

Custom Font Ghoster for Gimp 2.10

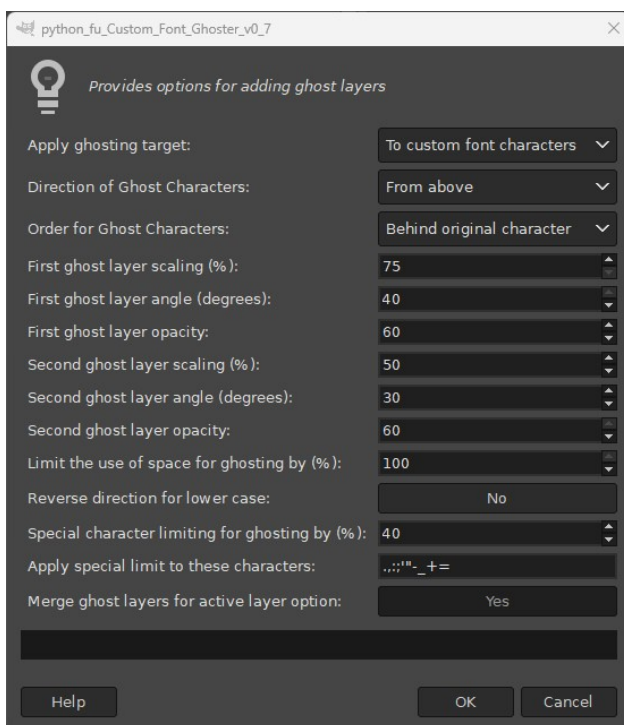
This is a plug-in for Gimp 2.10 for adding scaled and rotated copies of characters to the parent character to try and give the impression of ghosted characters (not in the phantom sense).

Original character look...

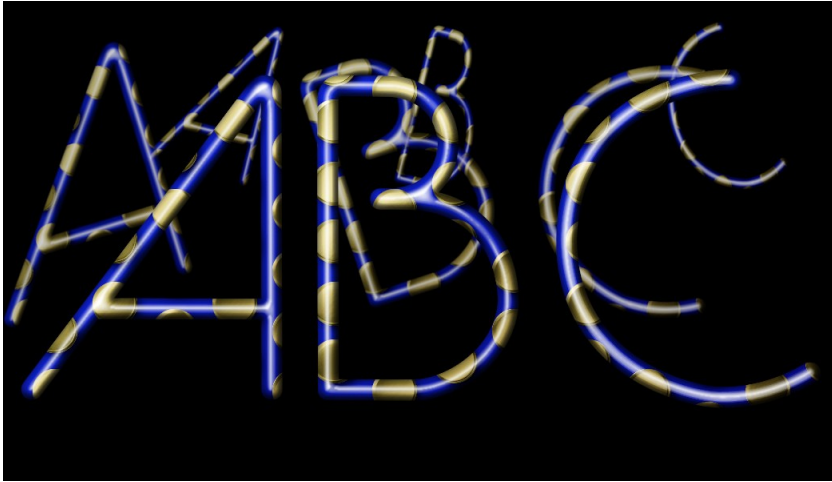


Call up the dialog from its location:

Filters>>Custom Fonts>>Decorating Tools>>Custom Font Ghoster v0.7



Just hit 'OK' to create the ghosted characters look using the default settings...

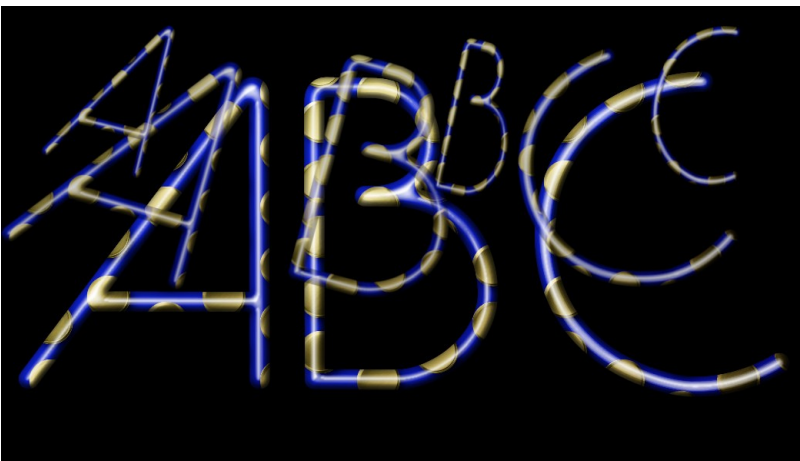


The plug-in inserts two ghost copies of each character into each character layer. The user can adjust the new size and angle of each copy (the filter will apply a certain amount of randomness to the angle) – as well as the opacity of the copy. By default the copies are placed behind the original character and appear to move towards the top edge of the character.

