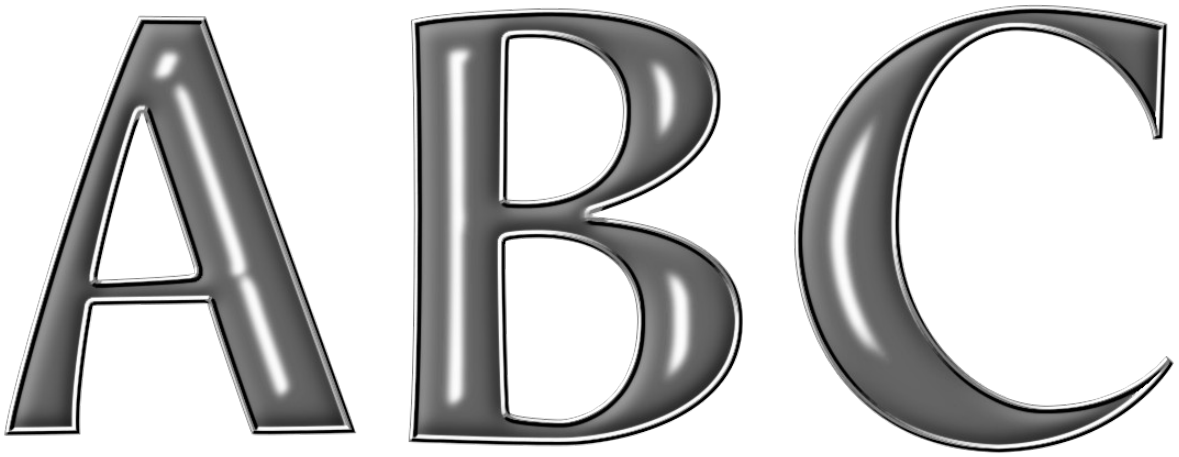
Adding variety to Custom Fonts with the Gradient Tool

You can use this technique to add colour to a decorative layer that you can apply to custom font layers or to add colour layer to a grey custom font.

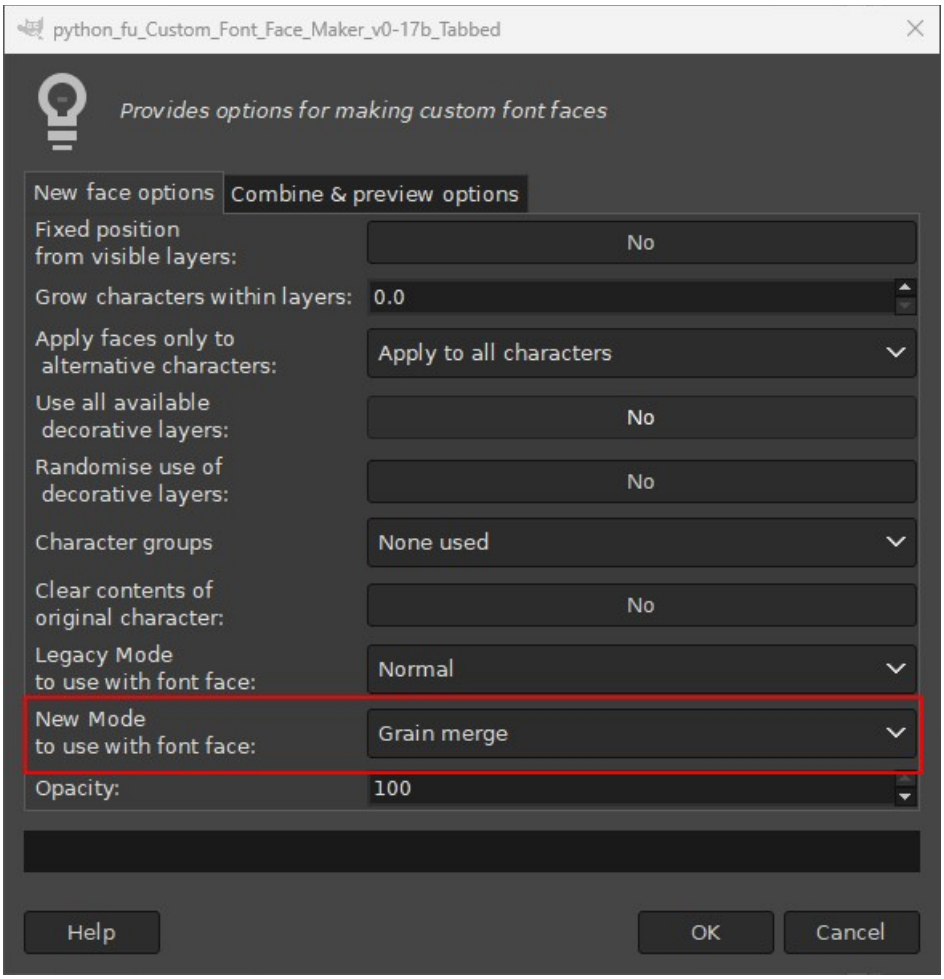
A starting point:



