

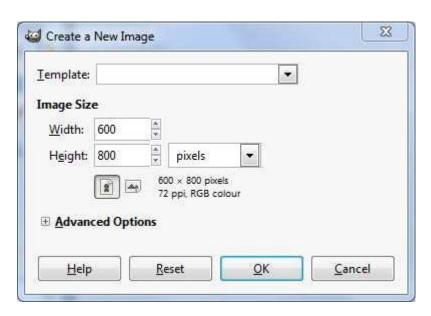
CREATING A COVER

Your cover is the first thing people will look at and they will always judge a book by it's cover, so depending on what route you chose I will show you how to make stunning covers in under 10 minute!

First of all, download and install GIMP it is a 100% free image software (I prefer it over Photoshop and Illustrator)

http://www.gimp.org/downloads/

1. Go to File - new then enter size 600x800



Now it's time to skip to your section (Fiction, non-fiction or recipe)

FICTION

Now Fiction book covers are usually really graphic and captivating, they can cost \$100's of dollars to have made but we can create this effect using free stock photos and fonts. Let's go!

1. Go to http://www.everystockphoto.com and sign up for a free account.

Or

Google 'Free stock photos' and find a website that has an image you want.

Depending on your plot etc. you need to use the right keywords to get good images.

When I think of Romance, I think of a woman as the protagonist. So this is the base of my search. (If I just type woman then I will get real photos of woman) If I add another good keyword then you can get results like this:



These sorts of Illustration things are perfect!

To get results like this add theses sort of keywords:

Thriller

Fiction

Vampire

Fairy

If you want great landscapes for your cover add words like:

Epic

Deserted

Panoramic

If you search you should find a great image! The one above took me one search!

Now Crop your image down to the book size. I just copy and paste it in and then I move it about until it looks good:



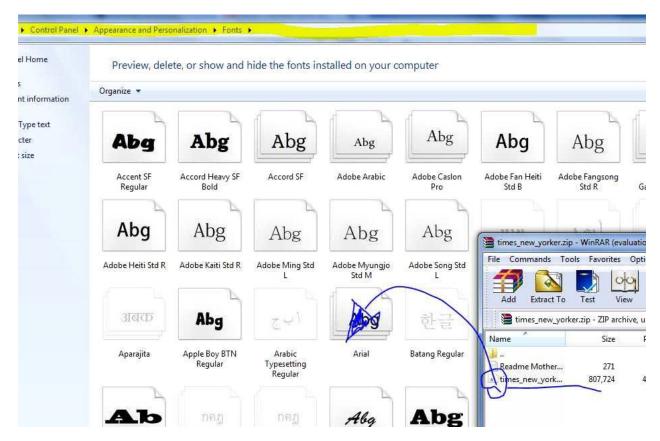
Now we add the title and author. Try and use appealing fonts, test a few!

If you have no good fonts download great ones free from dafont.com I recommend the 'Fancy' section.

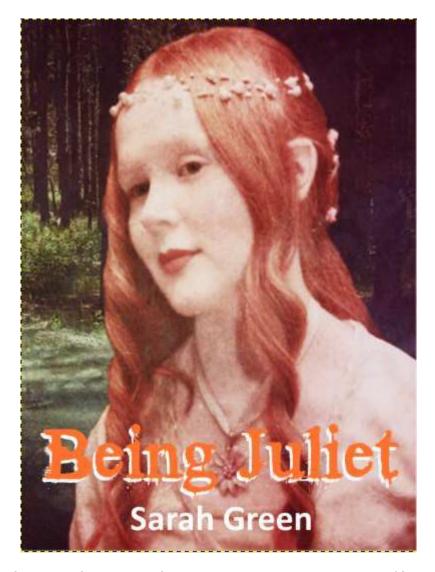
http://www.dafont.com/

To add your downloaded font just open the download file and drag the file with a big letter on it into your fonts

(Start-control panel-appearance-fonts)



Then you should end up with something (hopefully better) like this:



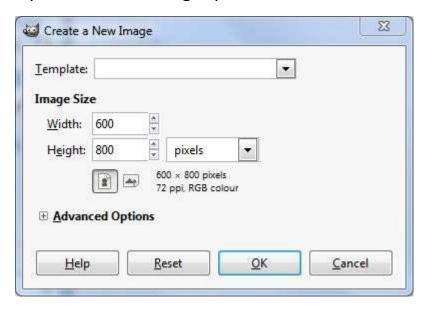
I added a soft glow from the filters section to the photo (for those wondering)

NON-FICTION

For Non-fiction you can have either a graphic or non-graphic cover (or a mix).

