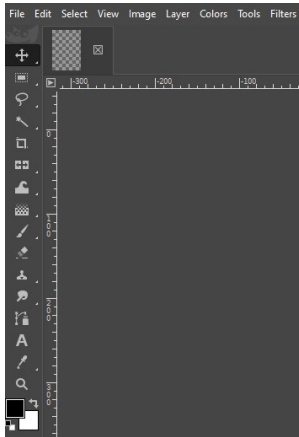


Using the scale tool with paths

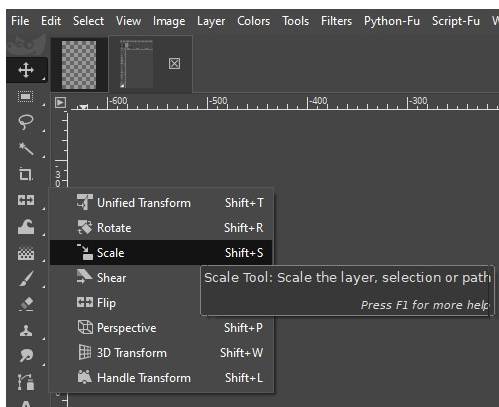


You can save a lot of time by applying the scale tool to copies of paths to provide variation of size to different objects. You can also apply other transformation tools, such as the rotation tool, to add interest to a scene, but this guide deals with scaling.

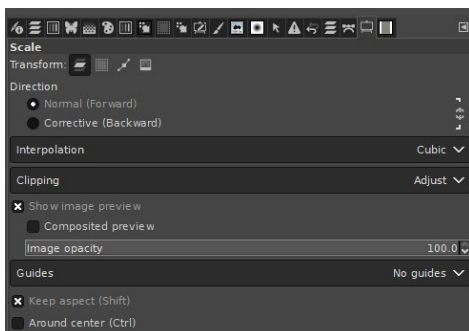
If you have not used the scale tool look for it in the main Gimp toolbox. It may not be visible, as in the image below:



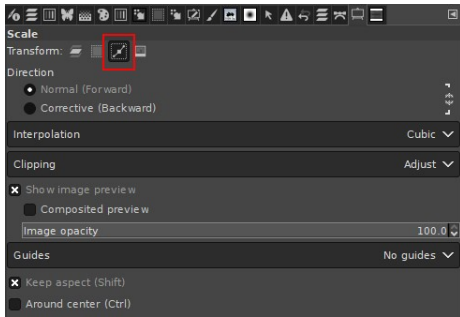
Move your pointer slowly down the visible toolbox, to view the hidden options, until you can see the Scale tool. Click on it to make it active – or use the keyboard shortcut Shift + S.



By default the Scale tool will only work on the current active layer. Change that to apply the tool to paths. Use the Tool Options in the tool dock (you may have to add a Tool Options tab in the tool dock area). I usually bring the Tool options up by double clicking on the active tool.