Just add a new layer to the custom font image opened in Gimp and choose your foreground and background colours (or select a gradient).

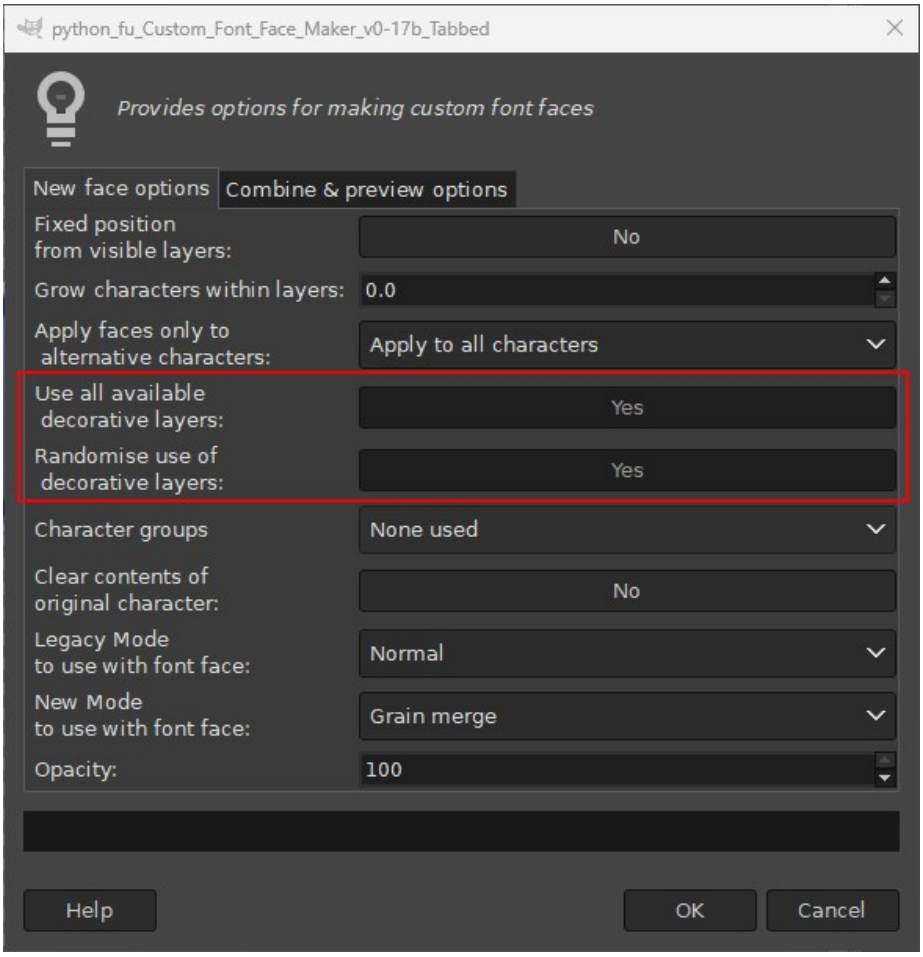
I opted for shades of blue and used the Gradient Tool to draw out the gradient from one top corner to the opposite bottom corner before using the FaceMaker plug-in with the mode option set to Grain merge.



