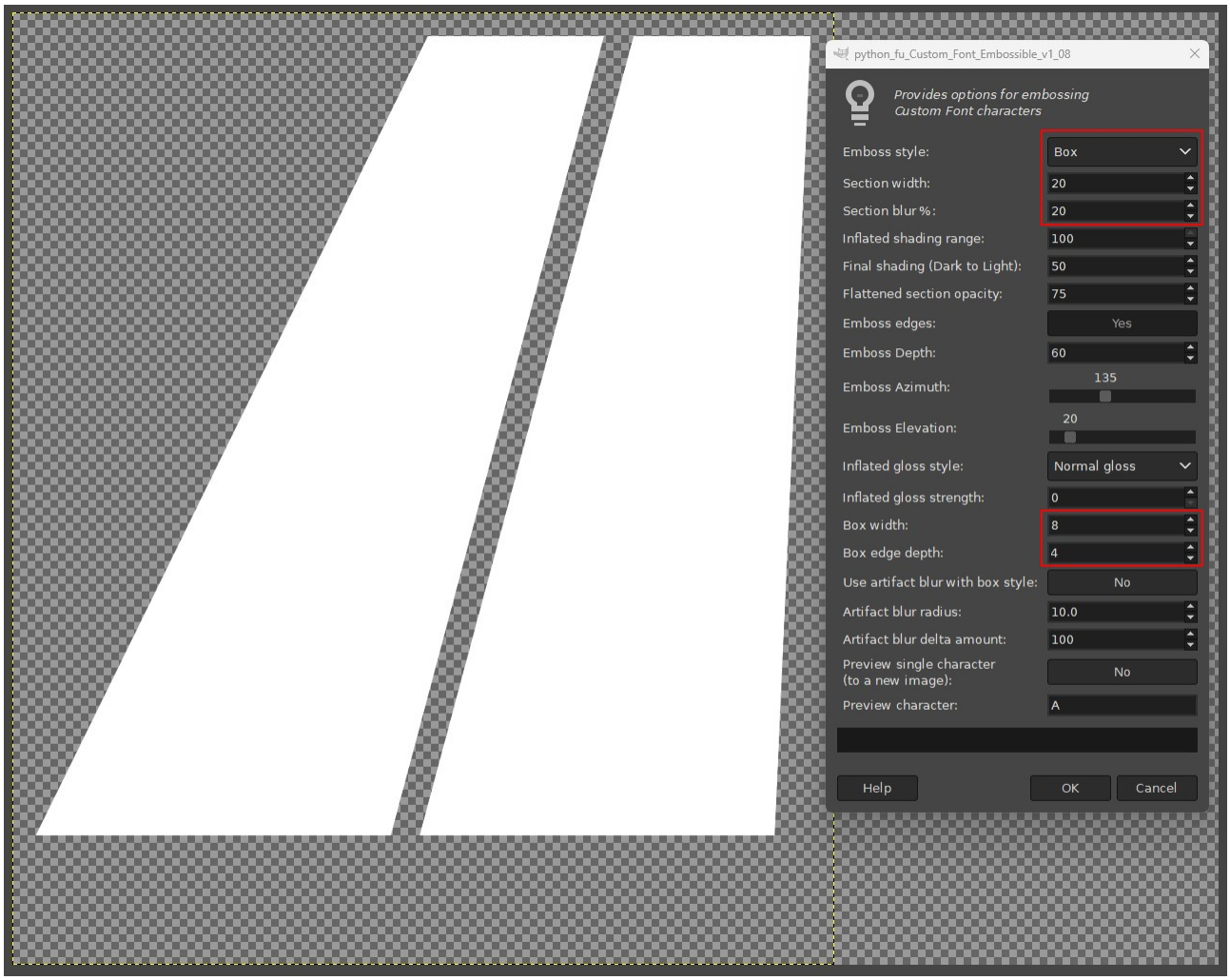
Click on ‘OK’ and save the custom font with a suitable name.

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 with those shown highlighted below.



