

Creating a Banner Image with GIMP

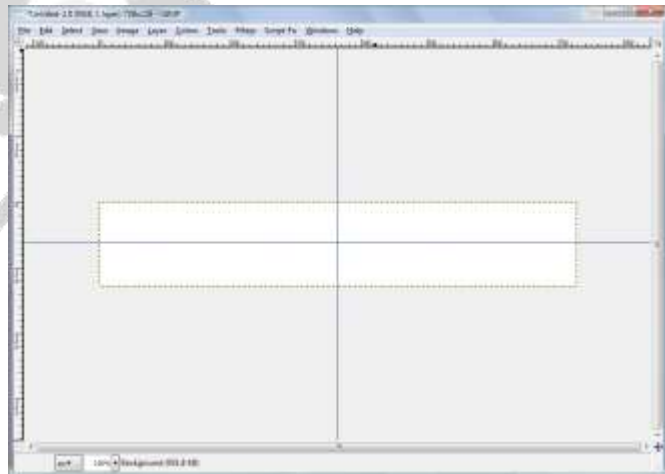
Purpose: GIMP is a free image editor and has many capabilities similar to Photoshop produced by Adobe. It is very simple to create an excellent looking banner image for a website.

Issues: Development Process different than Adobe Photoshop



Step 1: Open GIMP and create a new image by going to File > New. A dialog box pops up and set the image with the following dimensions 728 (width) by 128 (height). This create a common size web banner I use with most of my web sites.

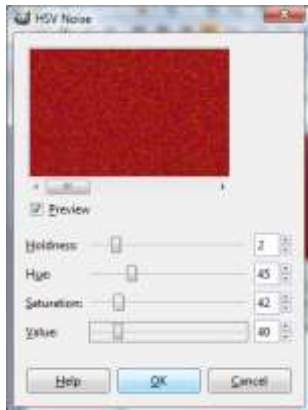
Step 2: Drag a horizontal guide from the top ruler to the center of the image which is 64 pixels. Then drag one from the left ruler to center of image which is 364 pixels to make a cross at the exact center of the image. This will help place objects later after we create the background image.



Step 3: Hide the background layer, and create a new layer called 'bricks'. The background layer in many programs often is hard to deal with this is why we created a new layer.

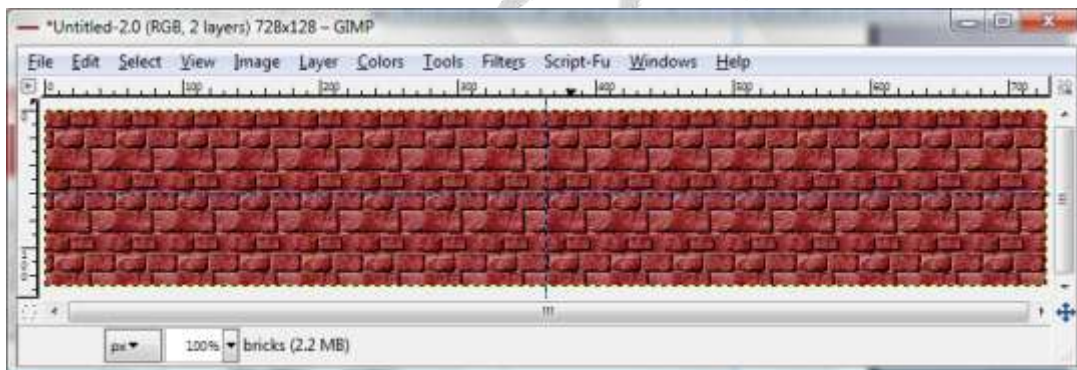


Step 4: Next you want to use the paint bucket tool and create a paint the background of the brick layer a dark red. This will provide the base color for the bricks.

