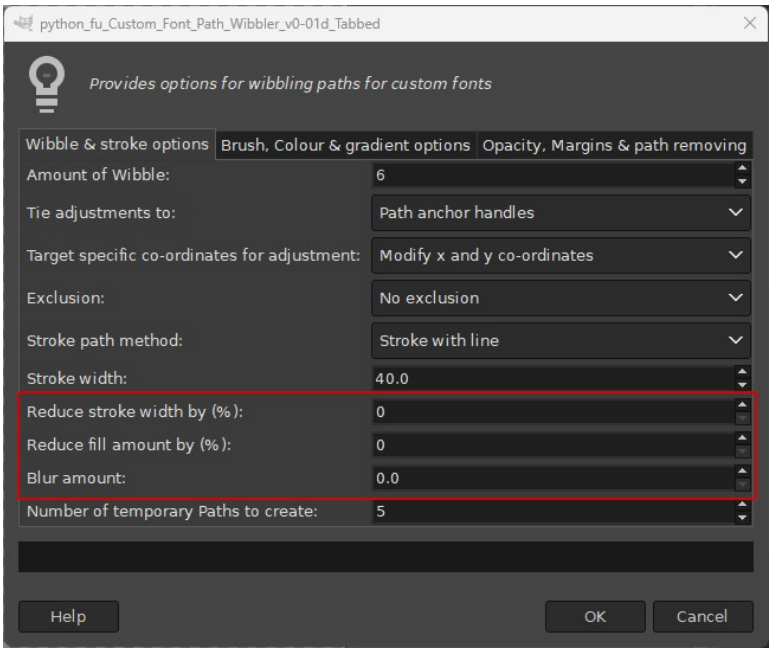
Update to Custom Font Path Wibbler for Gimp 2.10 to v0.1d Tabbed

This update adds a taper option to the filter as well as a couple of minor tweaks.

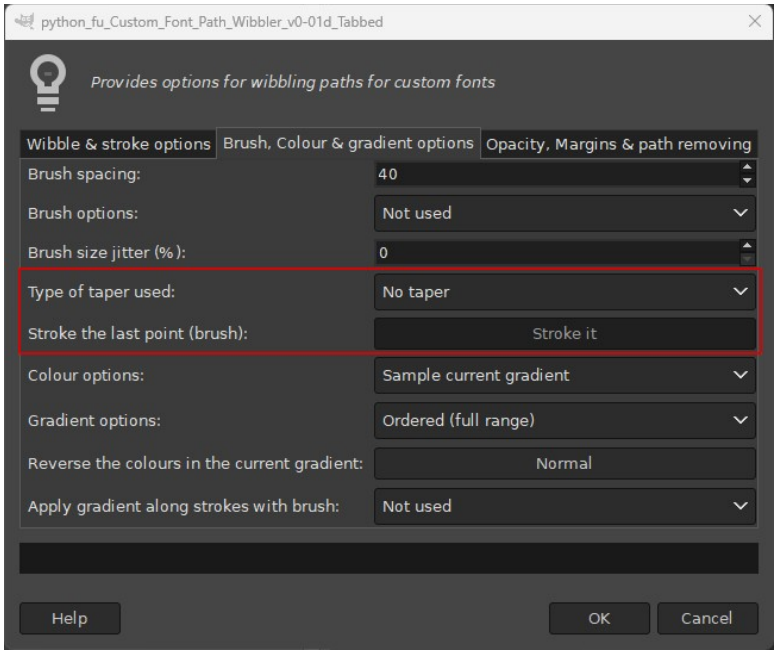
The dialog menu changes in brief:

Tab 1:



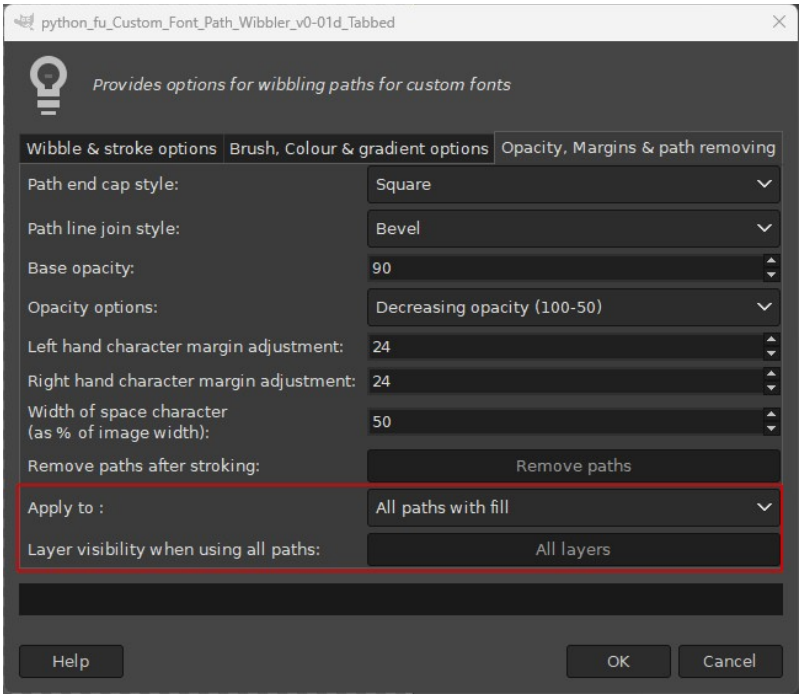
The blur option has been moved from Tab 2 to Tab 1: Change of wording to the two reduce options.

Tab 2:



Taper option added.
Stroke/unstroke last point with brush option added.

T ab 3:



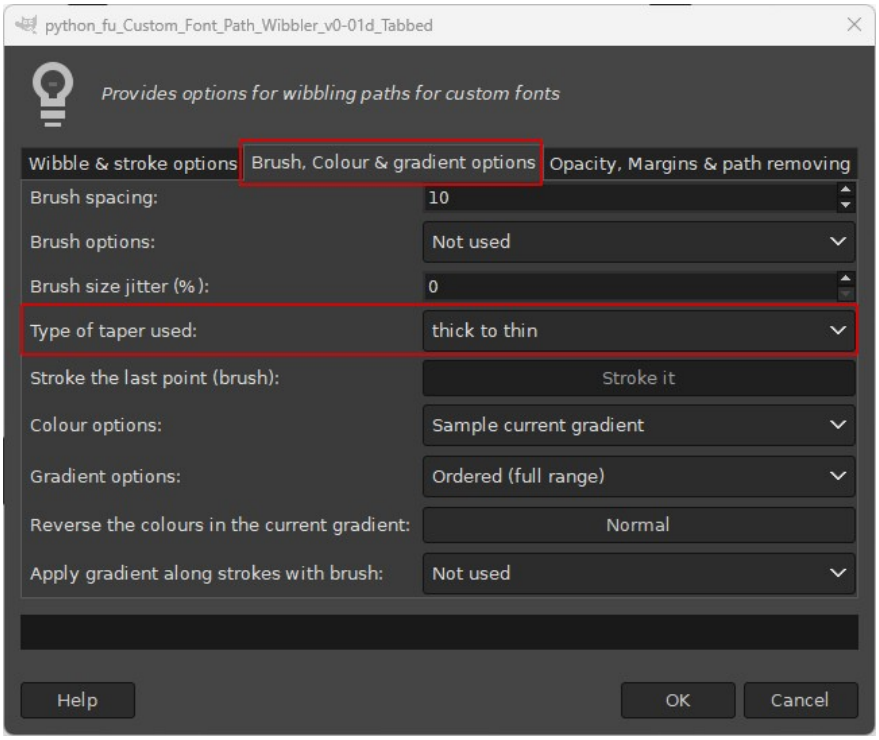
Layer visibility option for use with other paths added.

You can choose to make only the top layer visible or all the layers visible (default) when stroking/filling all paths.