To make the ghost layers appear to move from the bottom edge of the character, click on the 2nd dialog option to set the default option to 'No'.



To make the ghost copies appear in front of the character click on the 3rd option on the dialog to set it to 'No'.



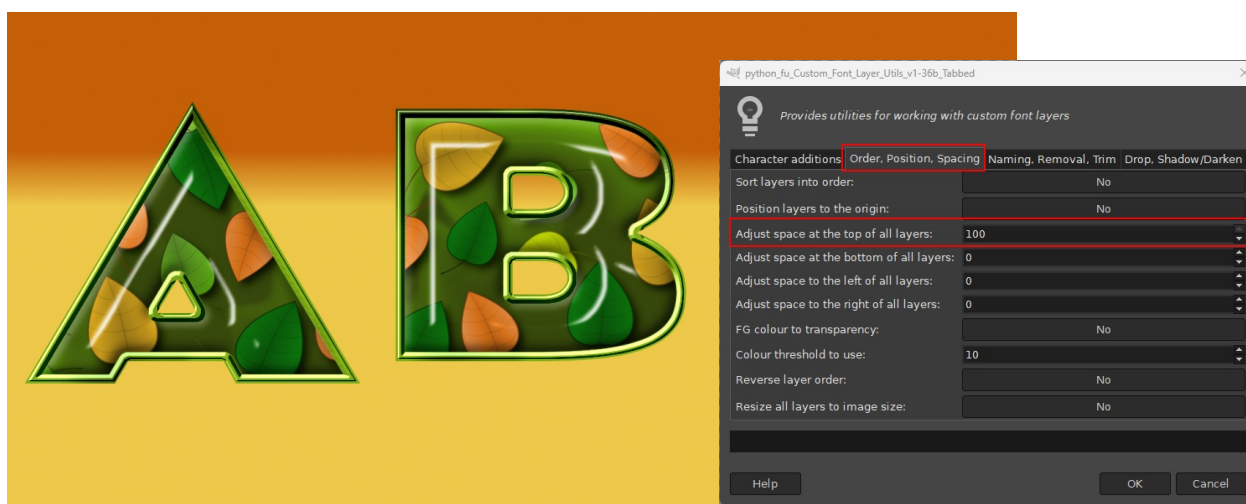
The example custom font has a fairly generous amount of spacing above the characters, but many custom fonts are quite tight for space.



This does not leave a lot of room to insert the ghost layers:



If this is the case you can quickly add space, as in the example below, to the character layers in a custom font using one of the Spacing options in the Layer Utilities Tool in my Custom Font Tools (see my signature link if you do not have this plug-in).



This added space provides more room to display the ‘ghosted’ characters.

