

New Guide to FontSlab with tabbed dialog Part 3: Rotating Characters

FontSlab also has options for adding rotation to characters along a user path.



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

Kerfuffle_Interlock_letters_only custom font file
straight path path file
Horseshoe path path file

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

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

Call up the FontSlab dialog:

Filters>>Custom Font Tools>>FontSlab Tabbed v0.17

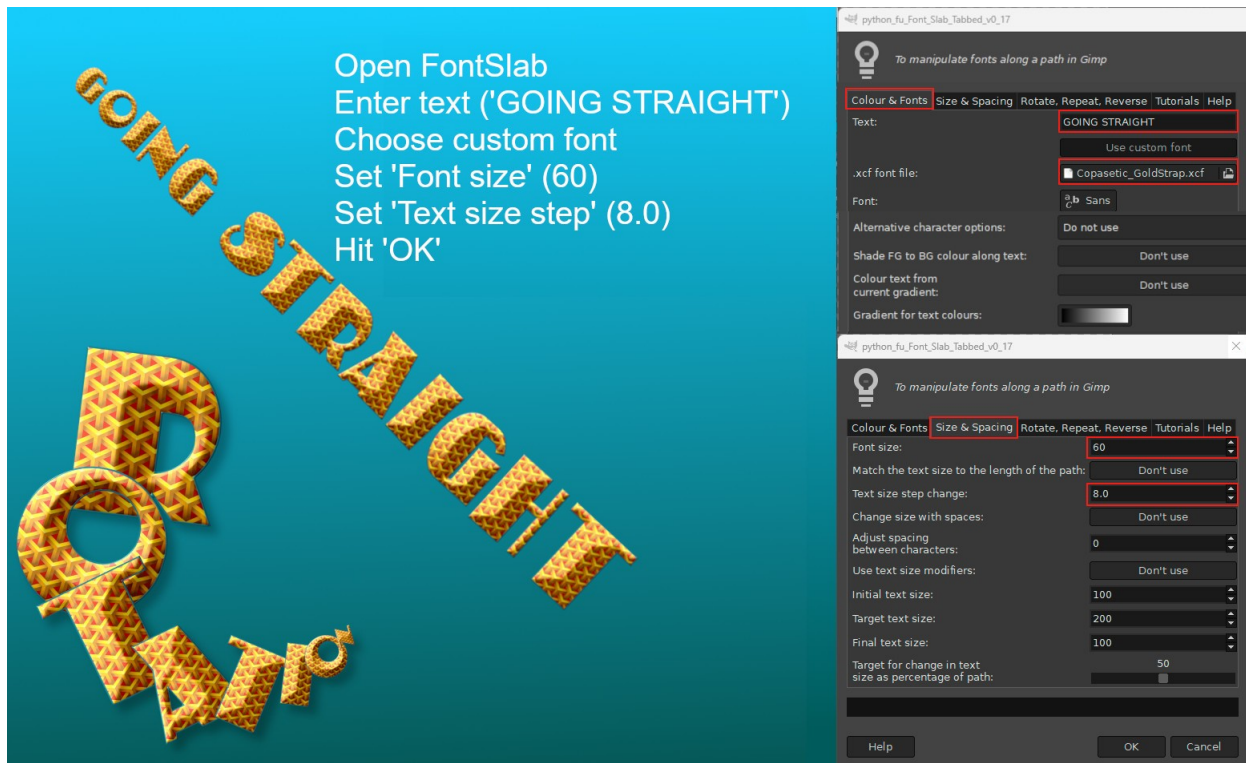
First create some text to increase in size along the path without any character rotation.

Set the initial 'Font size' value – mine are shown in brackets (60).

Choose the custom font to use – navigate to the location on your machine.

Set the 'Text step size' (8.0)

Hit 'OK'.