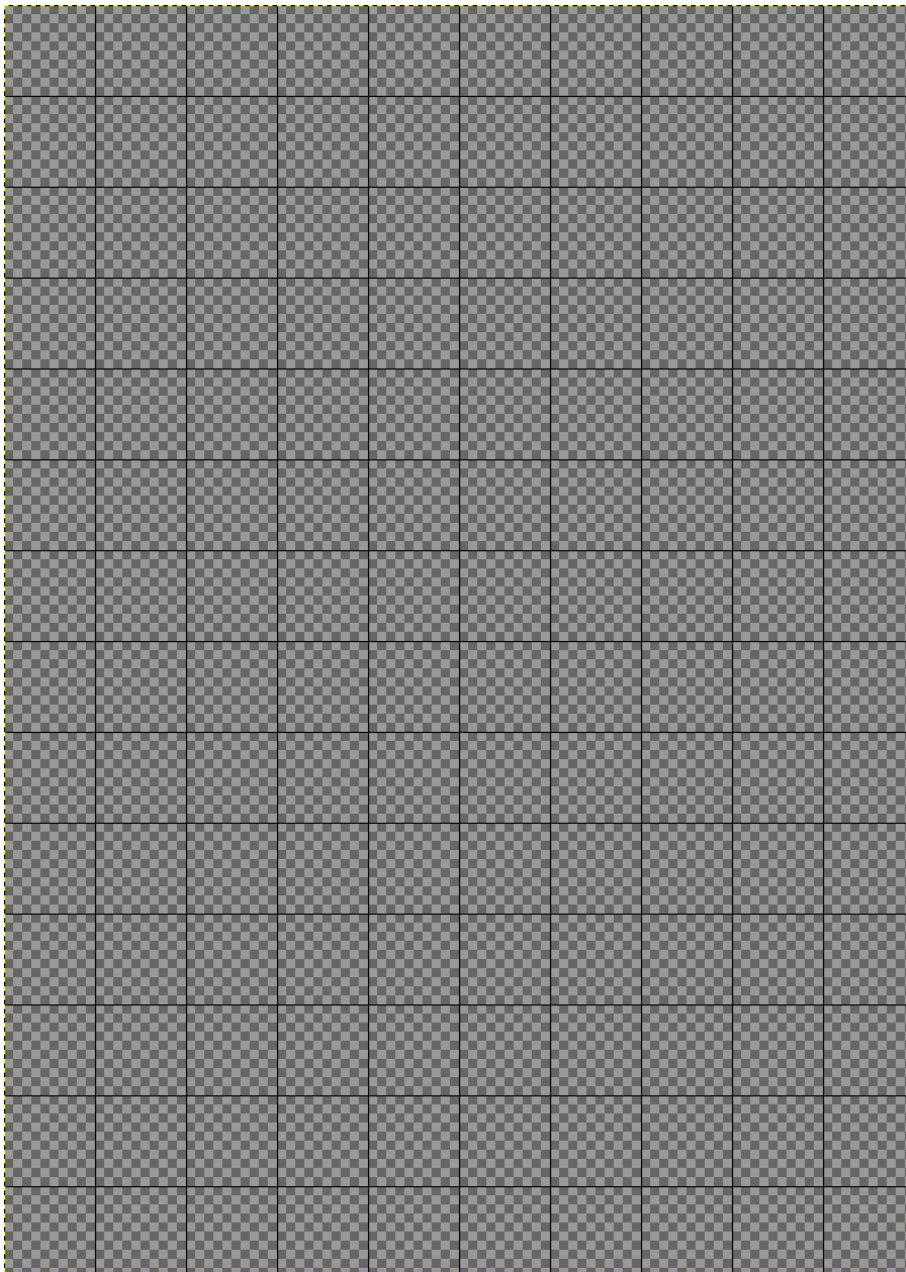
Click on the Path icon in the dialog.



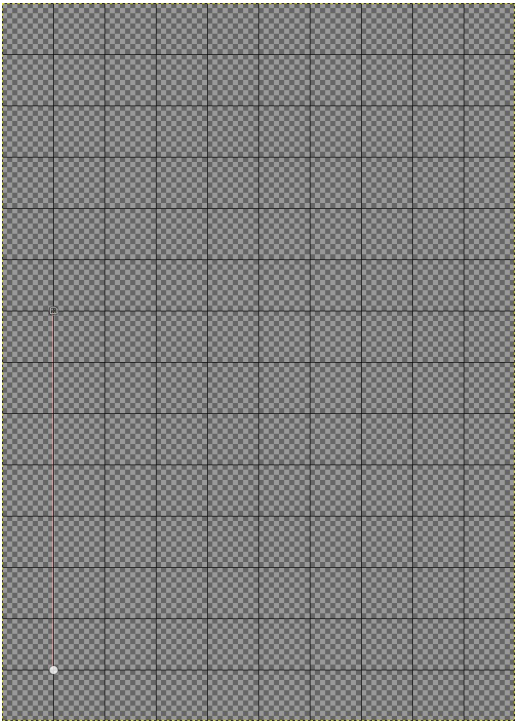
Create a new image for the first arch; I used a size of 1000 x 1400 pixels. Use the View menu to set the grid options to turn on both ‘Show Grid’ and ‘Snap to Grid’.

