# GIMP® TEXT EFFECTS



**Text Effects:  Glowing Text Completed Project**

## MAKE TEXT GLOW

GIMP® is all about IT (Images and Text)

**OPEN GIMP®**

**Step 1:**  To begin a new GIMP® project, from the Menu Bar, select File | New.  At the Create a New Image dialog box, select a size

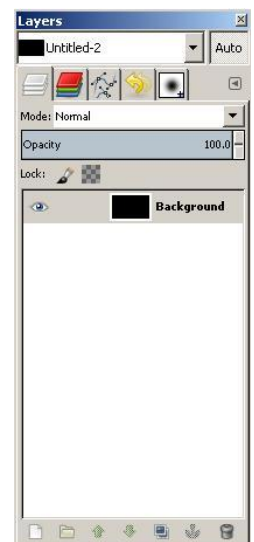and background color for your new image. I selected 400 x 200 pixels with a Black background.

You will need to click the + sign beside <u>A</u>dvanced Options to expand the menu. Select Foreground Color as the Fill with:
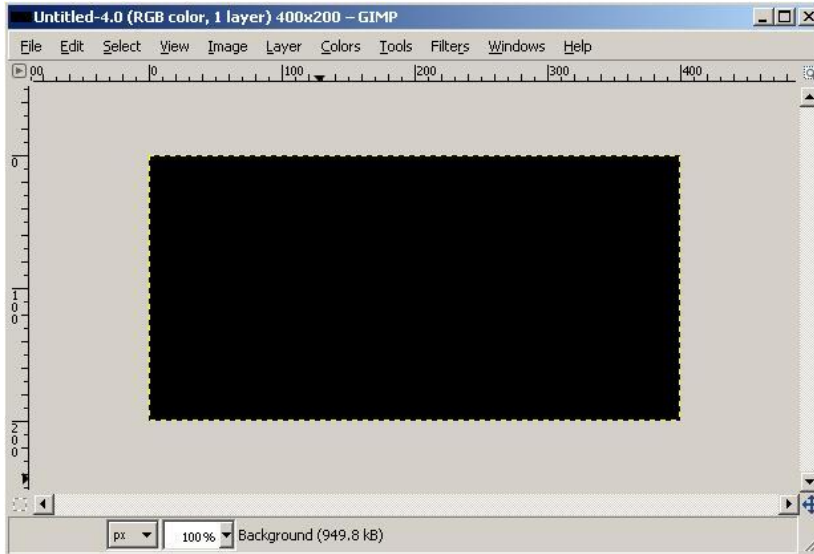
This assumes that you have black selected as your foreground color.

In the Comme<u>n</u>t text box, describe the image.

Click the <u>O</u>K button.

A new image canvas displays in the GIMP® workspace with image information in the Title Bar and a "Background" layer displays in the Layers palette to the right of the image window and a canvas displays with a black background.
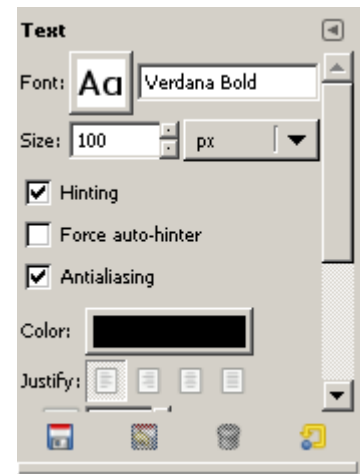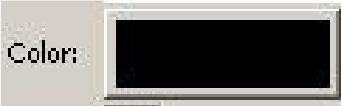
**Step 2:** From the Toolbox, select the Text tool .
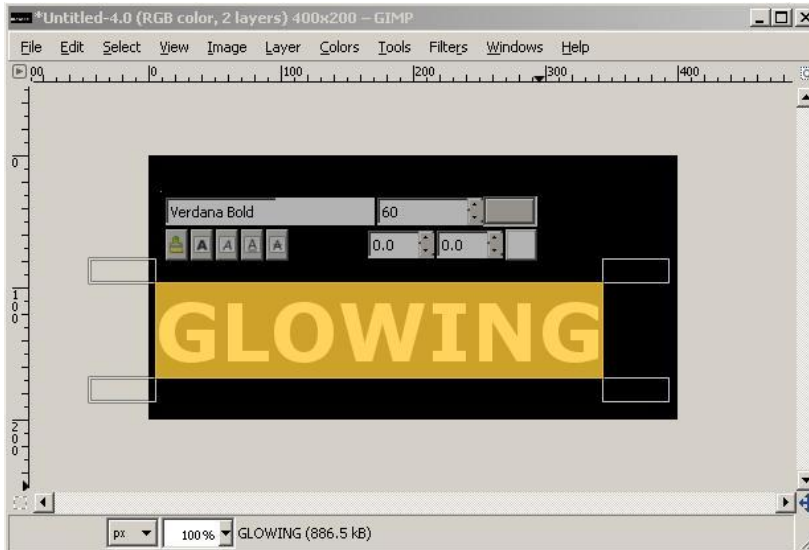
Text tool options display below the Toolbox.

Click the Font: icon and select a wide font.  I selected Verdanna Bold.

Select a font size by typing the size in the font text box or by clicking the up or down arrows to change the font size.  I selected 72.