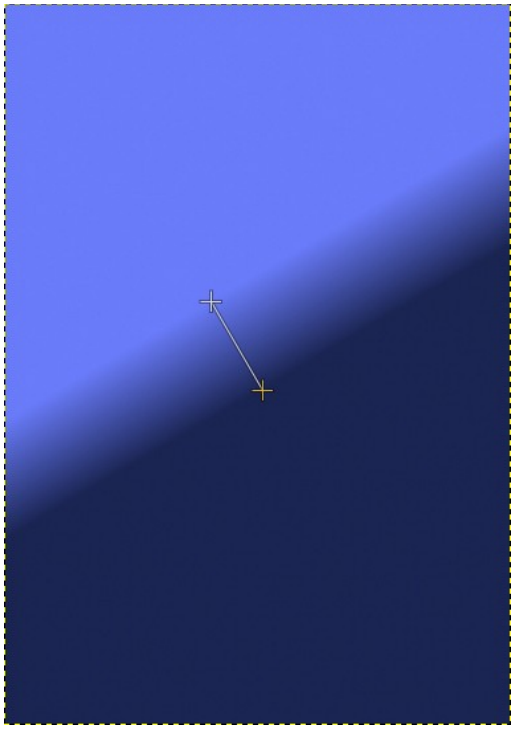


You can add subtle variety to the shading by adding more gradient layers and drawing the gradient out from different corners and/or edges. In FaceMaker use the options ‘Use all available decorative layers’ and ‘Randomize use of decorative layers’ to apply the gradients to the custom font layers.


ABC


python_fu_Custom_Font_Face_Maker_v0-17b_Tabbed
Provides options for making custom font faces
New face options
Combine & preview options
Fixed position from visible layers:
No
Grow characters within layers:
0.0
Apply faces only to alternative characters:
Apply to all characters
Use all available decorative layers:
Yes
Randomise use of decorative layers:
Yes
Character groups
None used
Clear contents of original character:
No
Legacy Mode to use with font face:
Normal
New Mode to use with font face:
Grain merge
Opacity:
100
Help
OK
Cancel

You can also use the gradient tool to restrict or compress the areas of colour applied by dragging the tool out over only a small area of a decorative layer:



The layer or layers can then be applied to the custom font image with FaceMaker as before:



Another subtle effect can be employed by using a larger decorative layer to increase the range of shades that FaceMaker can make use of.

Use the ‘Canvas size...’ dialog option from the Image menu to increase the size available when you add a new layer for use with the Gradient tool. (Make sure that the ‘Resize layers’ option in this dialog is also set to ‘None’.)



Now when you use FaceMaker it will apply a different random area from the decorative layer to each custom font character layer.



Of course you can also double up on gradient layers if you want to increase the range of shades and highlights available for use.

Fill a layer with the gradient that has a better range of light and shade – I have a red/yellow/green gradient that I use occasionally.