View>>Show Grid

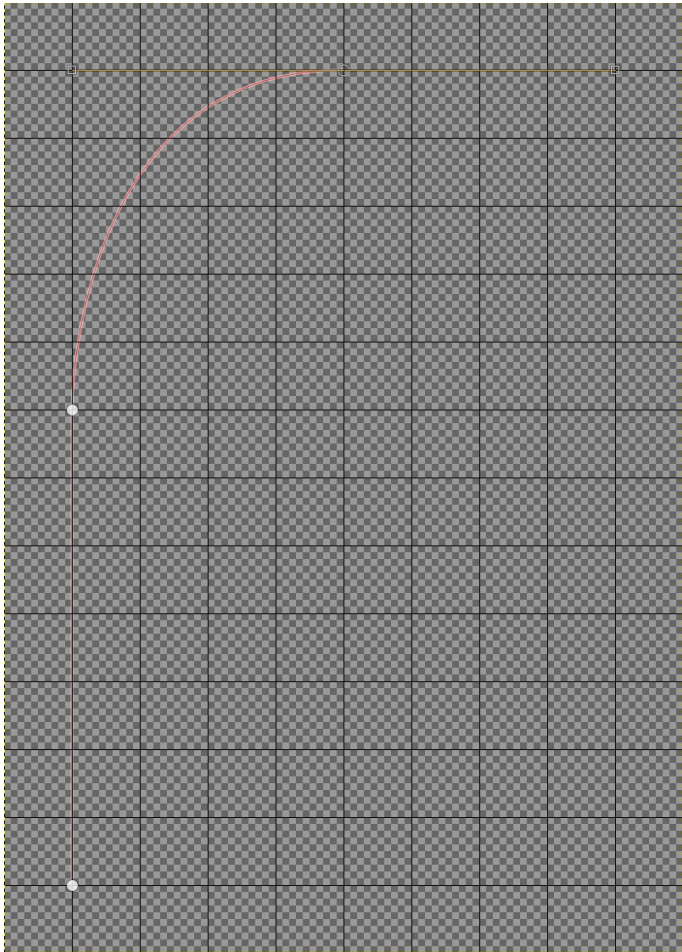
View>>Snap to Grid



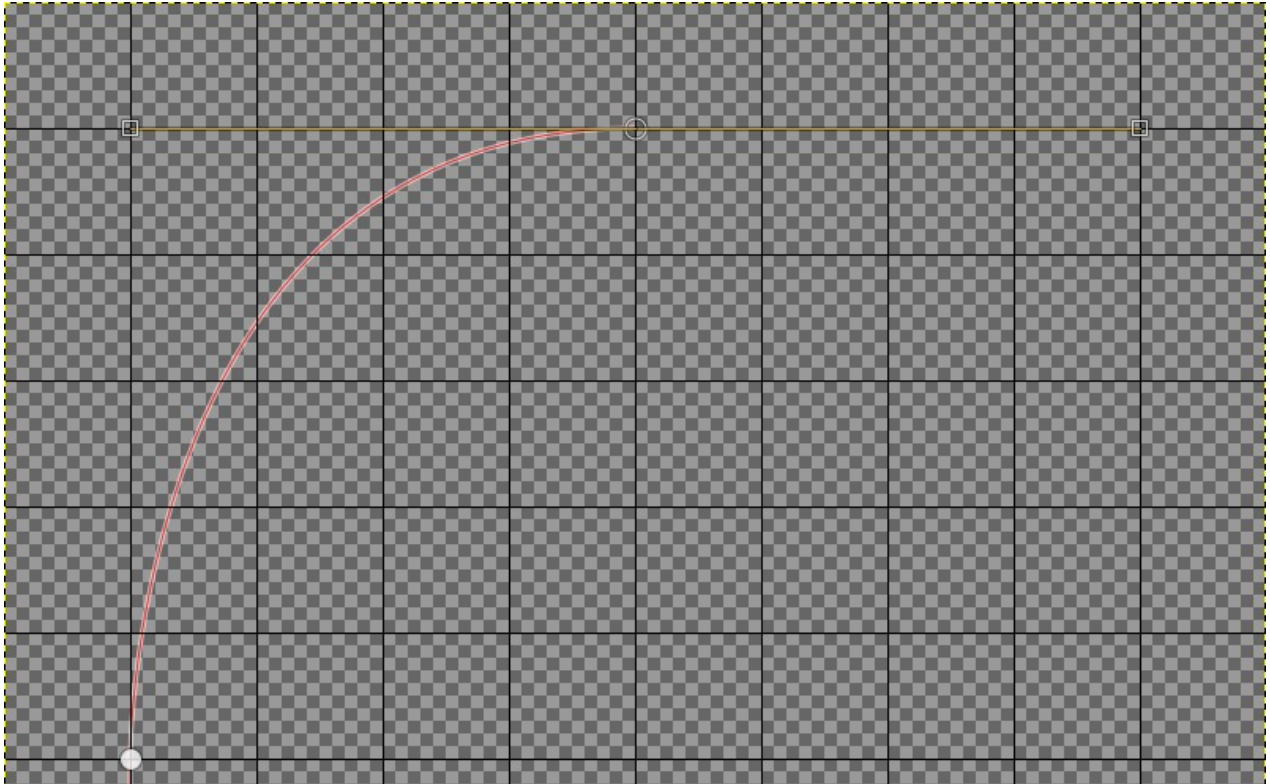
Use the path tool from the main toolbox (keypress B) and click with the mouse to position the first two anchors for the arched path.