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

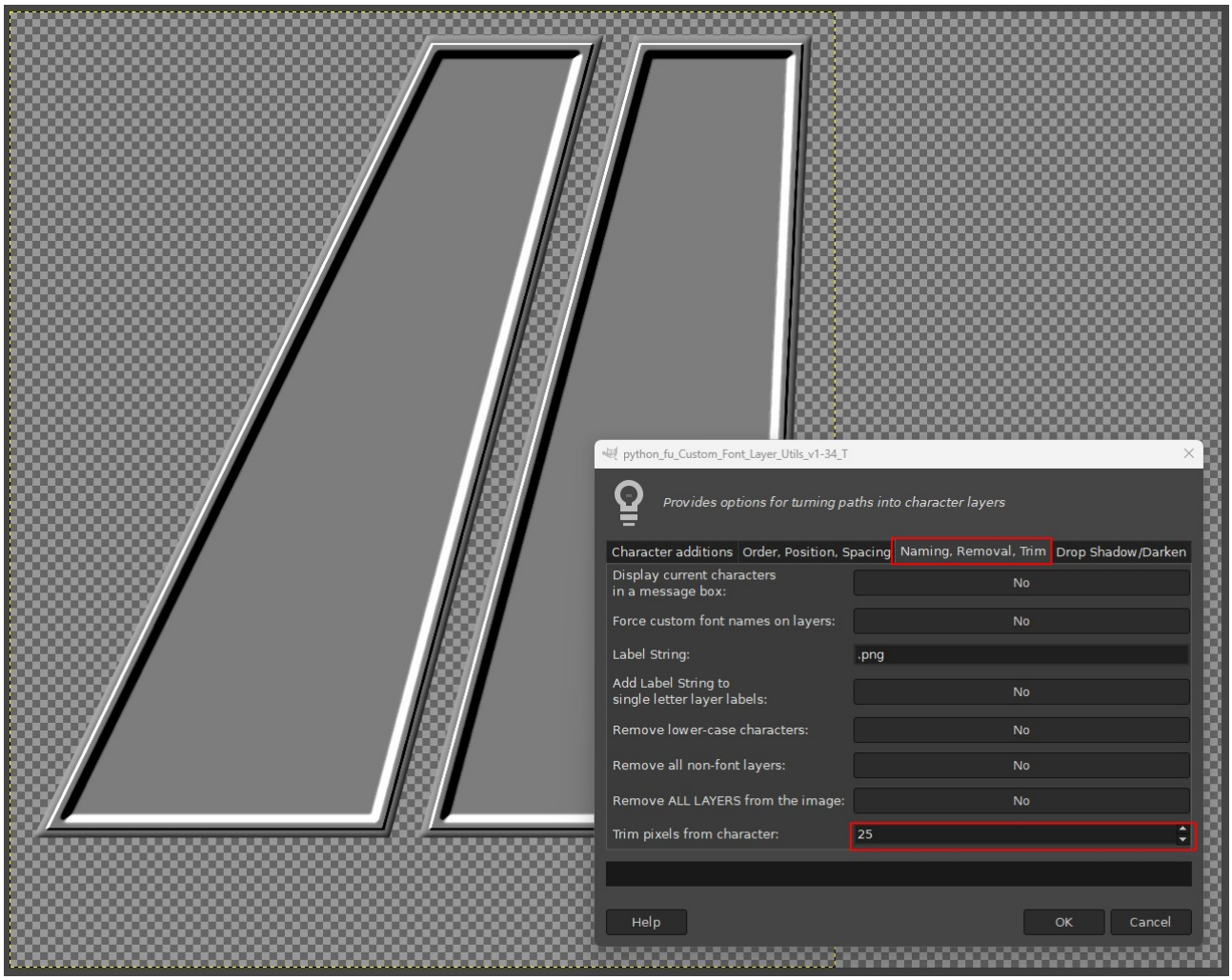


Step 3: Create a set of characters to use for an inner panel

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 25:

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





Save the custom font file with a suitable name.