In the Tool Options, click the color icon  and at the Text color dialog box, select White and click the OK button.
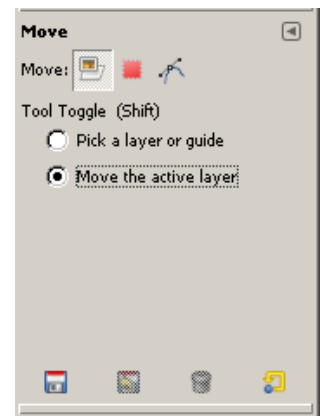
**Step 3:** Click on the image canvas.  At the GIMP Text Editor, type `GLOWING.`  I would suggest typing in all uppercase letters as glowing text connects better in uppercase.

The typed text is inserted on the image canvas and a new layer named "GLOWING" displays above the "Background" layer in the layers palette.

**Step 4:** With the "GLOWING" layer selected in the Layers palette, click the Move ✛ tool in the Toolbox and move your cursor into the image window.



When the Move tool is selected, the Move options display below the Toolbox. Click in the radio button to the left of Move the active layer. This changes the cursor to an up-pointing white arrow with a diamond and four squares.

Before selecting the *Move the active layer* option from the options box, the cursor had two shapes – one when it was positioned on the image window and one when it was positioned on the image
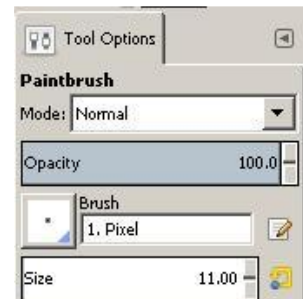
text.  Selecting the *Move the active layer* option makes it easier to move just the text.

**Step 5:**  Click on the text and drag it to the desired position on the image canvas.  You can center it in the black background.

**Step 6:**  With the "GLOWING" layer selected in the Layers palette, click the brush tool  in the Tool box.

**Step 7.**  In the Paintbrush Tool Options, click the Brush icon and select 1. Pixel and change the size to about the thickness of the letters.  I selected Size 11.00. (you may need to experiment with the size).
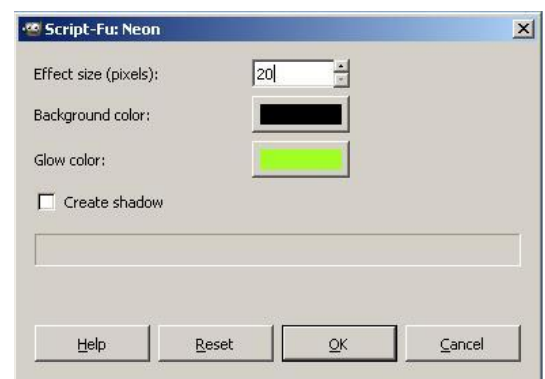


**Step 8:**  Connect the bottom of each of letters.



**Step 9.**  From the Menu Bar, select Filters | Alpha to Logo | Neon.

Step 10.  At the Script-Fu Neon dialog box, you will make three selections.  Two of these are easy -- the Background color: is black -- the Glow

color is whatever glow color you want -- you may need to experiment with the Effect size (pixel) option.  This is the option that determines how much of the letter glows.  If you select too many pixels, the entire letter glows (the inside of the letter should be black)-- if you don't select enough pixels, there is no glow.

Let's try something like 20.    Click the OK button.

The inside of the letter is white.  So we have selected too many pixels.

Select Edit | Undo Neon.  Now try again.  Filters | Alpha to Logo | Neon.  This time let's try 10.  Better, but still a little green.

Repeat and try 5.  Not enough glow.  Looks like 7 or 8 would work best.  8 works for me.

**Step 11.**  Take a look at the layers palette.  You have two layers Neon Glow and Neon Tubes.
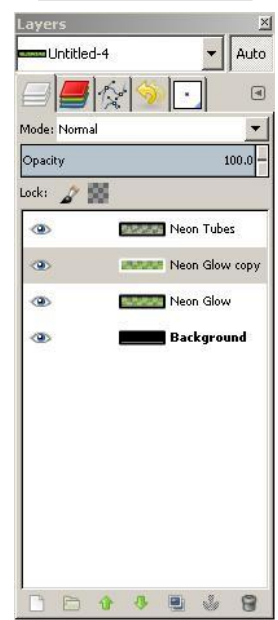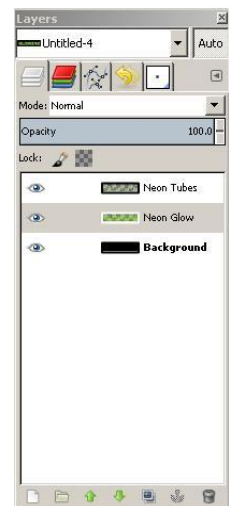
These were created when you created a Filter.

Right click on the Neon Glow layer in the Layers

palette and select Duplicate Layer.

A new layer named Neon Glow copy display above the Neon Glow layer.

Click the Neon Glow copy layer and from the Menu Bar, select Filters | Blur | Gaussian Blur.

At the Gaussian Blur dialog box, select a Blur radius.

I selected 25.  Click the OK button.



This adds a blow to the back of the lettering.



You can duplicate the Neon Glow Layer again and repeat if you want more glow.

You might want to try this with neon pink, neon purple, neon yellow, etc.

Step 12.  The image should be saved twice as `glowing_text_mm_dd_yy` in the PortableApps/GIMP/text_effects_images folder on the flash drive:

1) Once with a `.xcf` extension to preserve the layers so it can be modified in GIMP® and

REMEMBER THAT IN GIMP 2.8, you use File | Export to save as a .gif or .png.

2) Once as a `.gif` or `.png` so it can be inserted on a Web page.