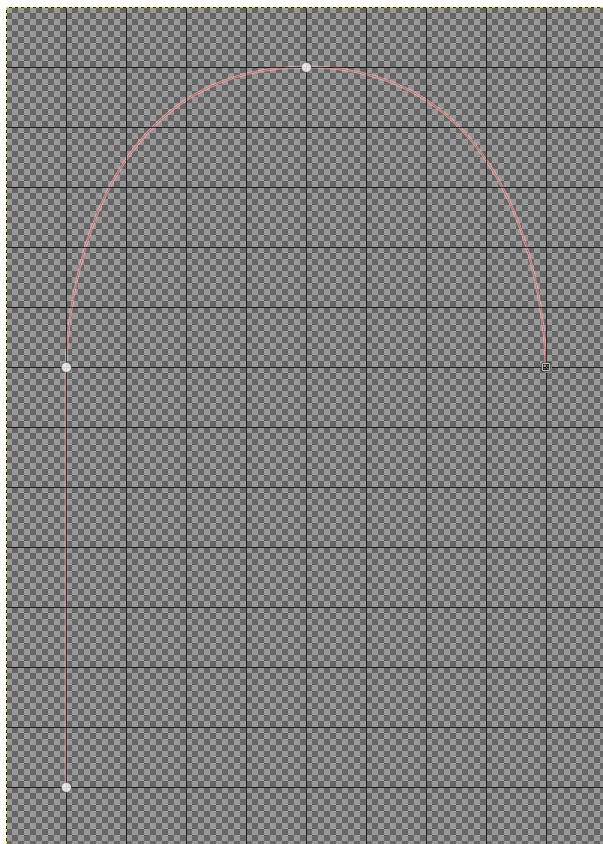
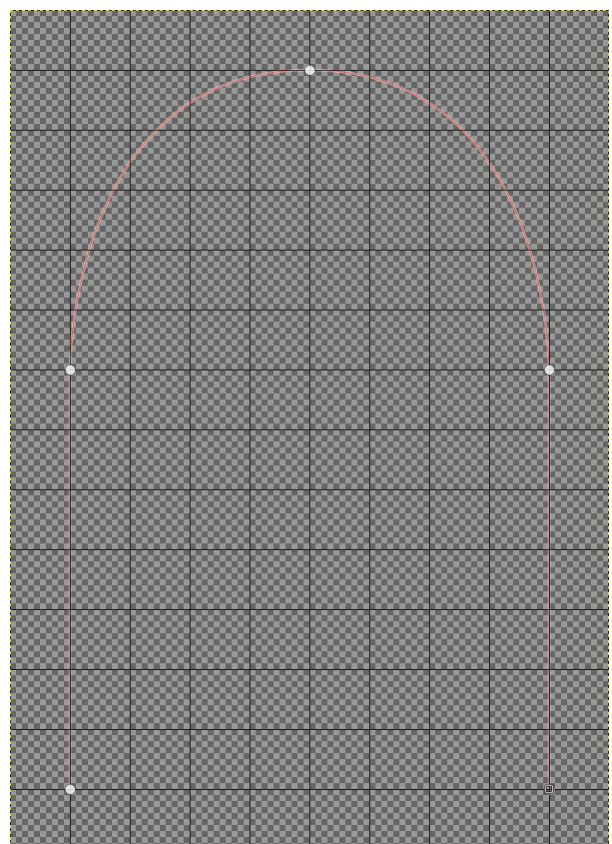
Then click and hold the mouse button down and drag the anchor handles out to create the curve for the top of the arch .



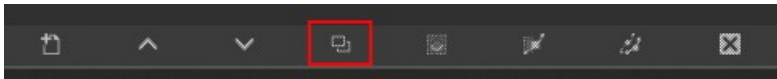
(I lined up the handles with the first two anchors.)