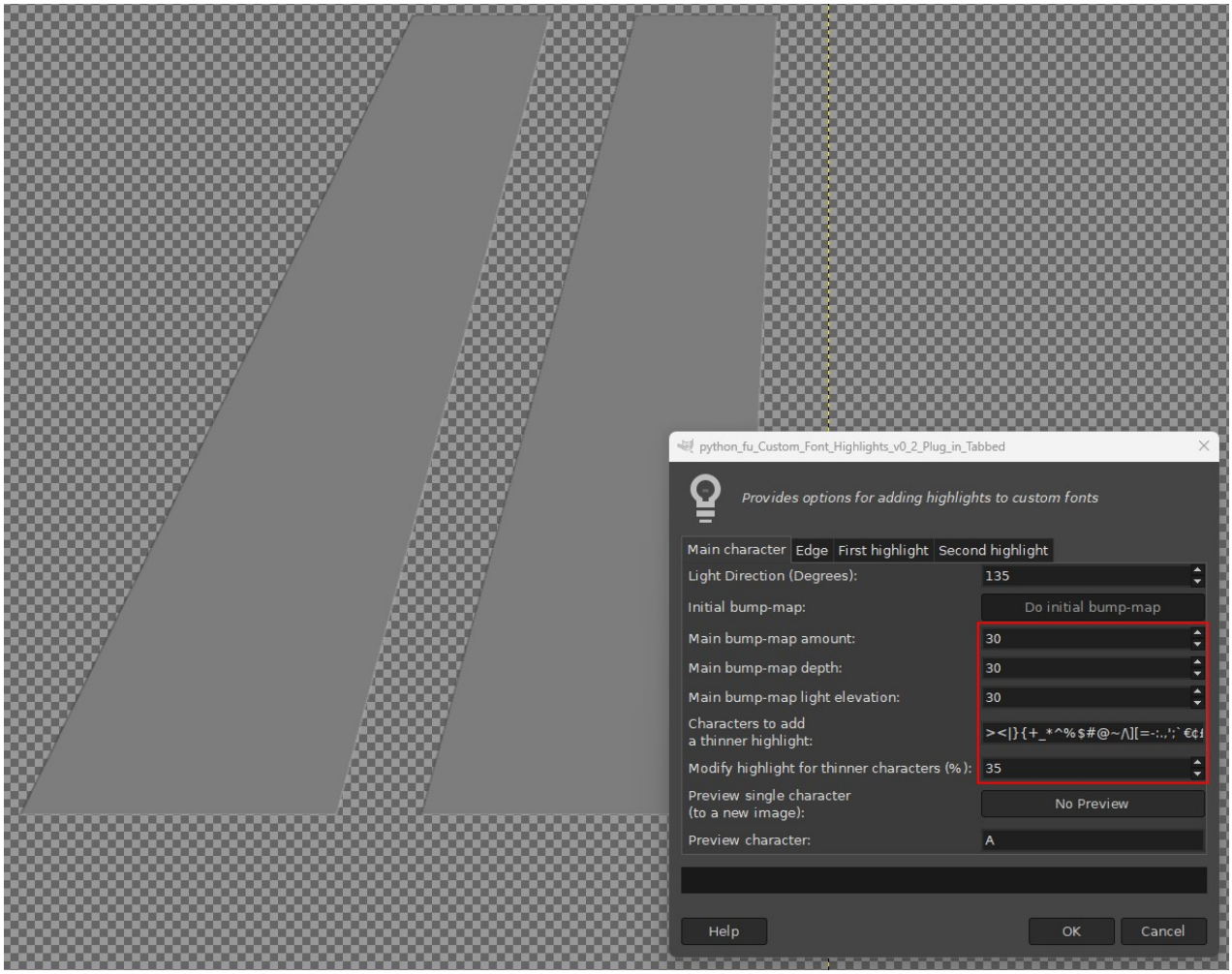
Step 4: Create a set of highlight characters

Use the characters created in the last step and set your foreground colour to a shade of slightly lighter mid-grey than the colour of the existing characters (I used HTML #909090).

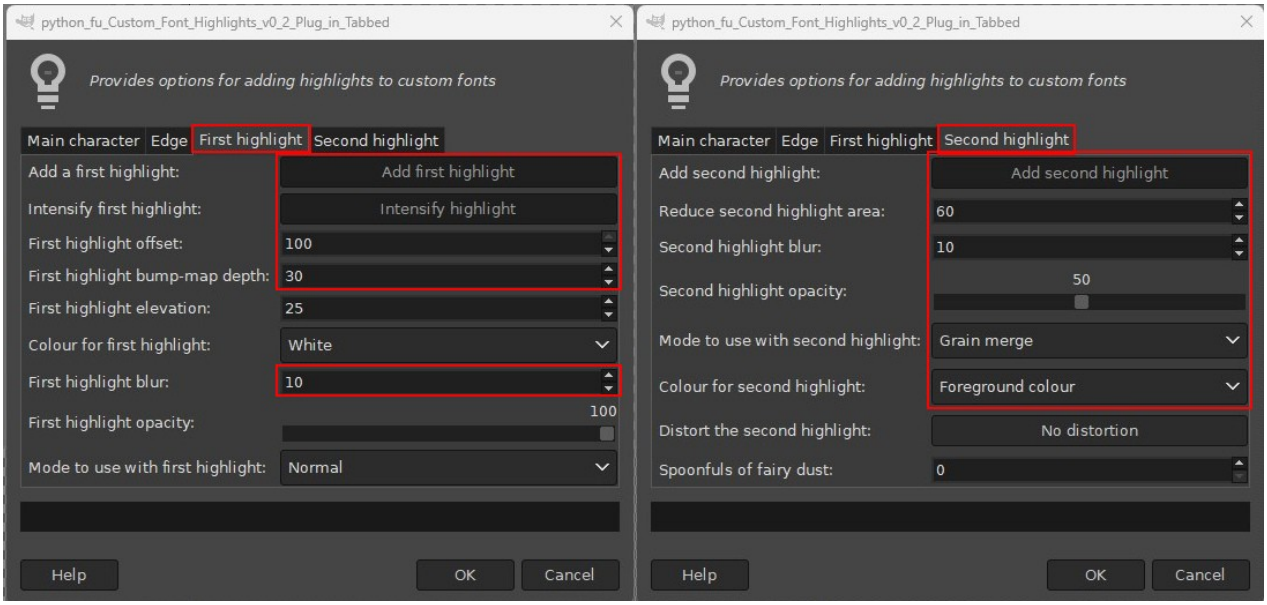
Open the Custom Font Highlights dialog:

Filters>Custom Font>Decorating Tools>Custom Font Highlights

Use the values highlighted below:



The values to use on tab 3 and tab 4 of the dialog:



Click on ‘OK’.



Step 5: Add a decorative face to the characters

Open the zebra_1000.jpg image in Gimp (navigate to the folder that you copied it into) – or use a texture of your own.

Add a new layer to this image and choose a foreground and background colour. Use the gradient tool to apply the colours to this new layer as a gradient fill. Change the mode of the fill layer to ‘Grain merge’ and merge the two layers or use the ‘New from Visible’ option to create a new layer with the merged contents. The image below shows the contents of my three layers (Gradient fill - Image – Merged content).



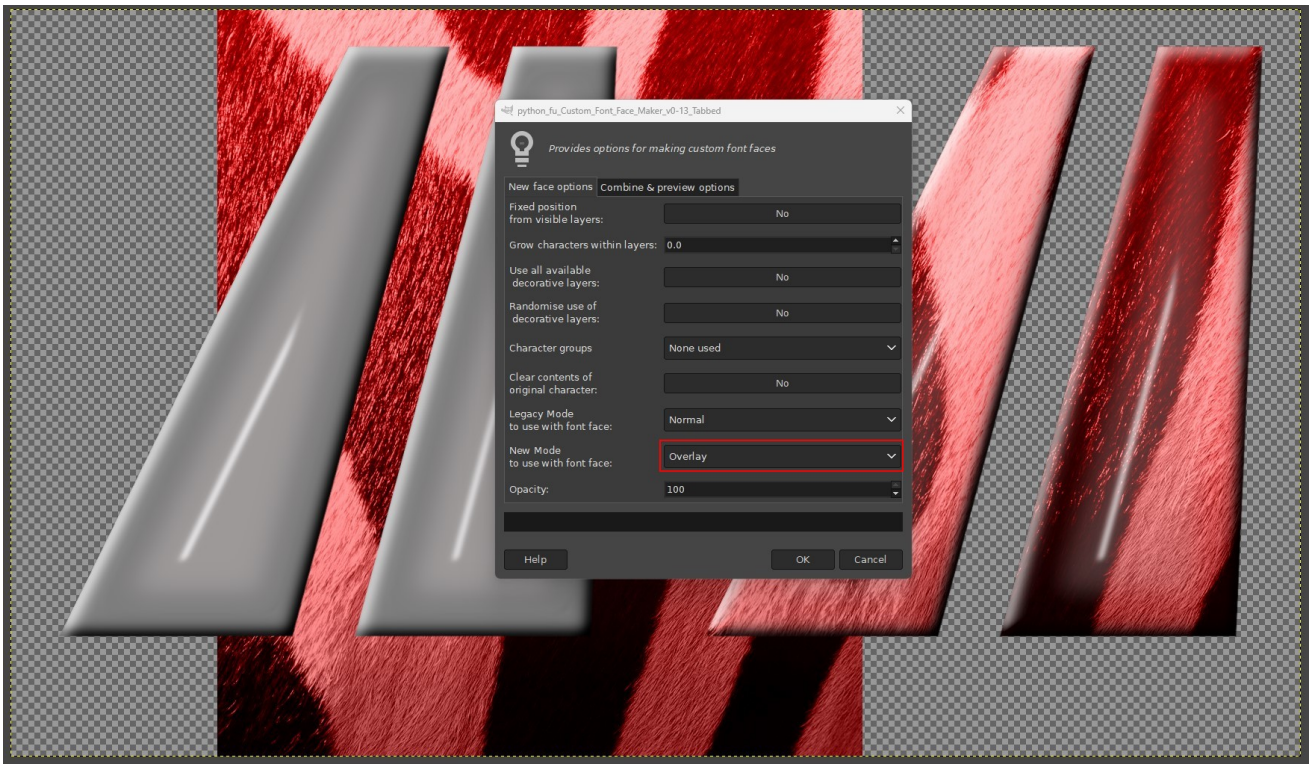
Select and copy the decorative layer (Ctrl+C) and then paste it as a new layer into the custom font file that you created in Step 4.