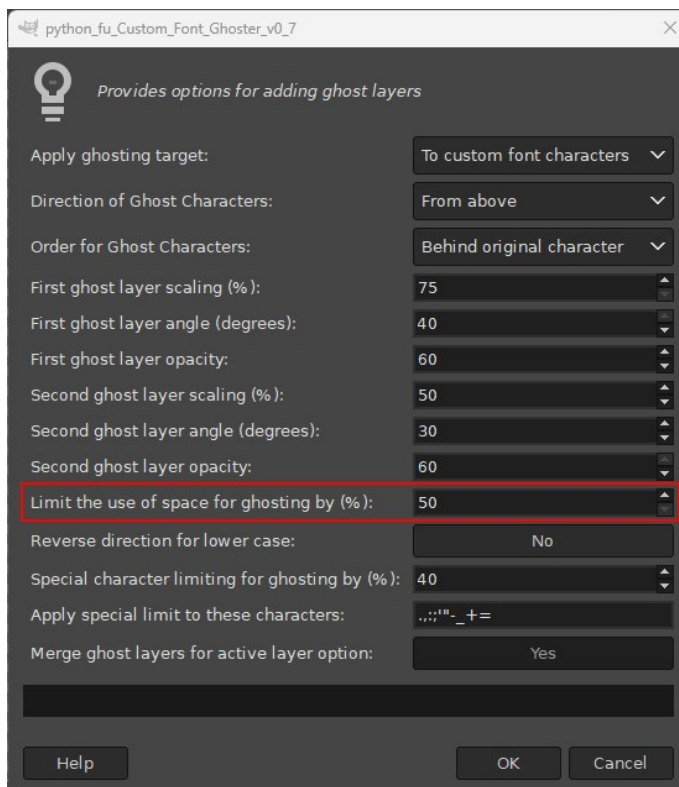


You can limit or restrict the space used by Ghoster in which to add the ghosting effect. This can be useful where the custom font has a large amount of space below the character baseline (or at the top of the custom font).

The image below shows the ghost effect added to a custom font with generous spacing above and below the character and with the default limit of 100 percent.



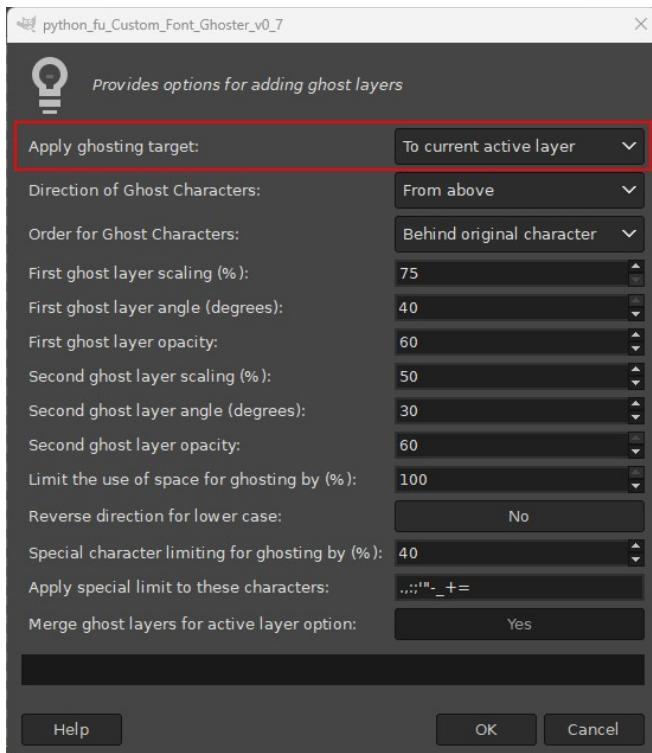
The dialog below shows the limit set to 50 percent (of the space available).



The results showing that the ghost characters now appear much closer to the original character:



You can apply the ghosting effect to just the current active layer. The idea behind this is to allow the user to apply ghosting to the contents of any layer.



This could be a character layer or any gimp layer such as the one below showing a two layer image which has the figure as the active layer and a blue background layer below it.



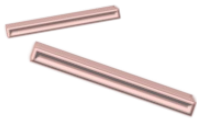
The following image shows the three direction options (from above, from below and from both directions).