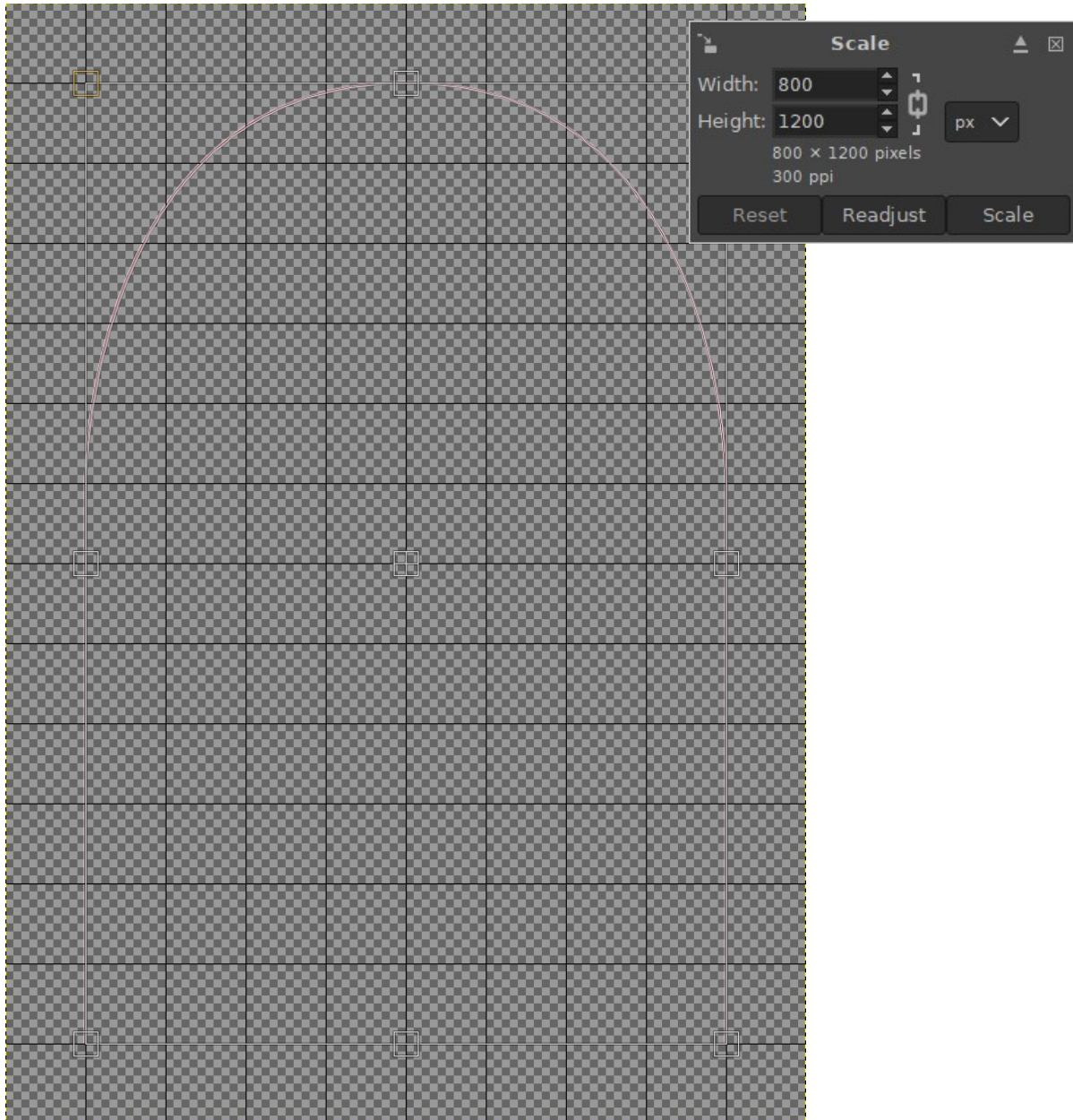
Finish off the rest of the arched path (to make a total of five anchors used).



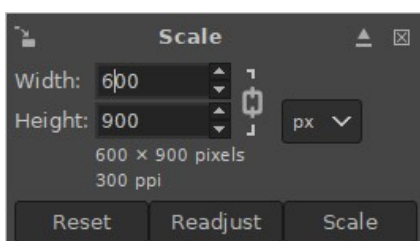
Make a duplicate copy of the path by clicking on the icon at the bottom of the Path Tool Tab.