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 '**Overlay**' (make sure that the combine option on tab 2 is off) and click on '**OK**'.



Save the file.

You could use just this outcome in the final version (if so move to Step 8 now) but I wanted to create a version with two coloured sections for the letter characters.

Step 6: Make **a second decorative face for the characters**

Open the zebra_1000.jpg image in Gimp (navigate to the folder that you copied it into) – or use a texture of your own.

Add a new layer to this image and choose a different foreground and background colour. Use the gradient tool to apply the colours to this new layer as a gradient fill. Change the mode of the fill layer to 'Grain merge' and merge the two layers or use the 'New from Visible' option to create a new layer with the merged contents. The image below shows the contents of my three layers (Gradient fill - Image – Merged content).



Select and copy the decorative layer (Ctrl+C) and then paste it as a new layer into the custom font file that you created in Step 4.

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 '**Overlay**' (make sure that the combine option on tab 2 is off) and click on '**OK**'.

Use the Free Select tool to select the areas of each character that you wish to remove and hit the delete key to cut away those selected areas. When you have done this for all the characters that you wish to modify, save the custom font file with a new name.

Below are my cut-away characters (the grey areas are not part of the characters but are there to indicate the areas that were cut away from the characters).



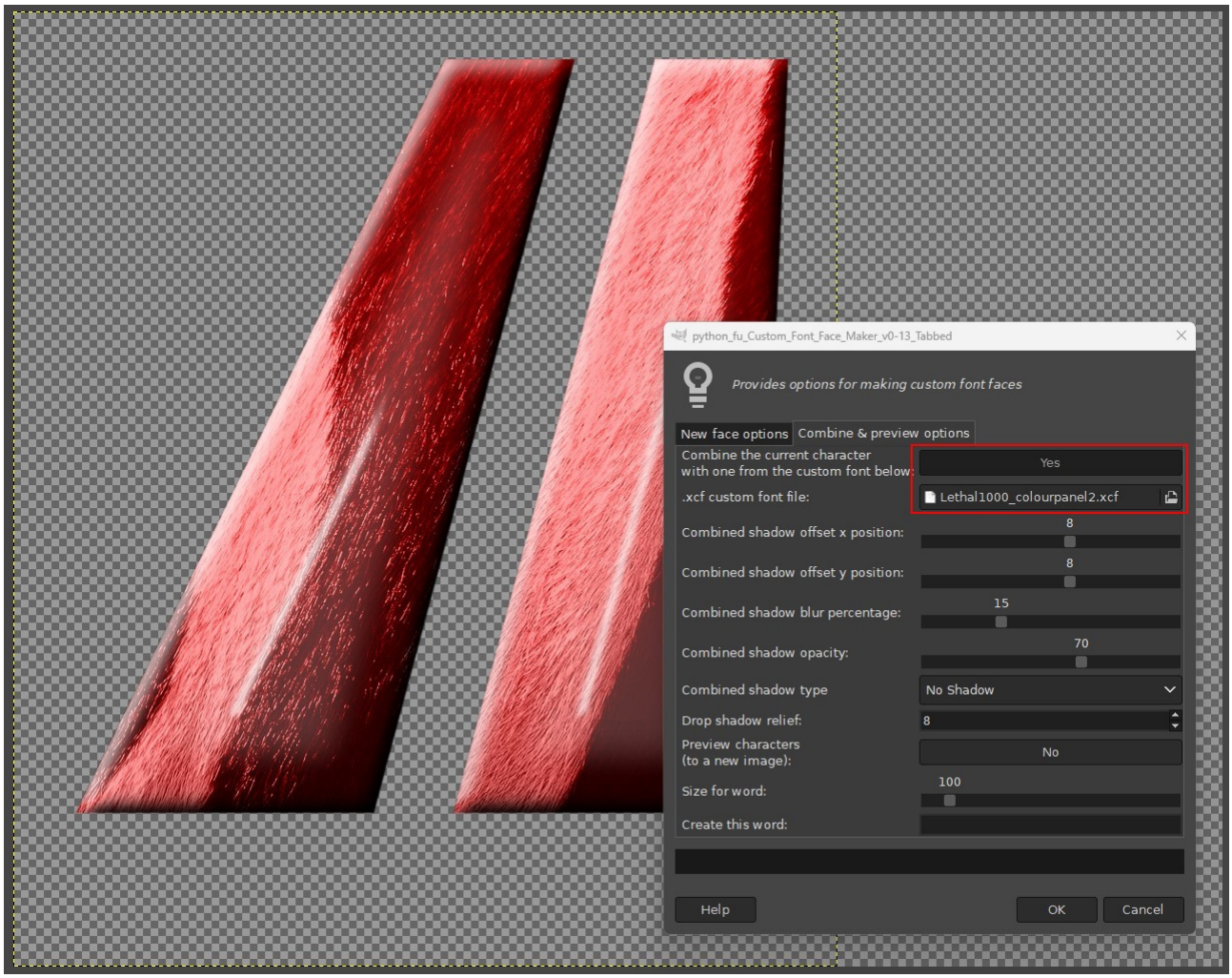
Step 7: Combine the custom font panel files