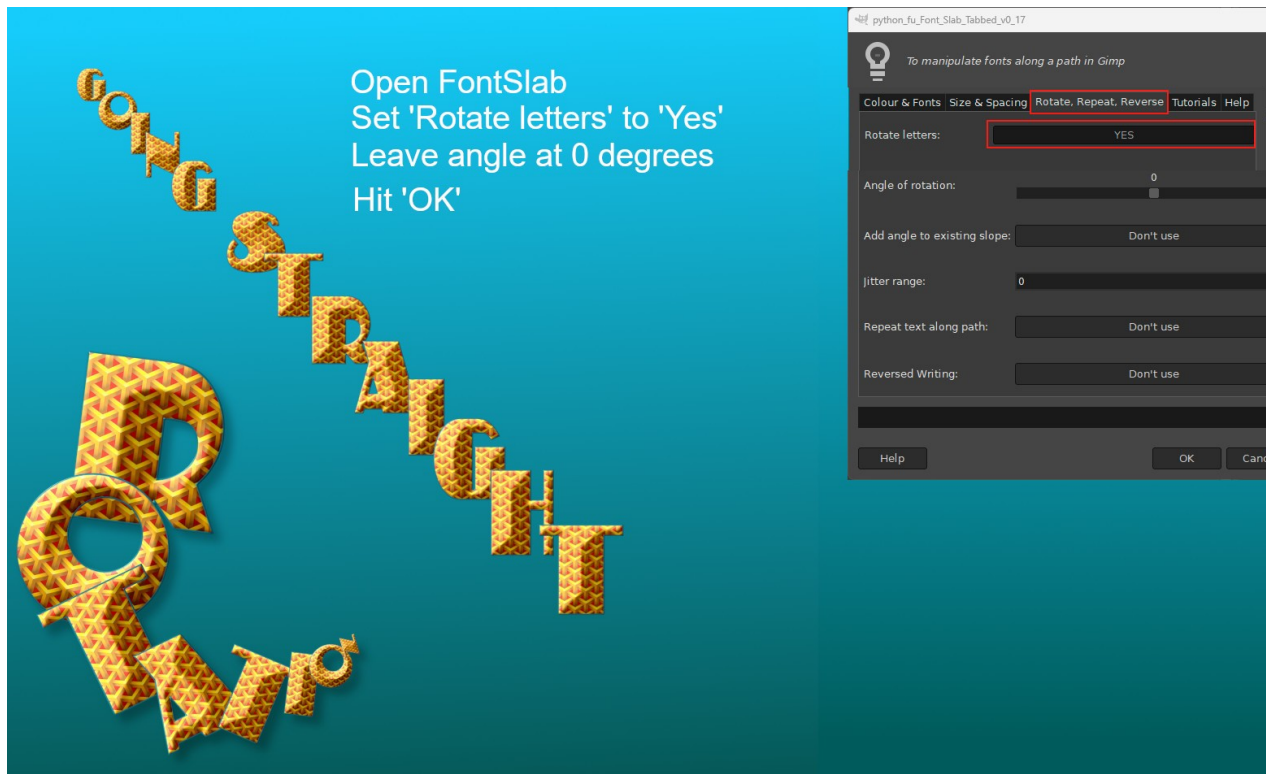
Now to add some rotation to the characters to keep the characters horizontally positioned on the path.

Reshow the FontSlab dialog and, keeping the earlier settings, do the following:

Set the 'Rotate letters' to 'Yes'

Keep the 'Angle of rotation' as 0 degrees.

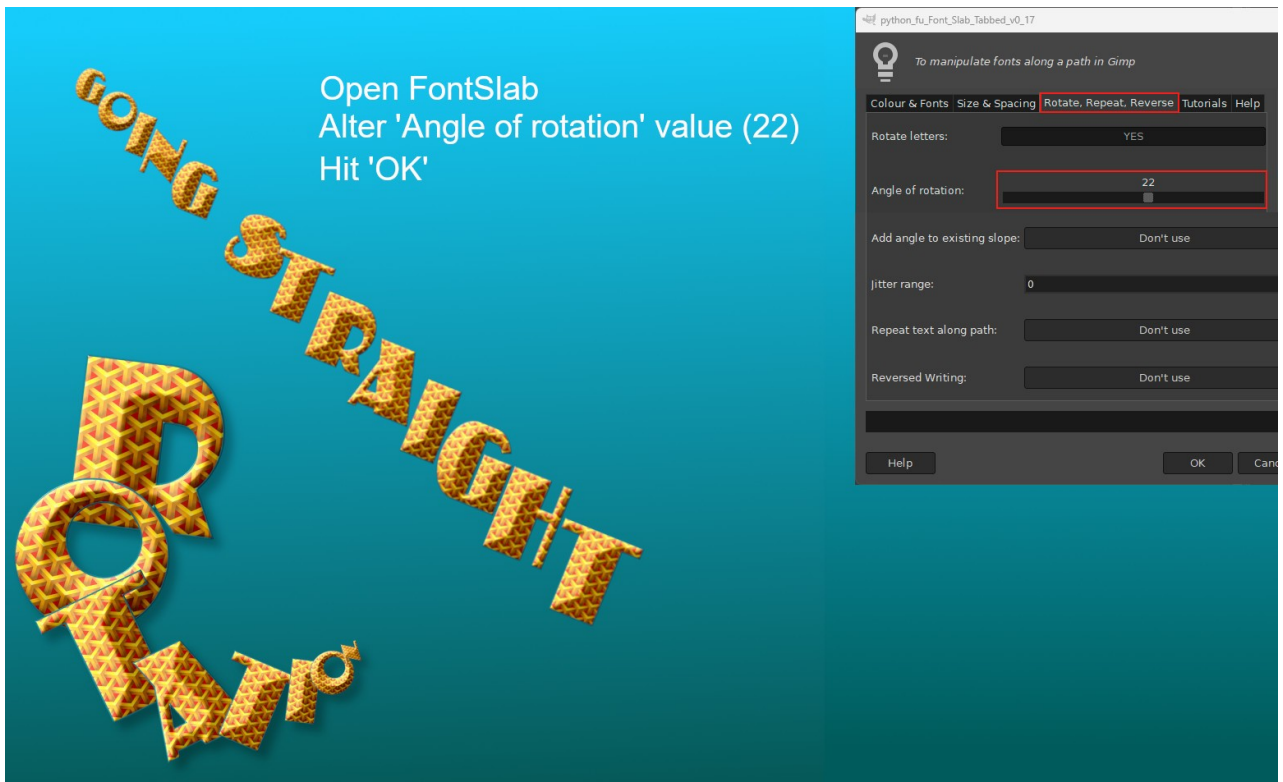
Hit 'OK'.