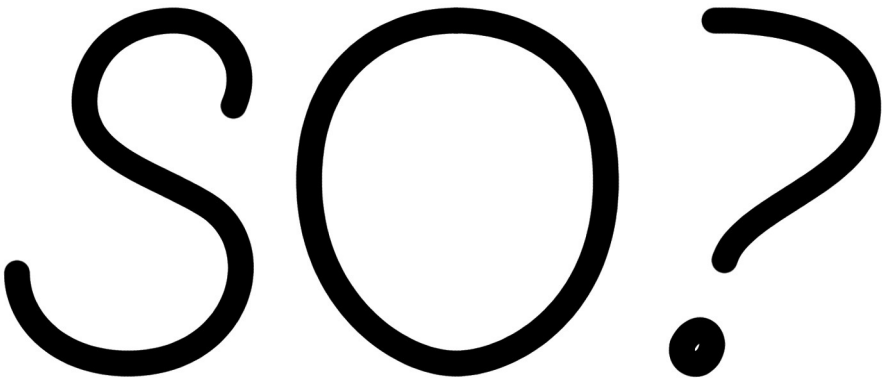
The Taper Option

The taper option can be applied with the currently applied brush. Choose an option from the drop down list:

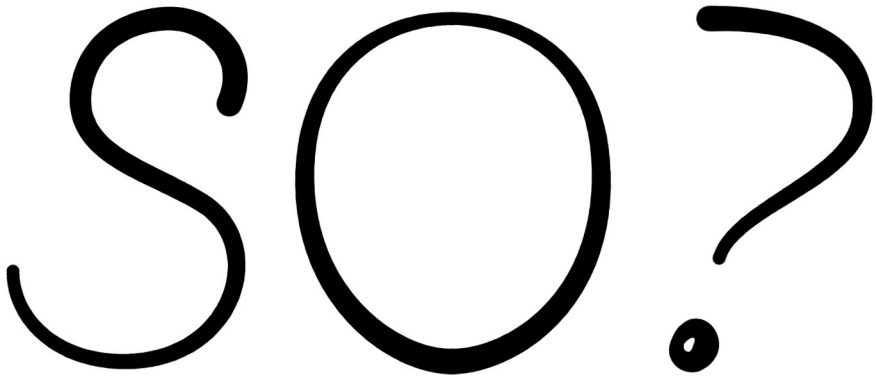
Thin to Thick
Thick to Thin
Thin to Thick to Thin



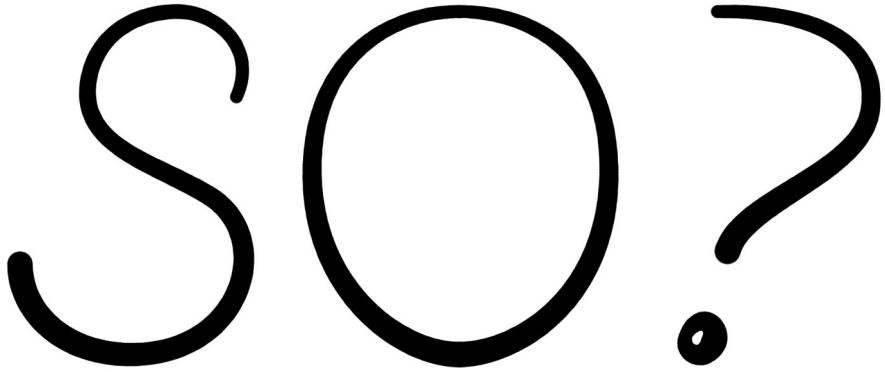
Characters with a stroke width of 40.0 and with the default ‘No taper’ option used for a round hard edged brush with the brush spacing set to 10. Thinner brush strokes require smaller values for the brush spacing option in order to create the illusion of a continuous stroke. (This also increases the time that it takes to stroke characters.)