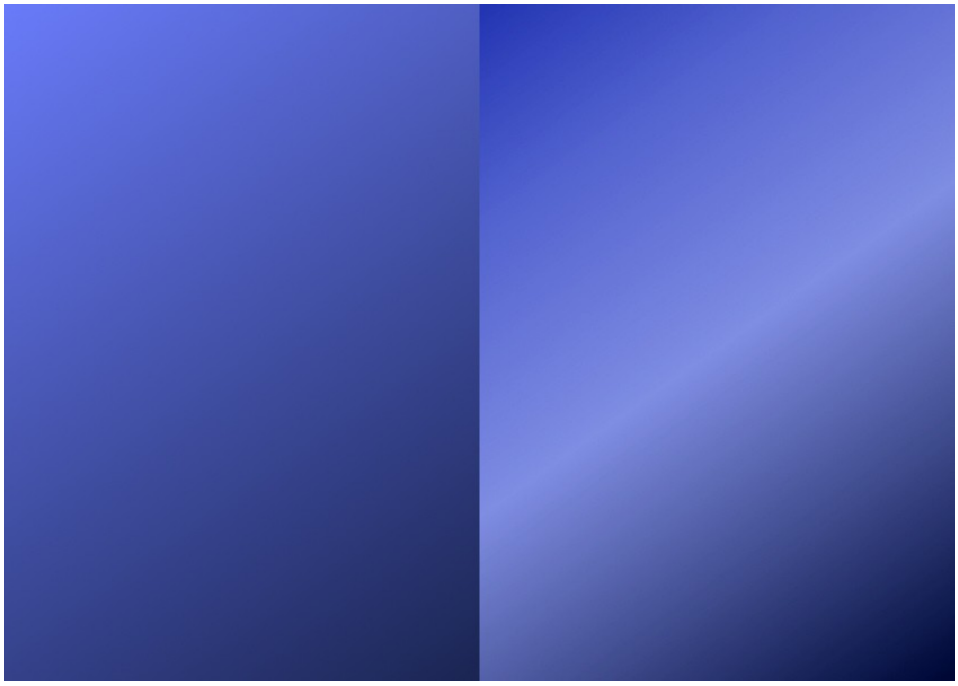


Convert this to shades of grey by using the Desaturate option available from the Colours menu in Gimp (2.10). I used the Luma mode:

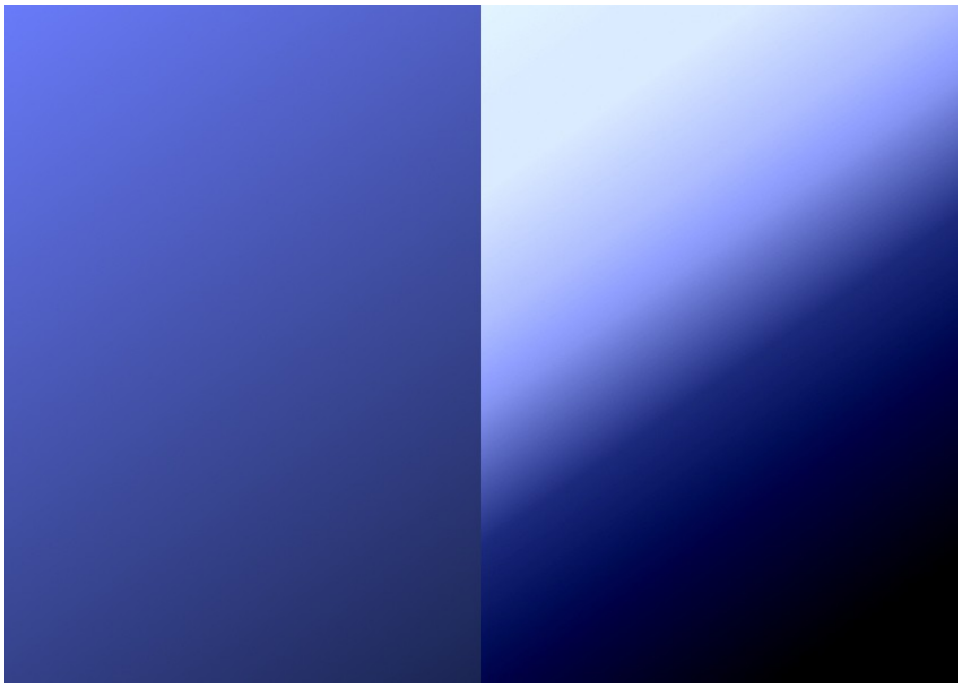


Fill another layer with the coloured gradient and change the layer mode – Grain merge or whatever you normally use.

Below you can see the original coloured gradient layer on the left and the result of the two layers combined on the right.



And using a different desaturated gradient with the same coloured gradient above:



There are, as usual, many opportunities for experimentation (or for just messing about).