Open the characters made in Step 5 (the first set of decorative panels) – or make that image 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 6 for the '**.xcf custom font file**' option. You should still be using 'Normal' mode on tab 1.



Click on '**OK**'.



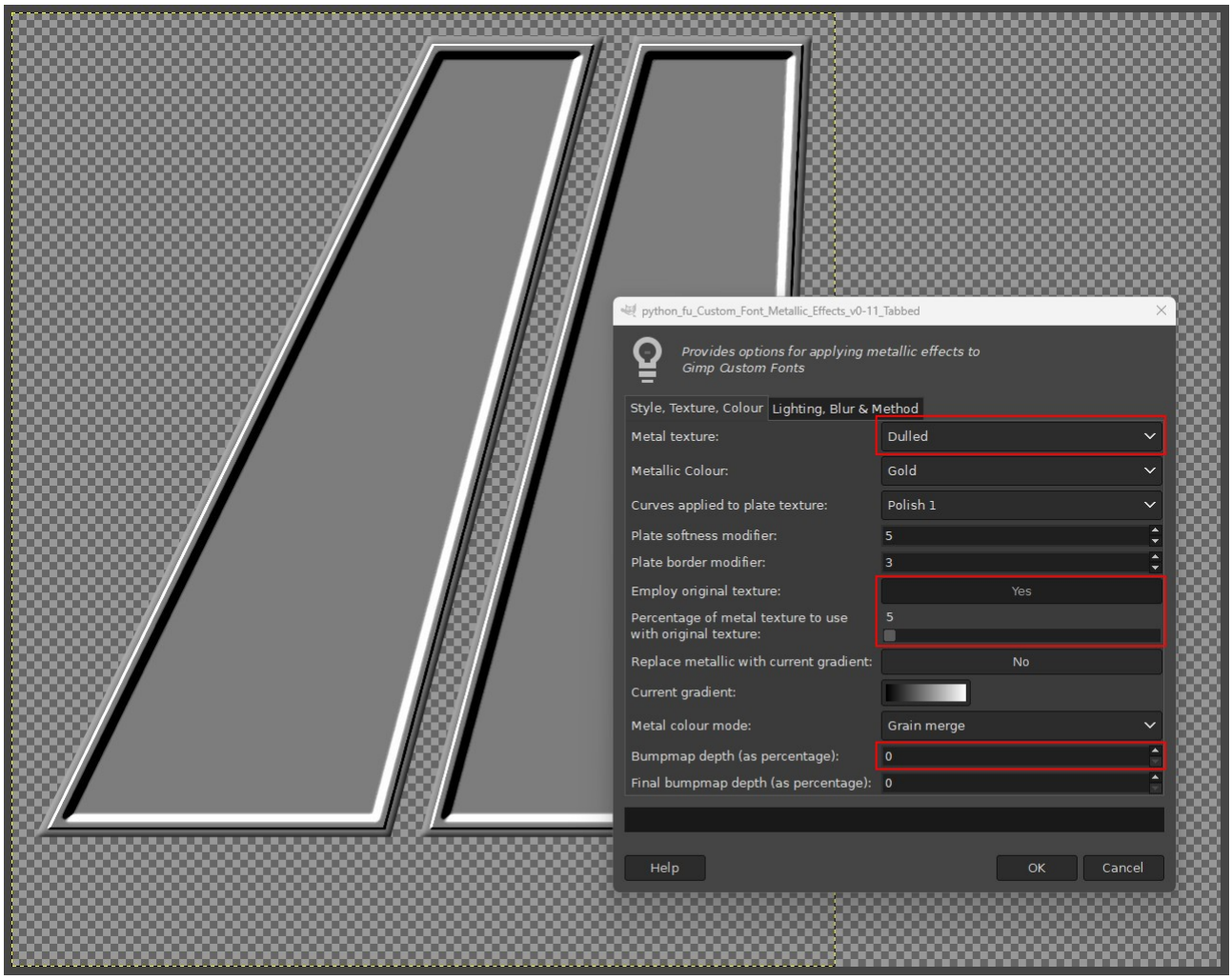
Save the custom font file with a new name.

