

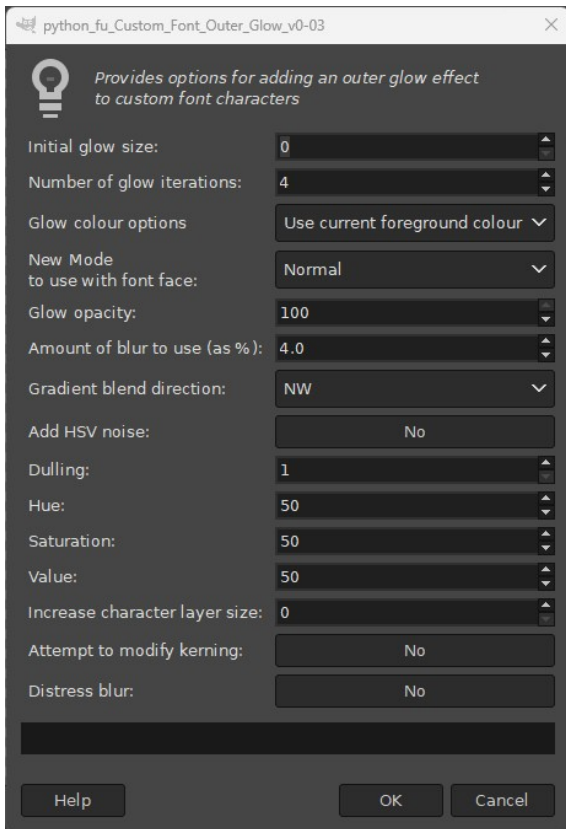
Custom Font Outer Glow for Gimp 2.10 v0.03...

This plug-in came about because I wanted to add a thin glow around a set of custom font characters.

Download and install it into your user plug-in folder.

Open up a custom font file and call up the filter from:

Filters>>Custom Font Tools>>Custom Font Outer Glow



Basically the filter adds a layer of colour with one of the colour options and then uses the Gimp gaussian blur filter to blur the colour or colours into a glow effect before fixing it to the existing custom font character.

There is a fine balance between spreading out a glow towards the edges of the character layer and glowing across the layer boundary; this results in a horrendous clipped edge and is not always apparent until the characters are added to another, larger image.

A thorough inspection of the chosen custom font layers is recommended to find out the amount of space around the characters that you have to play with.

You can always add more space around your characters with one of the options in the Custom Font Layer Utilities filter.

The filter options:

Initial glow size:

This sets the initial size of the coloured area to be turned into a glow. A higher number will give a brighter effect but will also cause the glow to spread more. Start with zero and work up.



Number of glow iterations:

This value controls how many times a glow is added to each character layer and helps to add depth and intensity to the glow effect. Larger values add to the time that the filter takes to complete its work and also cause the glow to spread slightly.



Glow colour options:

Set the appropriate Gimp colour options before calling up the filter dialog to create a glow based on colours taken from the...