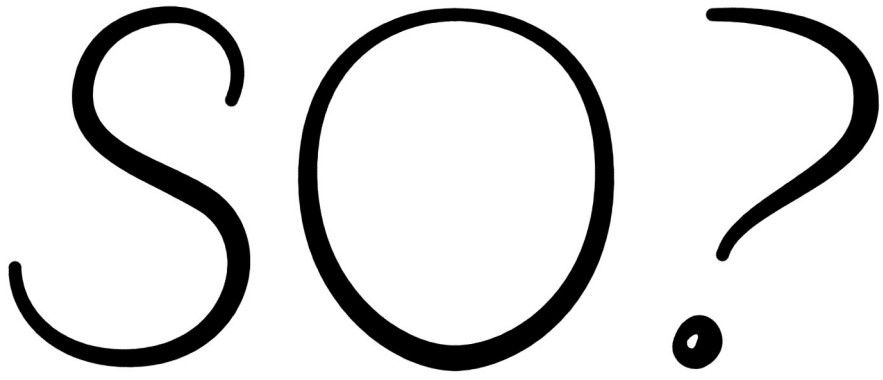
Taper set to ‘Thick to Thin’:



Taper set as ‘Thin to Thick’:



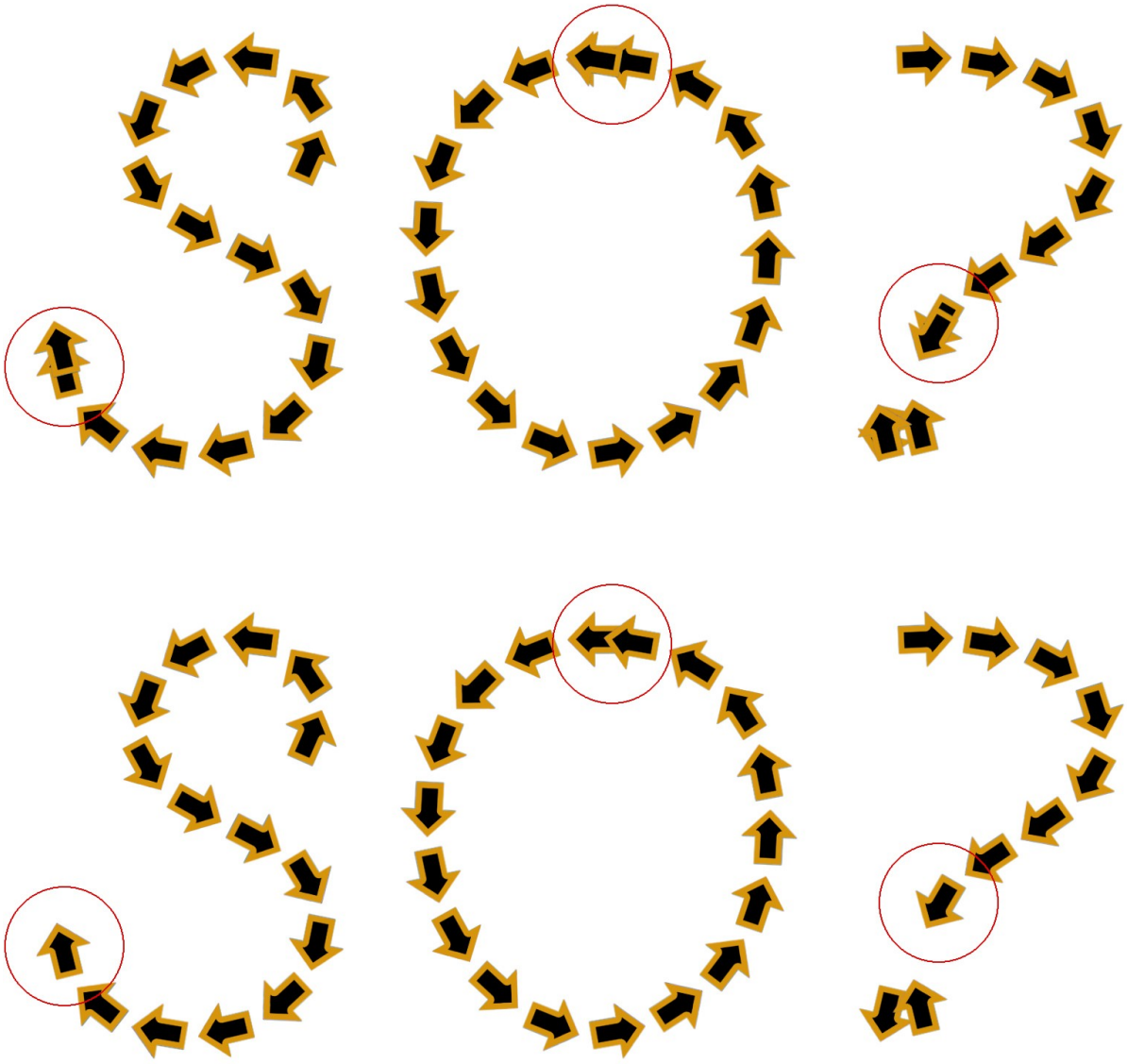
Taper set as ‘Thick to Thin to Thick’:



‘Stroke the last point’ Option

I have also added an option to stroke (default) or not stroke the last point in each stroke with the brush. This works well with continuous brush stroking; without it the character can be somewhat shortened. Characters stroked with animated or pipe brushes and larger amounts of spacing may look better with the option set to ‘Do not stroke’.

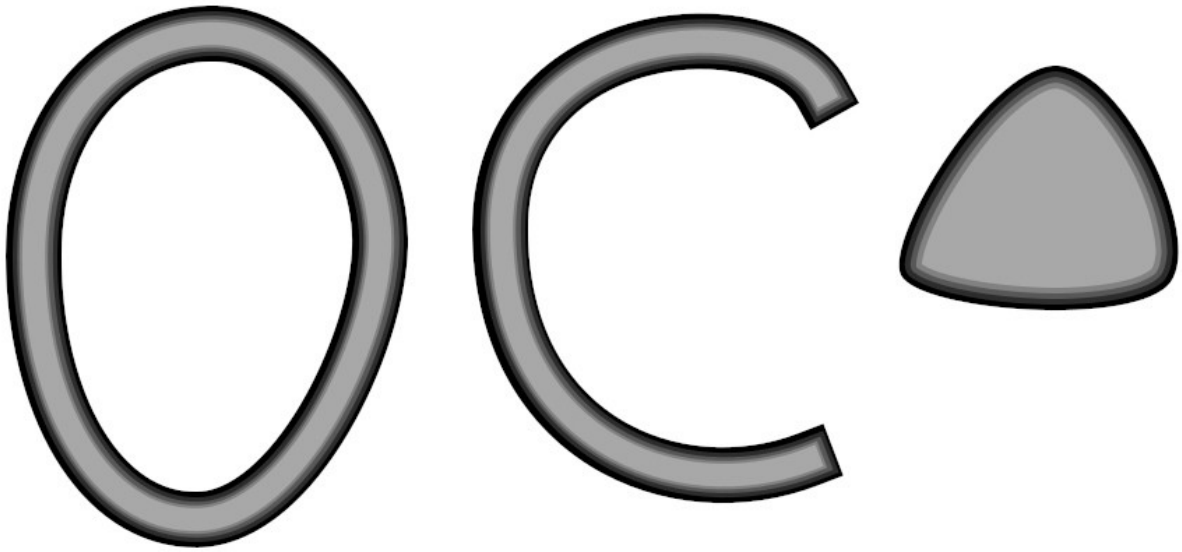
The example below uses an arrow brush. The top three characters show the untidy effect produced by the default option and the improved appearance when ‘Do not stroke’ is applied shown below.