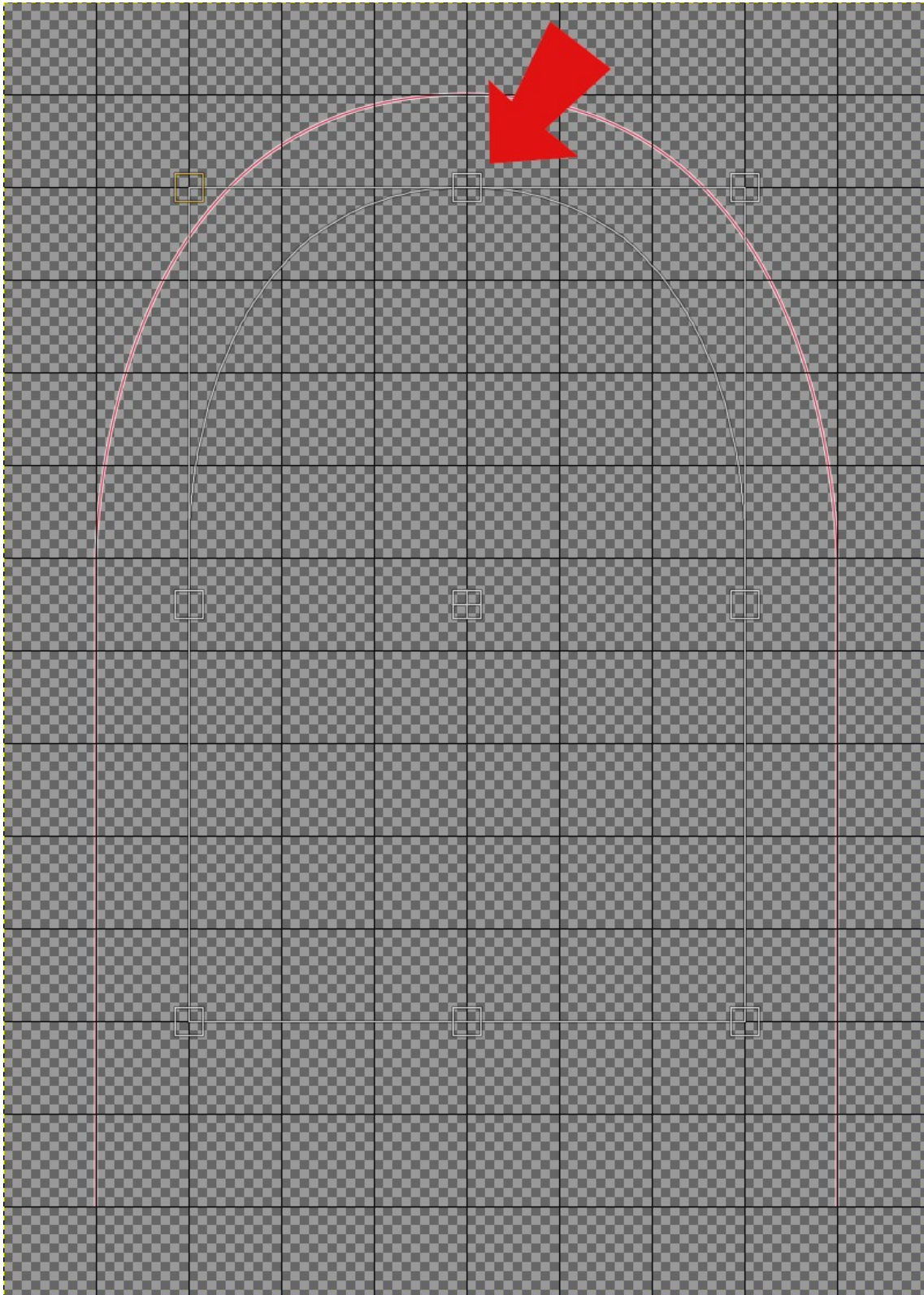
Select the Scale Tool and click on the active path in the main image window to access the Scale Tool dialog which shows the current width and height of the path.