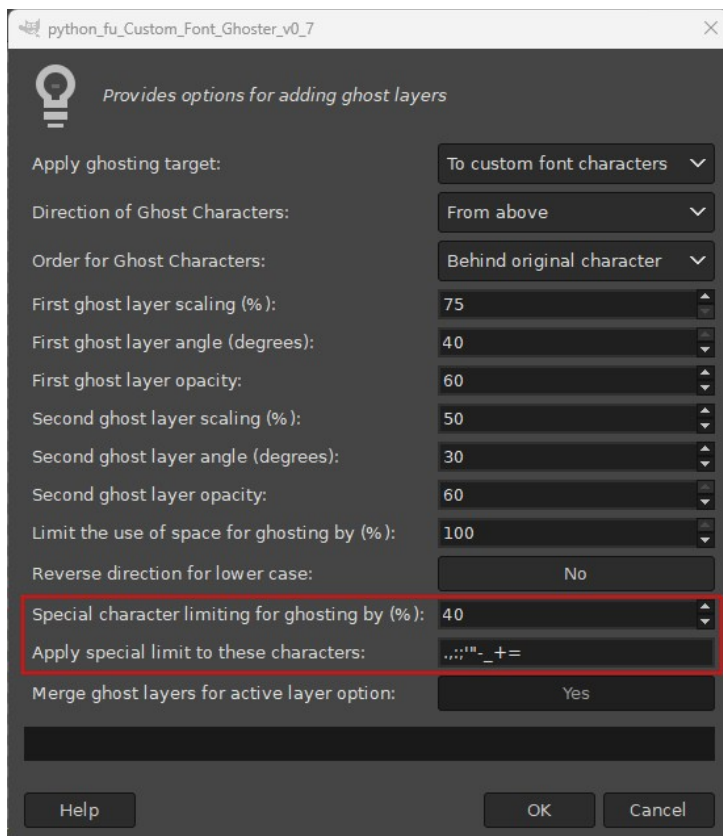
You can repeat the filter to add multiple ghosting layers if you require.



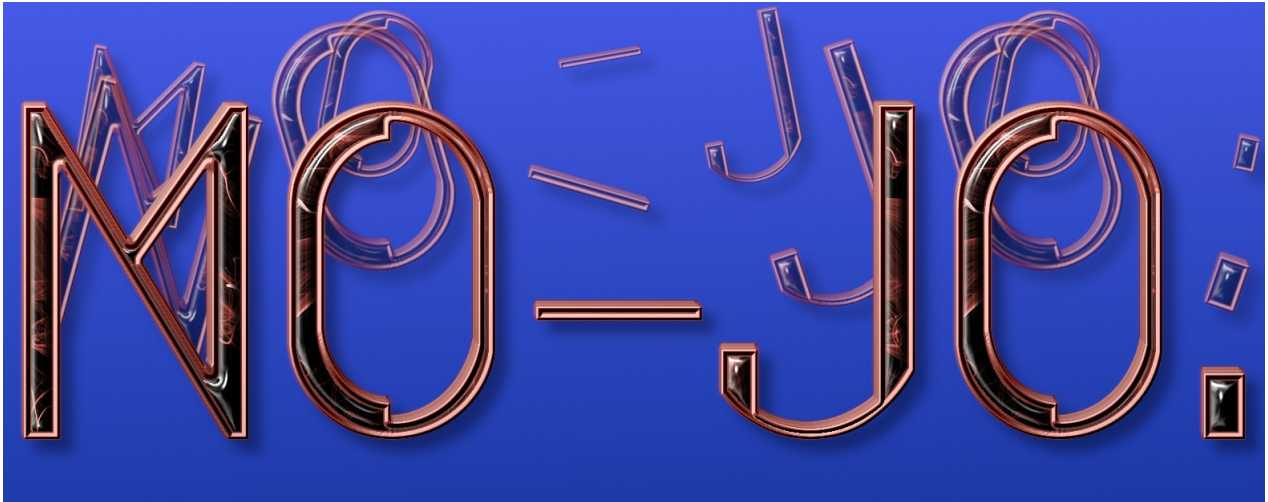
There are a couple of options that can be used to improve the ghosting for certain characters (such as the dash or minus character) that have a lot of empty space above and below the character. This can give a rather sparse look to the ghosting effect, as seen below, especially if you want to use all of the available space for most of the other characters.