Step 8: Add a metallic finish to the box/border characters

Use Custom Font Metallic Effects to add a golden look to the characters that you created in Step 2:

Filters>Custom Font>Decorating Tools>Custom Font Metallic Effects

Use the values shown below.



Click on ‘OK’.



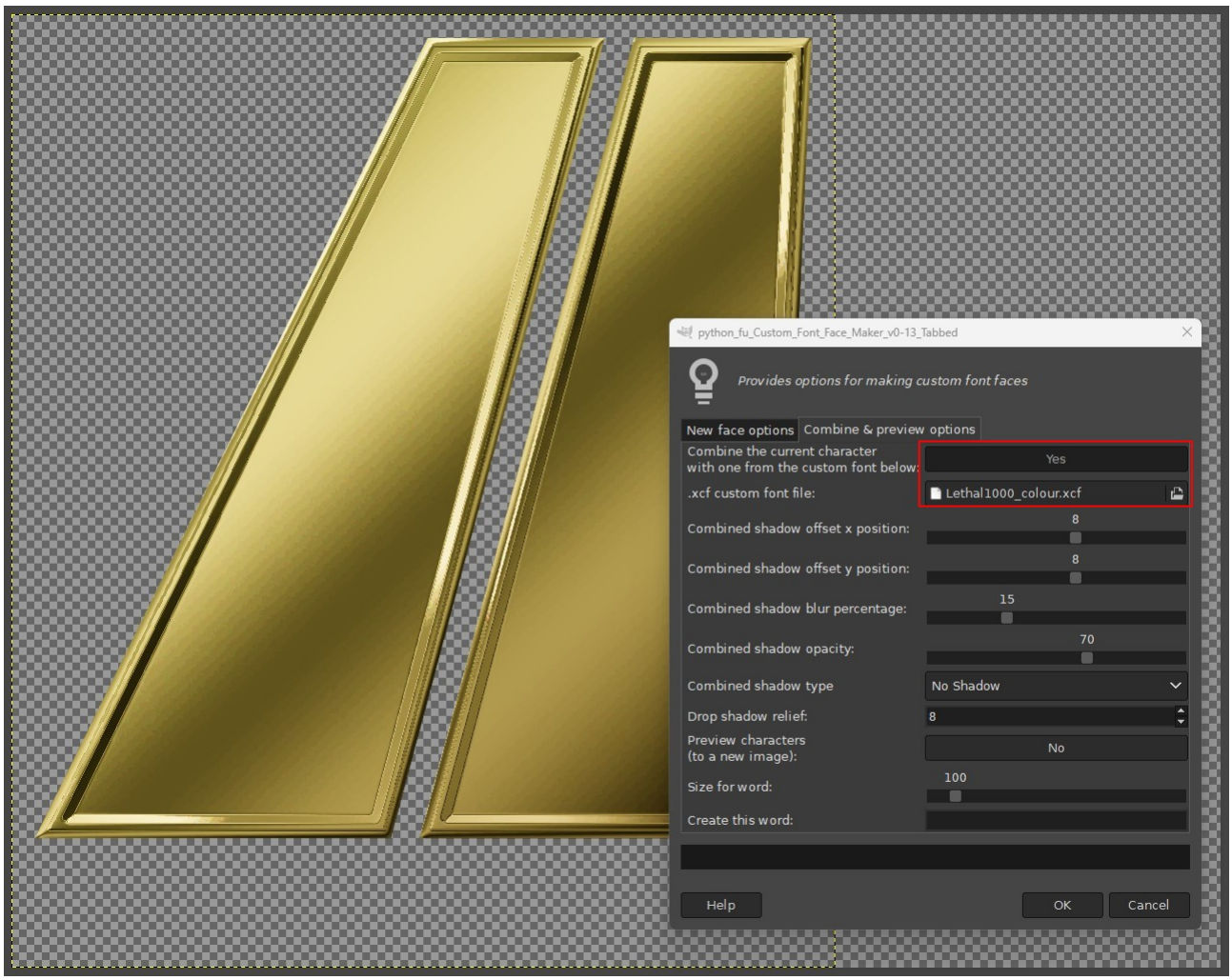
Keep this file open.