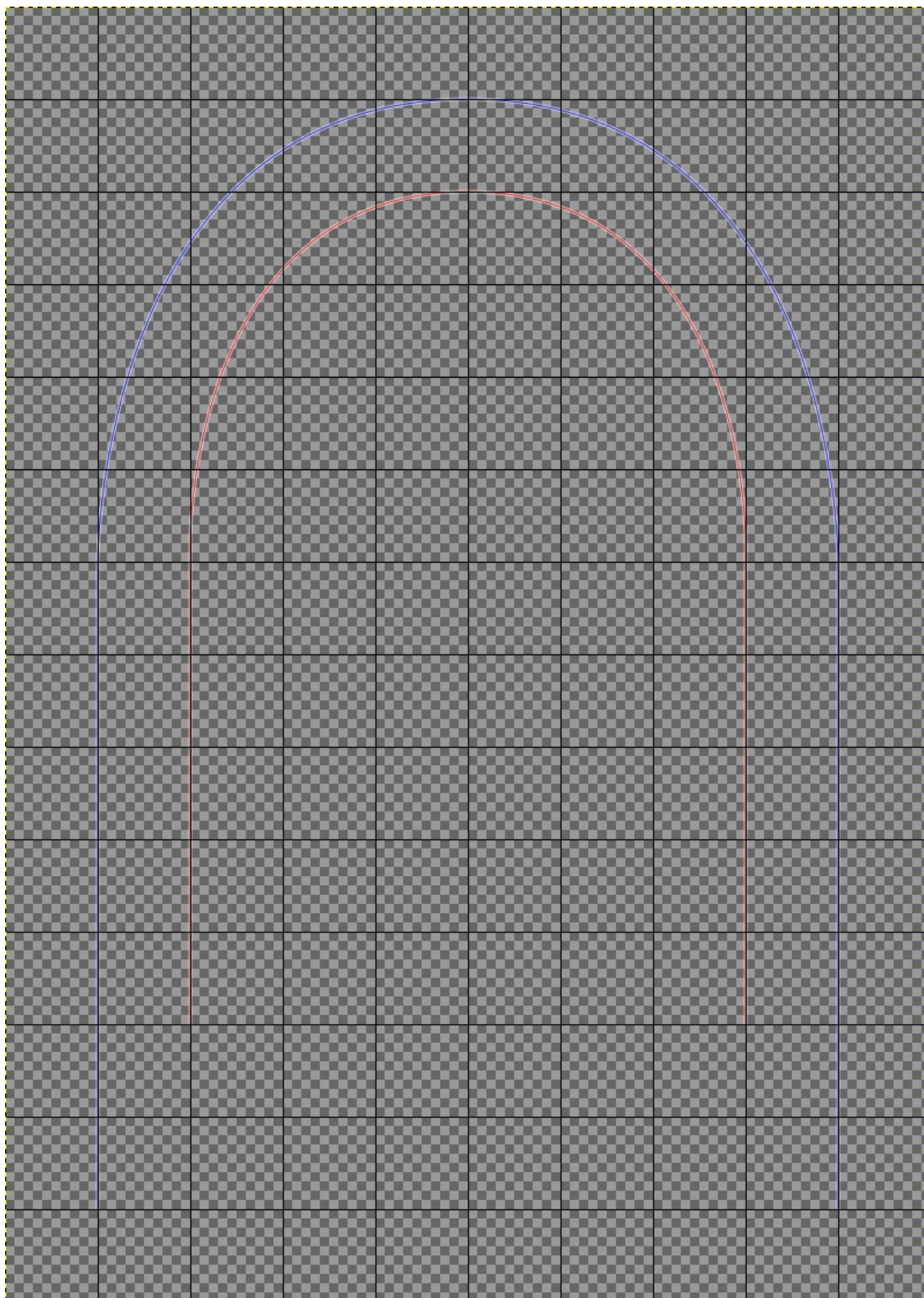
Click in the width box and reduce the value to 600 pixels. Click in the height box and the value will update itself for you.