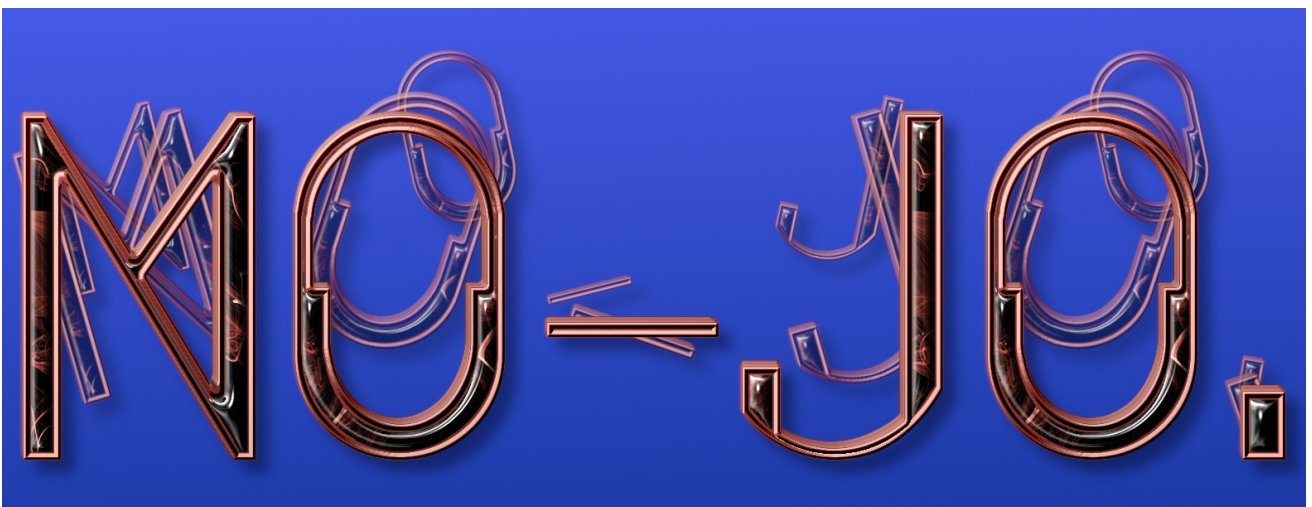
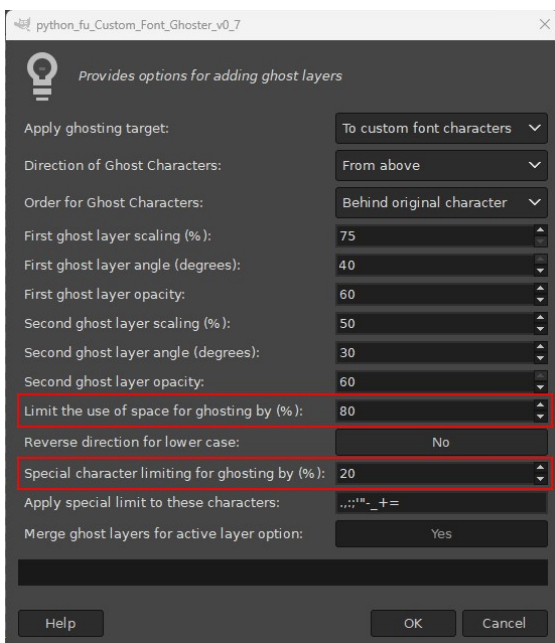
The new dialog has options for adding those characters for which you want to limit the spacing and to use a separate value for this spacing (remember that the plug-in selects a random value within this limit).



A custom font with limits at 100%.



And the same custom font with the following limits:



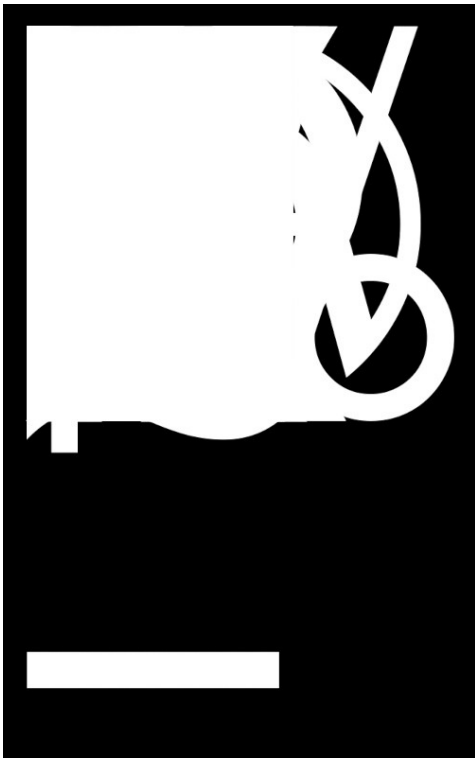
A now much more pleasing effect with the dash and full stop (period) characters I think.

Ghosting custom fonts with only a small amount of space

Obviously adding ghost characters to a custom font will look better when there is enough space for the characters to ghost into.