Reduce stroke width and Reduce Fill width Options

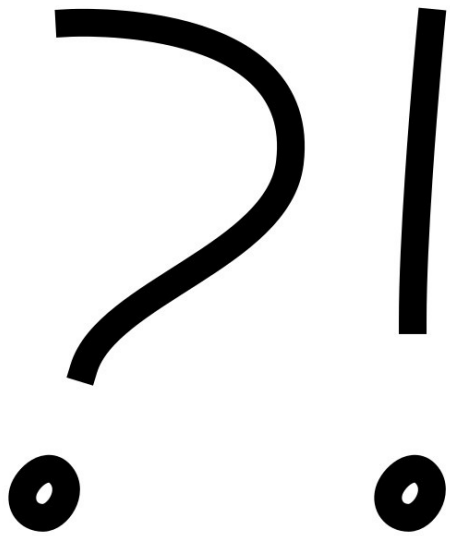
These two options now behave in a similar way. They reduce the size of the stroke width and fill width for each new character and layer created by a percentage amount.

The example below reduces each width by 20% for the five temporary paths used.



Combining Characters

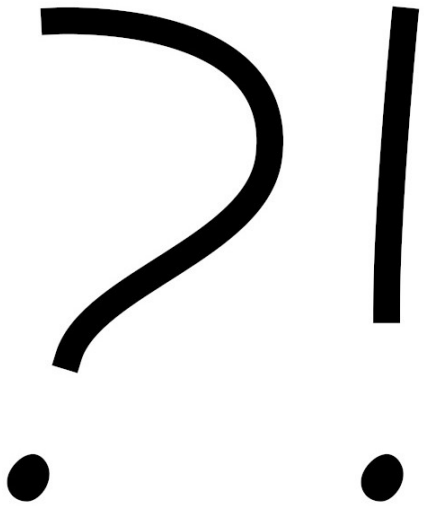
When stroking some character paths with a line (more noticeable with smaller widths) you may see holes in their centres: Think question mark, exclamation mark percentage sign etc. This may or not be the effect that you want.



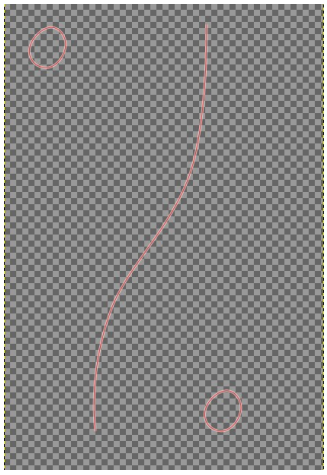
You can force a character to be filled but this is only suitable with a character that requires it all to be filled – such as a comma, or a semi-colon or full-stop (period). This would require the character to use the ‘ path’ suffix instead of the ‘ char’ suffix.

One solution would be to manually fill each of the offending characters.

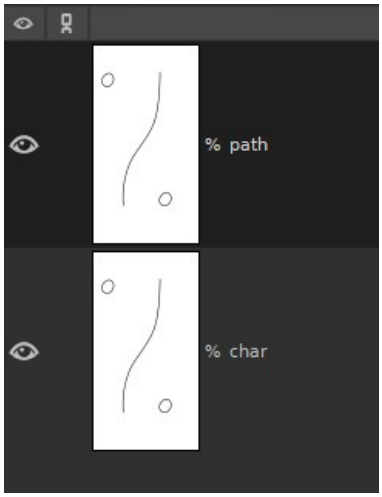
There is another way (pedantic – yes) to combine the two as one character in Gimp so that the stroked and filled shapes will be merged into a single layer as shown below.



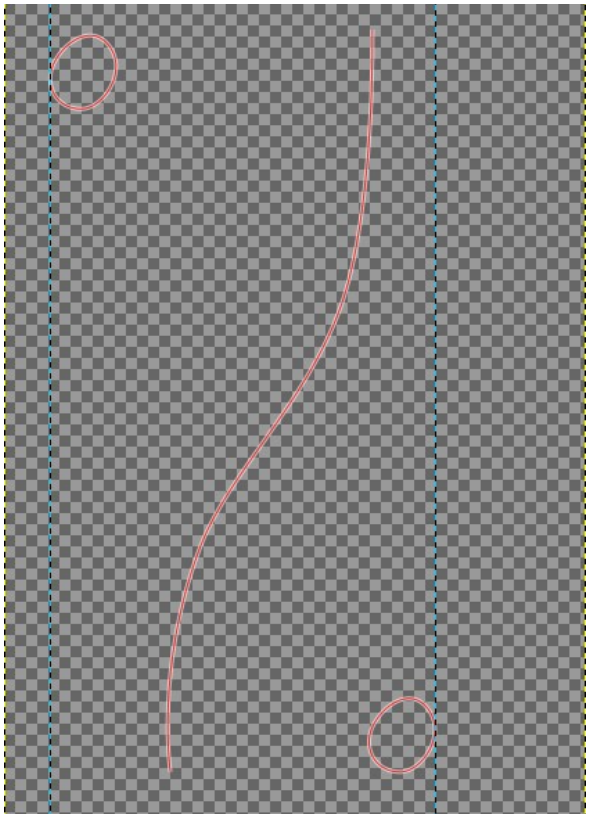
Locate the character that you want to have combined in the paths dock (my example uses the percentage sign character). Make it the only visible path and click on it to set it as the active path:



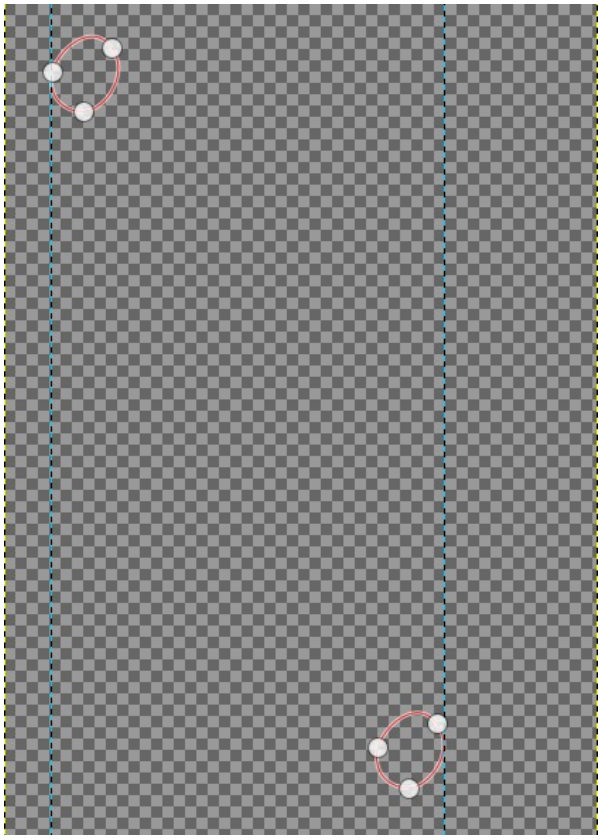
Duplicate the path and rename the copy with the ‘ path’ suffix:



It will make life a lot easier if you add a pair of guidelines to your working image so that one just touches the far left-hand edge and one just touches the far right-hand edge of the character.

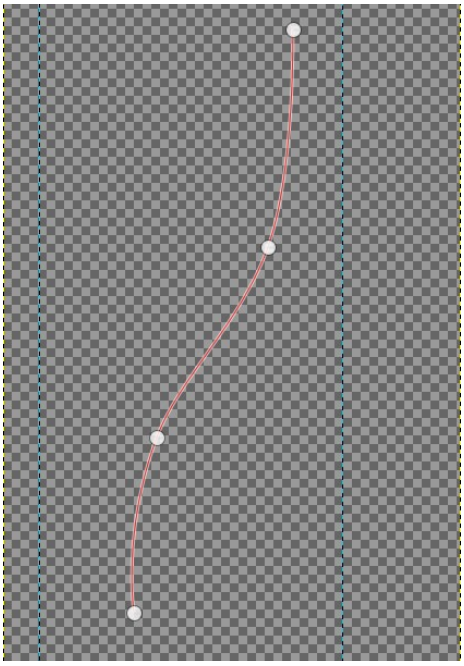


When you work on the character with the ‘ path’ suffix, you want to remove parts of the path that you do not want to be filled and leave just the parts that are to be filled. Use the path tool and click on each unwanted anchor; hit the backspace key to remove it.