If you find that the letters overlap too much, you can always adjust the spacing with the relevant spacing option.

Adjust the angle size to add an element of edginess to the text:

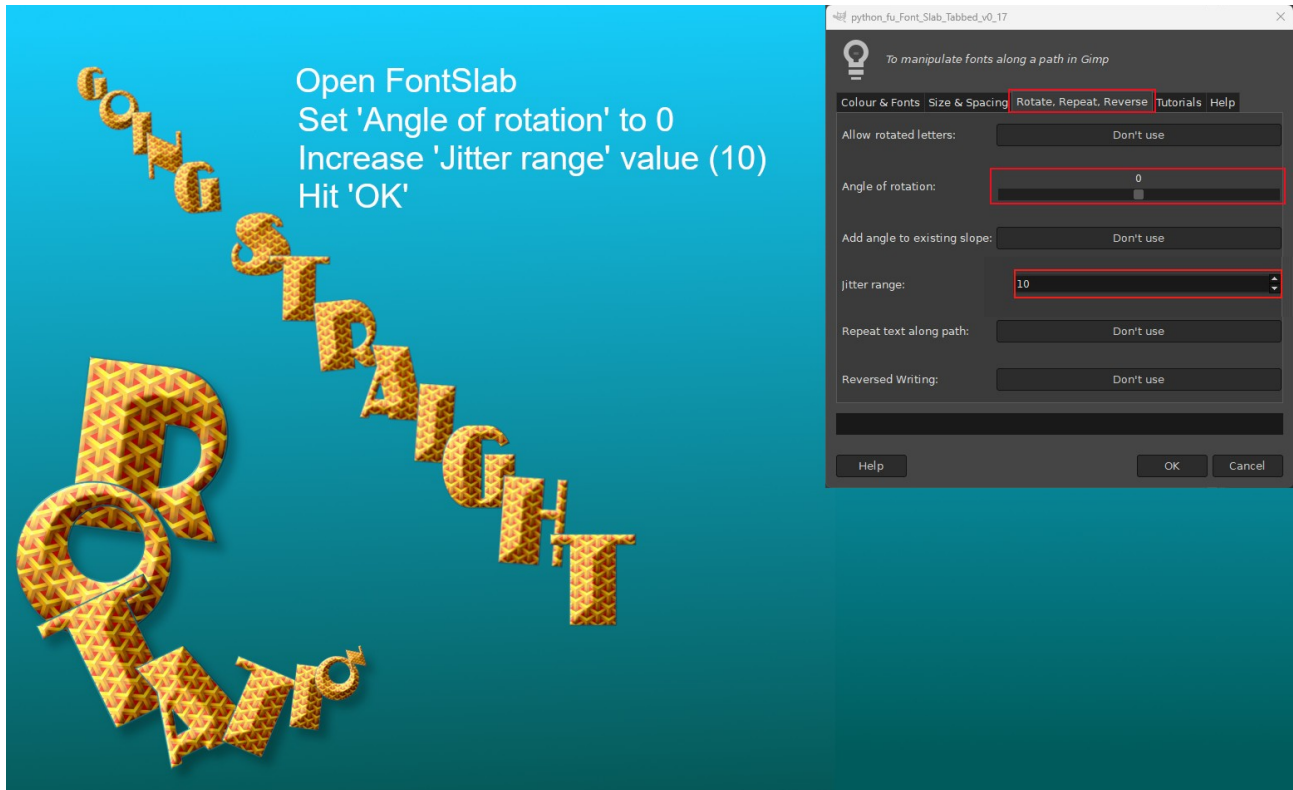
Increased the 'Angle of rotation' value (22).



Or use the 'Jitter' option to add randomness and informality.

Set the 'Angle of rotation' value (0).

Set the 'Jitter range' value (10). A value of 10 will randomly pick a value for the angle of between +/- 10 around the angle of rotation used. This feature was used for the 'ROTATION' logo in the corner.



The 'Add angle to existing slope' option allows you to modify the angle of the text as it follows the slope of the characters – as opposed to setting an absolute value.