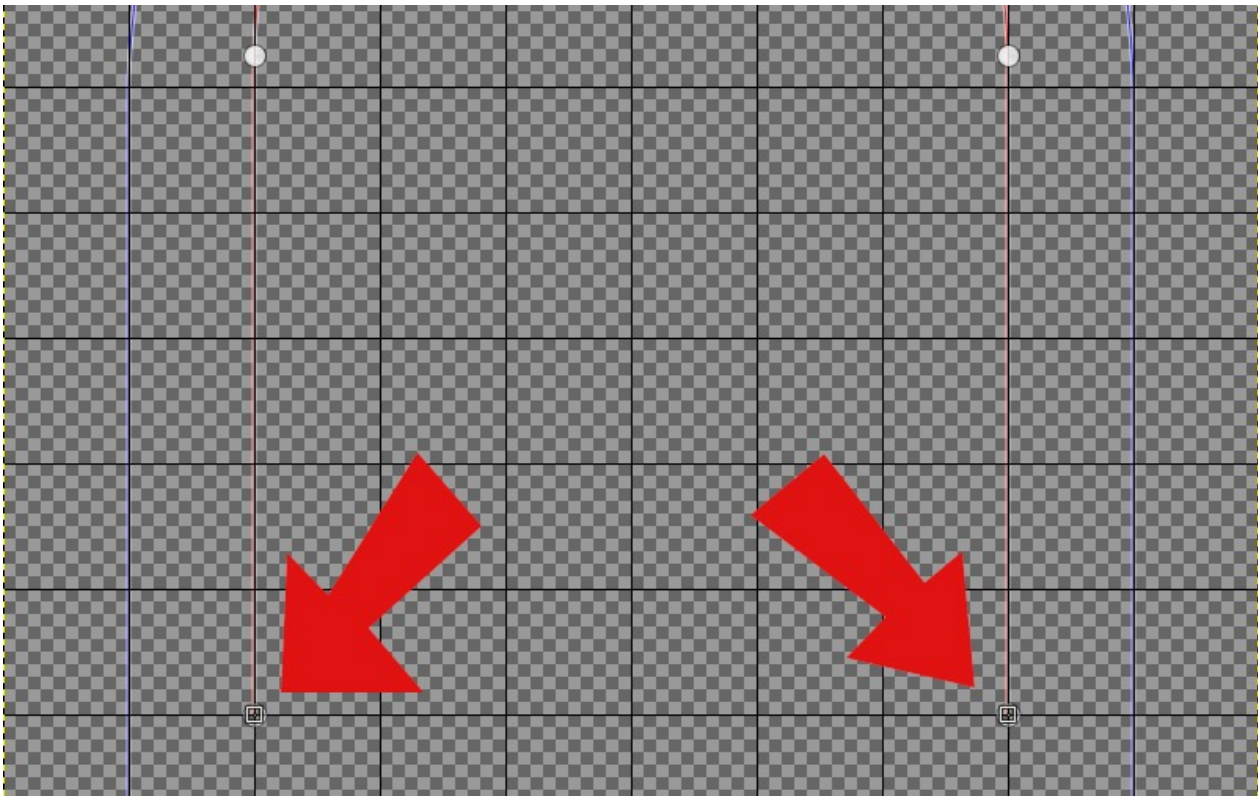
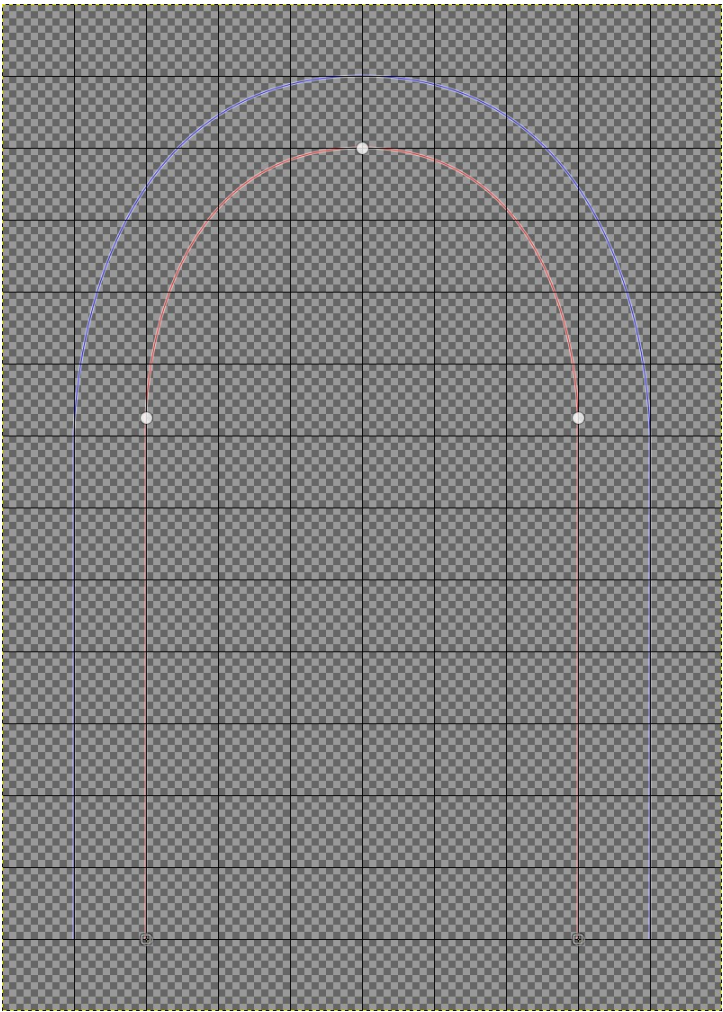
Before clicking on ‘Scale’ in the dialog, place the mouse pointer over the central handle of the Scale Tool; press and drag the handle to re-position the scaled image. I want to line up the apex of the two paths with a grid-line width between them.



When you are happy with the new position, click on ‘Scale’.



Select the two bottom anchors of the arch and drag them down until they are in line with the base of the first arch. They should snap to the grid-lines.



Repeat the following process two more times:

Duplicate the path
Scale the path
Move the path anchors

The final outcome with the four paths ready to stroke.