Step 9: Combine the Gold border with the custom font panel

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 earlier as the coloured panel for the '**.xcf custom font file**' option. The 'Mode' option on tab 1 should be 'Normal'.



Click on 'OK'.

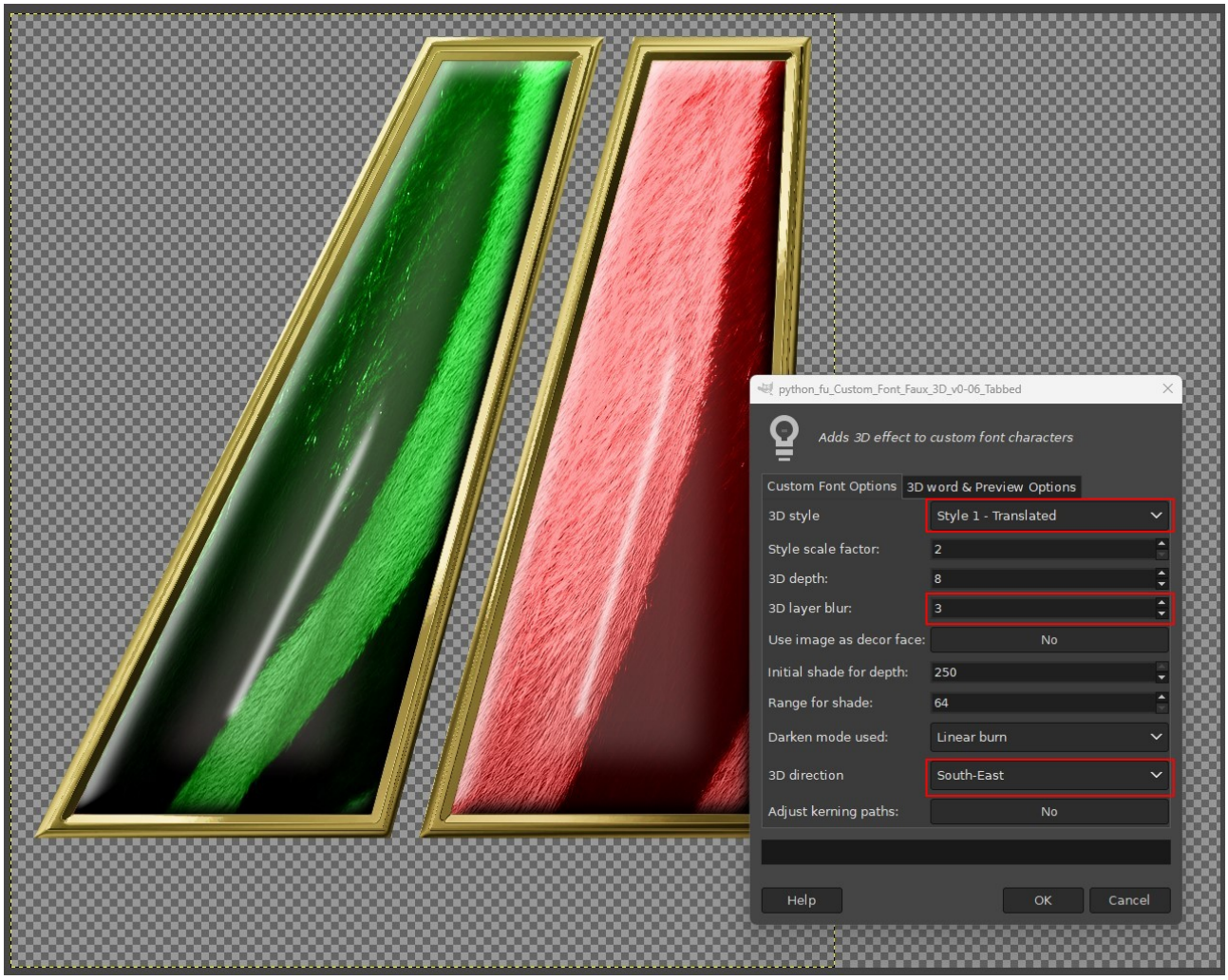


Step 10: Add a Small 3d Edge to the Custom Font

Use Custom Font Faux 3D:

Filters>Custom Font>3D Tools>Custom Font Faux 3D

Use the values highlighted below.



Click on ‘OK’



Save the custom Font.

Step 11: 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.

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 and select the file:

Lethal_KerningPaths1000.svg

Click on '**Open**' to add the kerning paths to the custom font.

Save the custom font for the very last time.