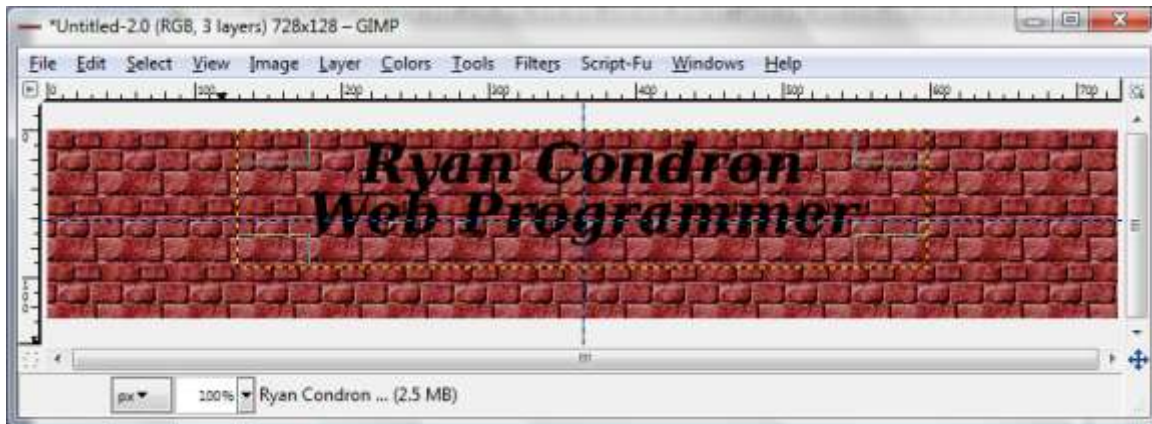


Step 5: To give the bricks the rough texture look we need to add some noise using the HSV Noise filter. To add the noise go to Filter > Noise > HSV Noise. Set the settings as you like and click OK.

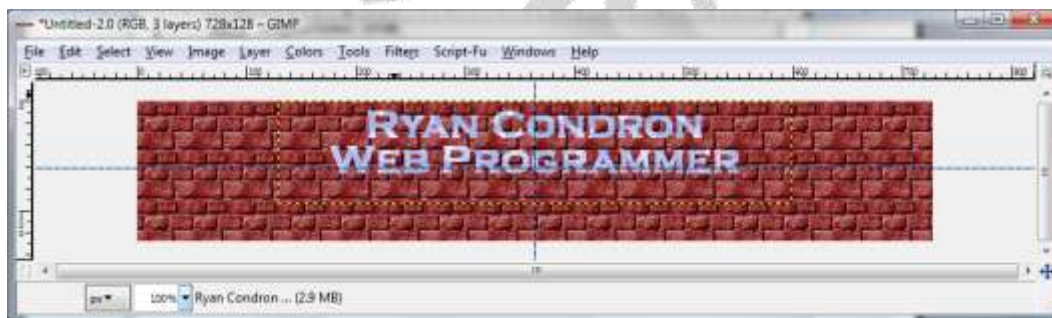
Step 5: Now to create the bricks we use a filter called GimpPressionist, no drawing is required for the bricks it is an easy filter to use. To Open the GimpPressionist Filter go to Filter > Artistic > GimpPressionist. Then click the Paper tab and click bricks.pgm and set the scale and relief to your liking and be sure to check overlay and click OK.



Step 6: Next we want to create the title using the text tool. Customize the text in anyway you want. The spacing, font, size, etc. Then you want to center it using the crosshair and the guides. The crosshair is in the center of the text and will snap to the guides and help you center the text layer on the image.



Step 7: Using the fuzzy select tool select all the characters in your text layer. To do this you want to hold shift while selecting each character. If you select the blank area of the text layer and invert the selection it will mess up your text when you go to add the fill to it. After you select the characters you can either fill it with a gradient using the gradient tool, just select your gradient and drag over the selection to get the text to appear with a gradient fill or by the bucket fill, when using the bucket fill hold shift when filling your first character to fill all the characters at once.



Step 8: Using the text tool again make your tag line and leave it a plain color or a different fill by the actions in the previous step.