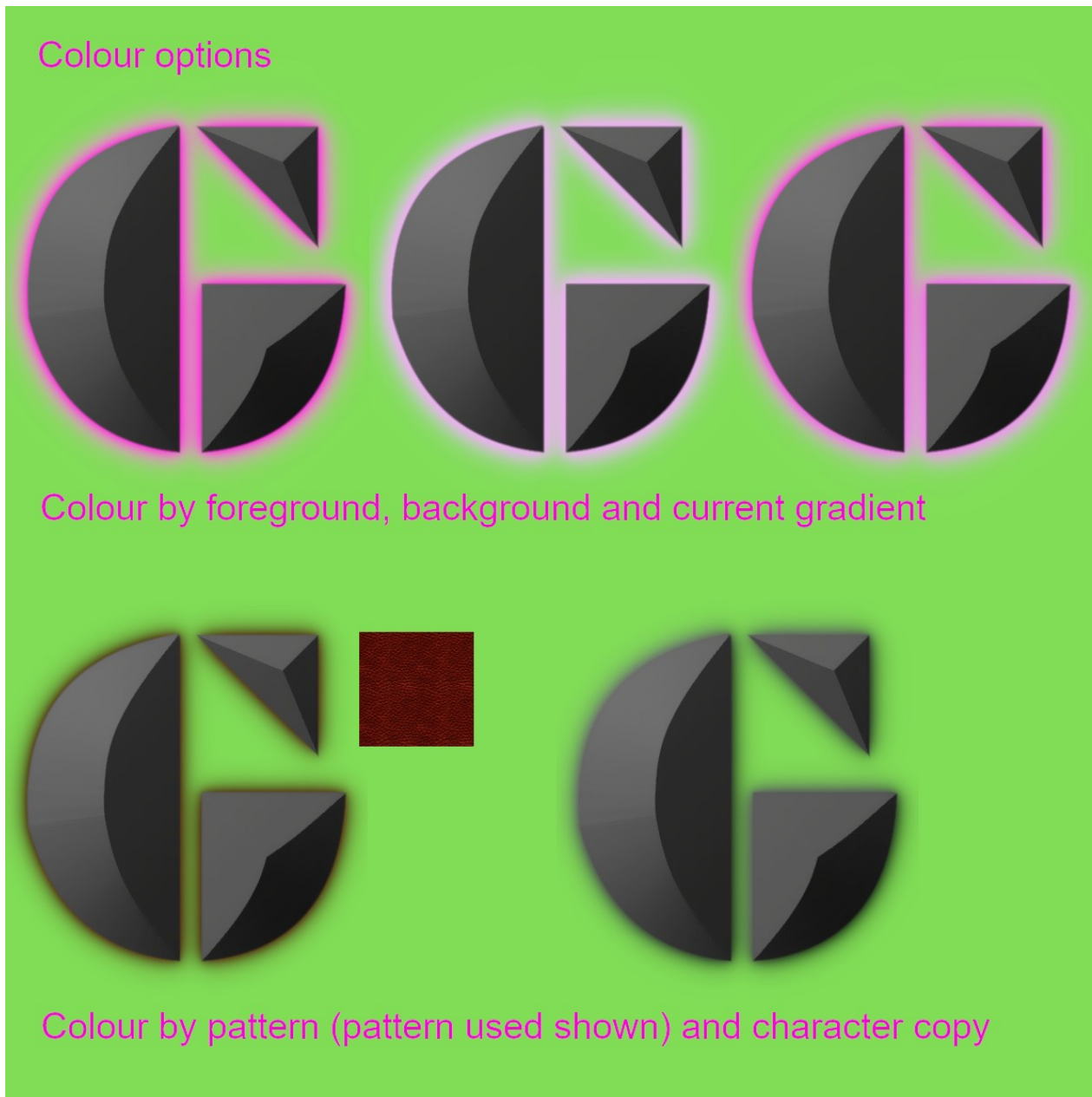
Foreground colour

Background colour

Pattern

Copy of the character layer

Current gradient



The effects of using a copy of the character option obviously vary greatly and are less predictable in their usefulness.

Glow opacity:

As you would expect smaller values reduce the opacity of the glow.

Amount of blur to use (as %):

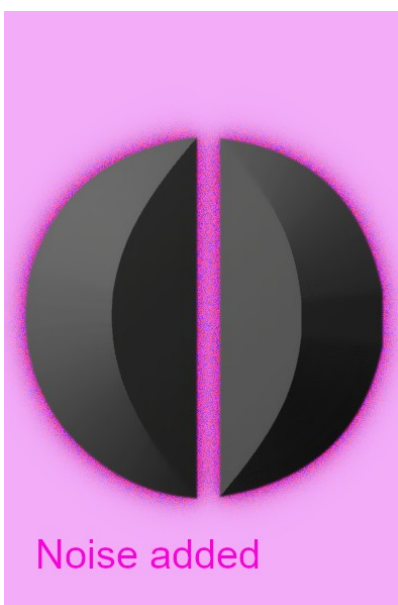
Increase this value to deliberately make the glow spread out more towards the character boundaries.

**Gradient blend direction:**

Sets the direction for applying a linear gradient more effectively using compass points.

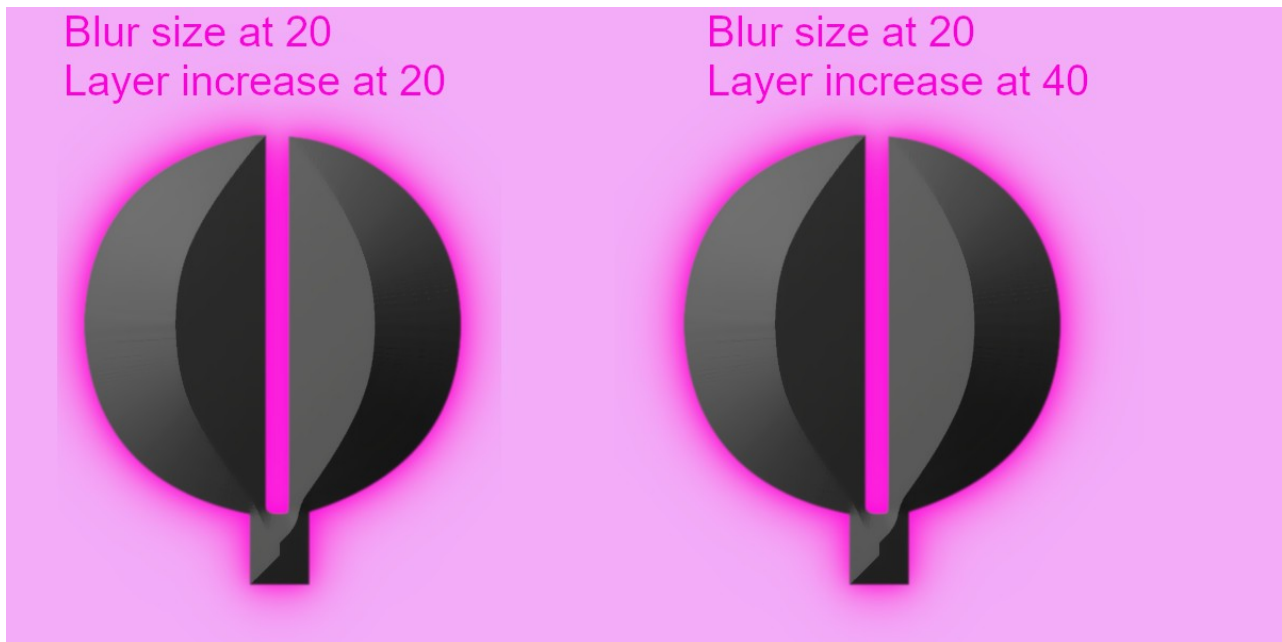
Add HSV Noise:

Set this to 'Yes' to add some HSV noise texture to the glow (with the values set by the following four parameters in the dialog).



Increase character layer size:

If you intend to use a big glow effect you will need to increase the width of the layer to avoid clipping the glow, as can be seen in the first of the two examples below.



A working rule seems to be to use an increase of two to two and a half times greater than the blur value entered – give or take. I seriously recommend testing the outer glow filter out on a small number of test characters before running it on a full set of layers.

Attempt to modify kerning:

This is only required if you increase the character layer size.

If the custom font file contains existing kerning paths set this option to 'Yes'. The filter will create some global kerning paths for un-kerned characters to compensate for their increased widths.

There is no point in using this option if no kerning paths have been added to a custom font.

In the rather extreme example below, the first line uses characters where the layer sizes remain the same as in the original custom font file.

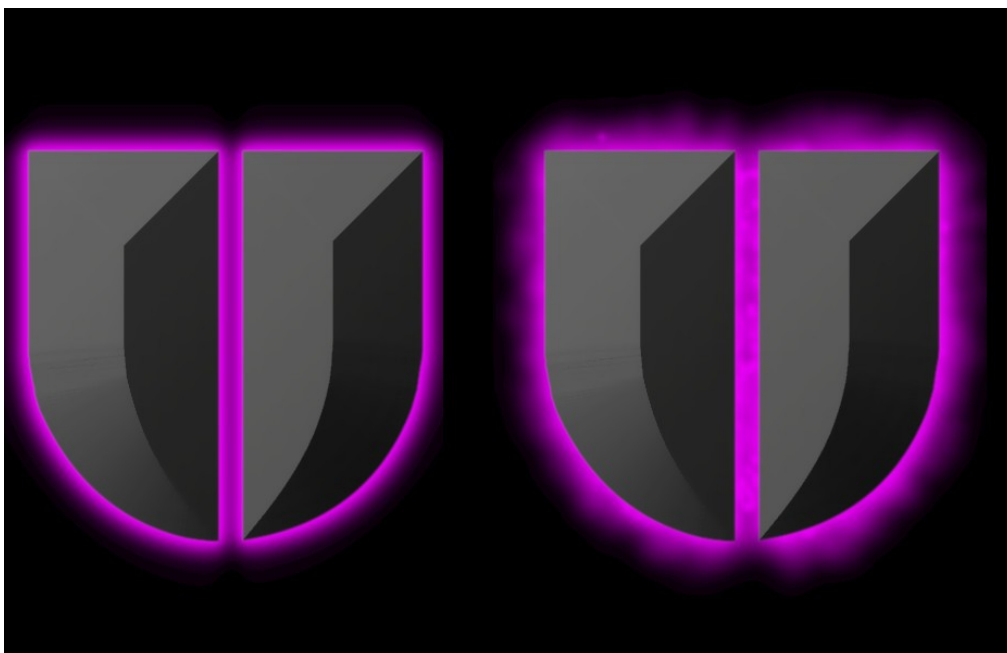
The middle line has no modified kerning and so kerning is applied with only existing kerning pair paths. The letters with over-large spacing had no kerning pairs applied in the original custom font and relied on the old layer width to create the character spacing.

The third line uses the modified kerning information to display the characters correctly.



Distress blur:

This is an experimental option that attempts to add some variation to the glow spread. It may be worth trying if you are going to use the characters at larger sizes. You will probably need to increase the size of the layers to avoid clipping.



And finally...

If you need more glow you can always use Custom Font Inner Glow before the Outer Glow plug-in. They say that less is more – but add some HSV noise and prove them otherwise! Have fun...



DOUBLE THE FUN BY
USING THE INNER
GLOW FILTER
BEFORE THE OUTER
GLOW FILTER.