I find that the quickest way to make an assessment of the space available is to open the custom font in Gimp and make all the layers visible. Hold down the Shift key and click on the eye symbol in the Layers tool dock.

You can see in the image below how there is only a small amount of room above the characters but there is too much space below the majority of the characters. (The underscore character is the usual low-hanging candidate – but this can easily be dealt with.)

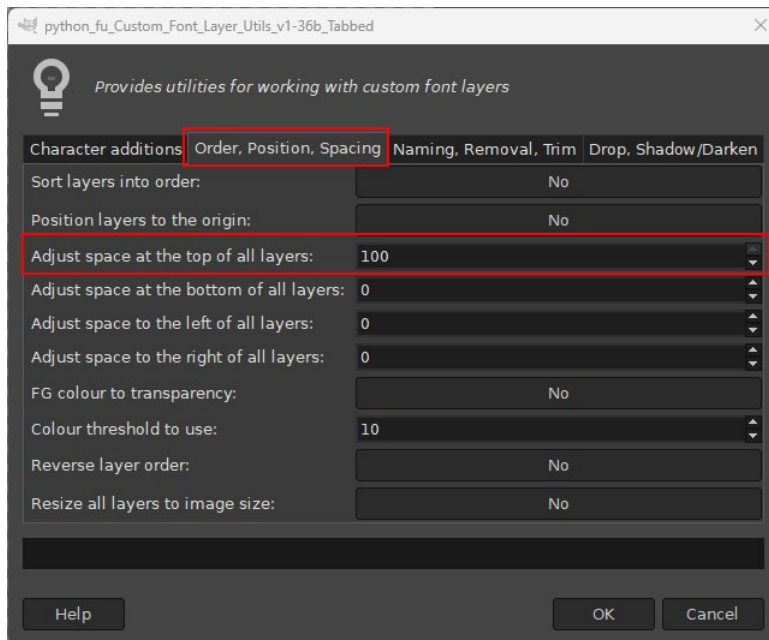


The solution is to use Custom Font Layer Utilities to add space above to all layers and then crop the image using a selection.

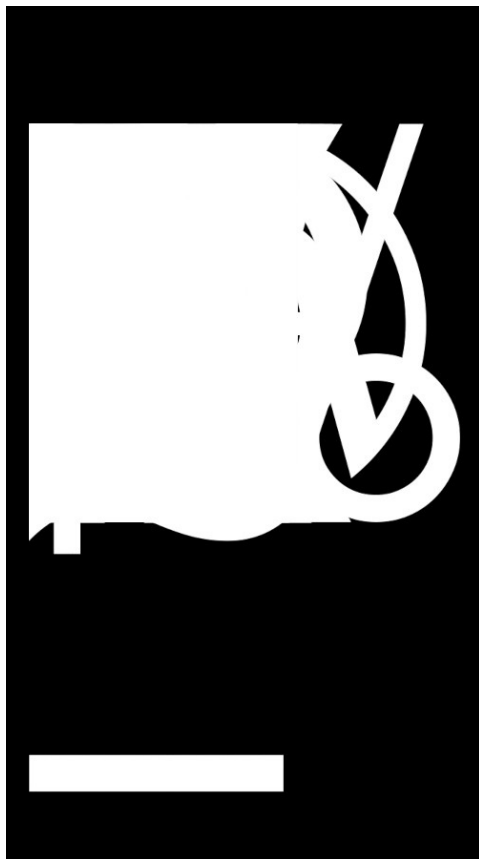
Open the filter:

Custom Fonts>>Utility Tools>>Custom Font Layer Utils v1.36b Tabbed

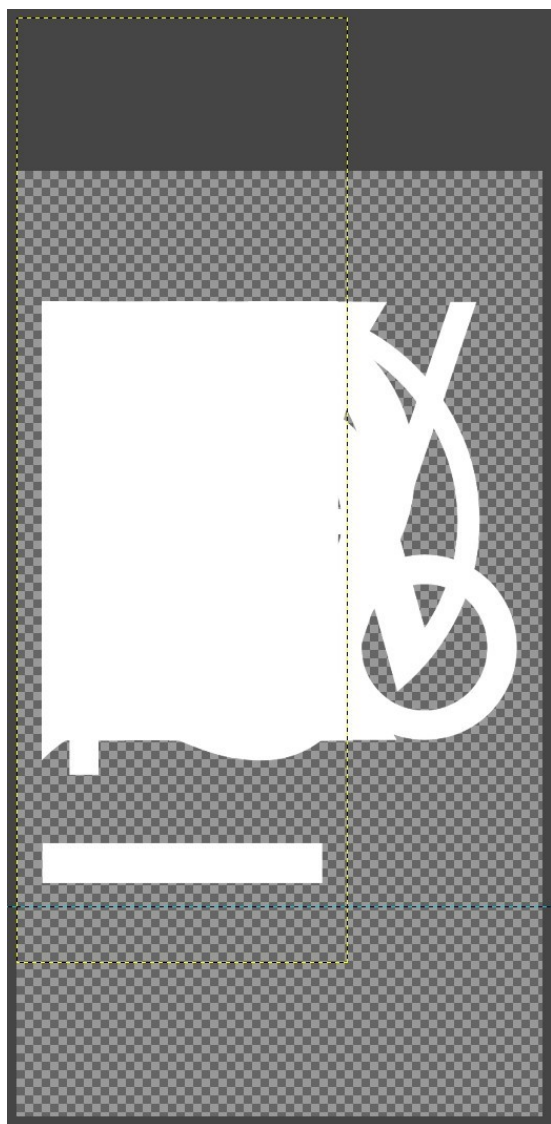
Use the second tab option to enter the amount of extra spacing required. You can always run the filter again if you need more space than the maximum value allows. In my case with my original layer height of 800 pixels I added another 100 pixels with the relevant option.



The spacing proportions look better now for ghosting.



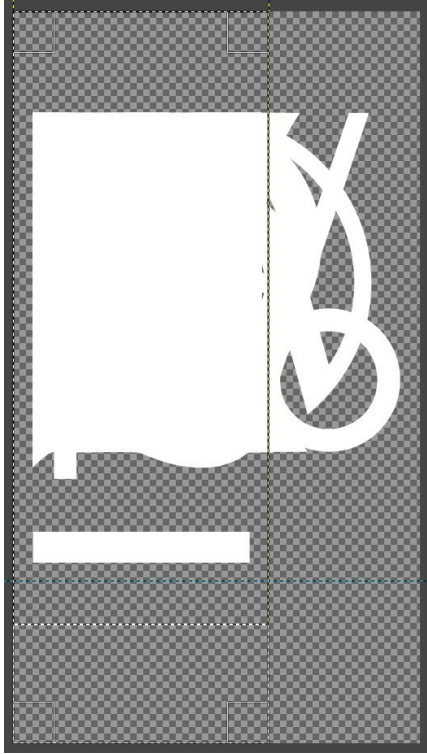
Before removing space from the bottom of the layers we need to re-position the rogue underscore layer. I added a guideline to reference the new bottom edge for the custom font. Use the Move tool: Put the pointer over the character and drag it into the new location.



Switch to the Rectangle tool (Keypress R) and drag a selection around the layer to retain its original width.

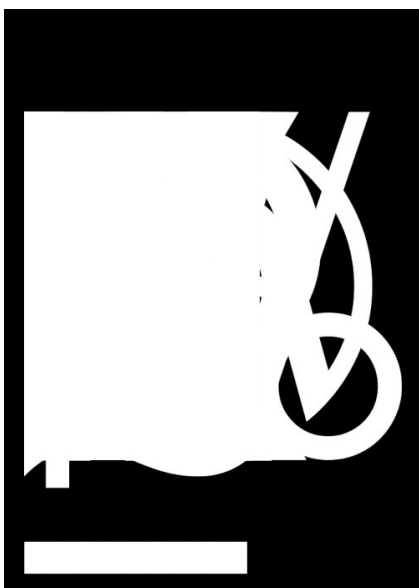
Crop the layer to the selection:

Layer>>Crop to Selection



Finally use the Rectangle tool again to remove any unwanted space at the bottom of the custom font. Drag the rectangle out to define the required new size and crop with:

Image>>Crop to Selection



This will conveniently crop all the custom font layers to the height of the image.