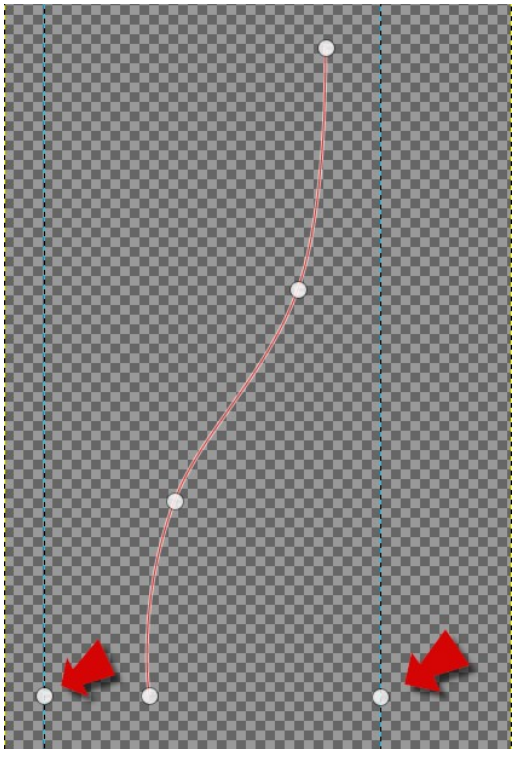
You can see that the remaining strokes are touching the two guidelines that we added earlier.

Turn off the visibility for this character and make the original character, with the ‘ char’ suffix both visible and active in the main window. Remove any strokes that are not to be filled from this path by clicking on each unwanted anchor and pressing the backspace key.

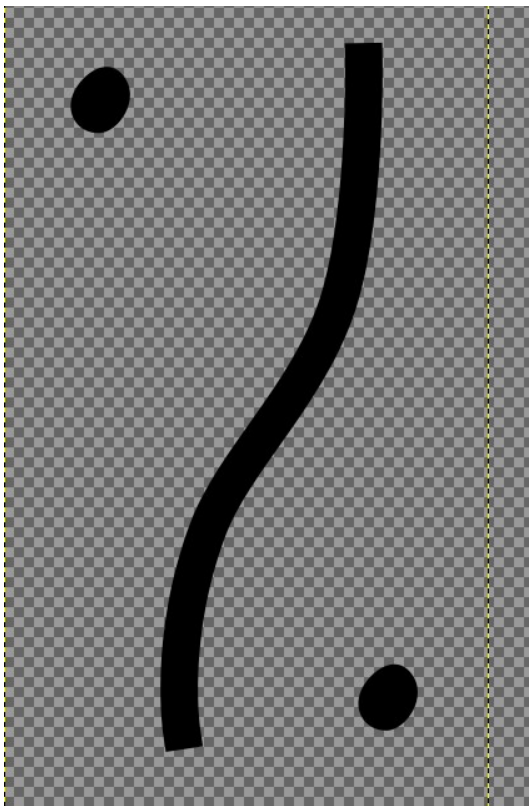


Now for the crucial step. You need to add a single anchor (not joined to any other stroke) if the current path does not already have an anchor point that touches the left-hand guide line. You will need to do the same for the right-hand guide line – add a single anchor if no anchor already touches the right-hand guideline. Hold down the Shift key and click to add a single unconnected anchor.

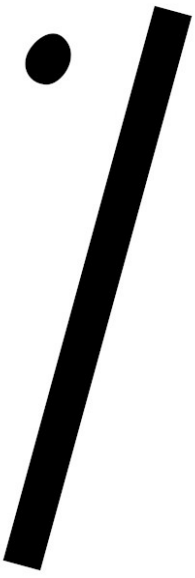
If you find that any of these combined characters suffer from unwanted cropping when you run the filter the reason will be that you have NOT added the single anchors to either the filled or unfilled characters.



The filter outcome for the percent symbol character:



And the outcome for a slightly different percentage character without the single anchors applied:



Thankfully there are relatively few such characters and you may prefer to live with holes in them!!!

Have fun anyway.