If you want to use a graphic image then read through the fiction Kindle Cover section above ^^^ If you want a basic professional looking cover then keep reading:

Open a new file on gimp size 600x800



Then Pick two base colors for your cover (I suggest one be white)



Then select the gradient tool as shown:



Now starting from very top edge drag down to the bottom edge and release. You should end up with this:

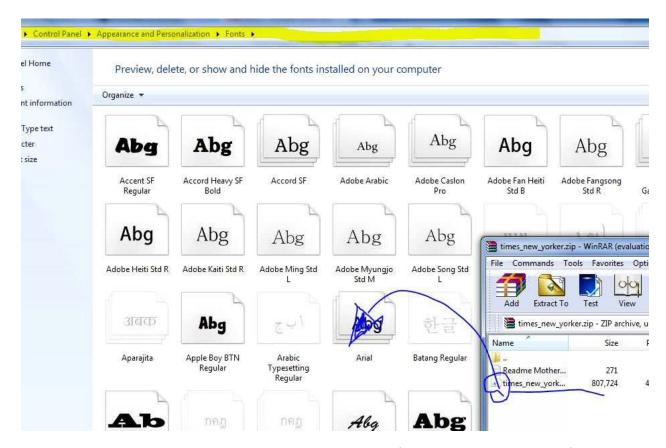


This is the base for our cover now you can add an image and font or just font. For this example I will just use font:

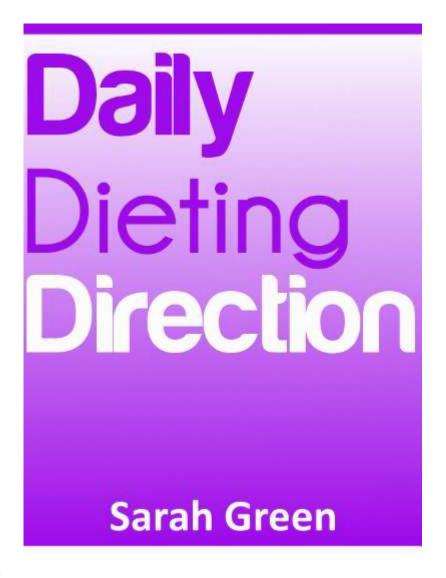
If you need better fonts then download them form DaFont.com here:

http://www.dafont.com/

Open the download folder and your computer fonts (located at Start-control panel-appearance-fonts) Then drag your downloaded font into your fonts.



Once you have added your title and author (and optional image) then you should have something like this:



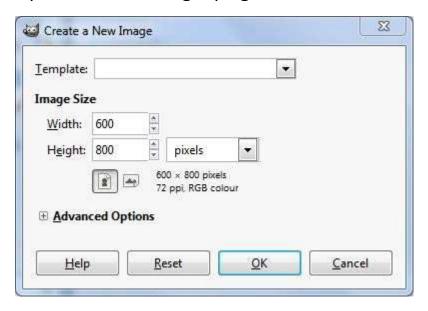
So simple!

<u>RECIPE</u>

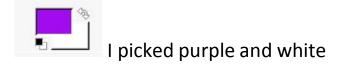
For recipe books it is the same start as non-fiction so let's go:

If you want to use a graphic image then read through the fiction Kindle Cover section above. If you want a basic professional looking Recipe cover then keep reading:

Open a new file on gimp again size 600x800



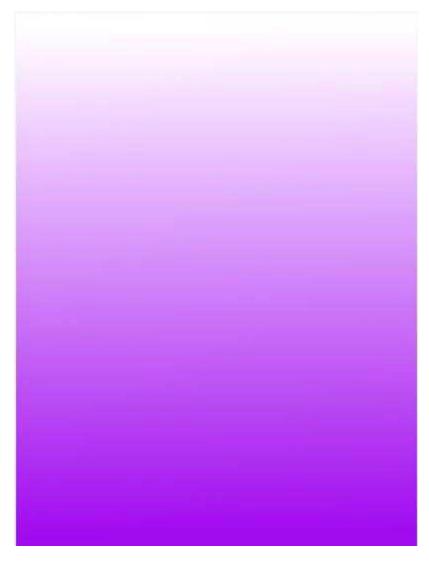
Then Pick two base colors for your cover (I suggest one be white)



Then select the gradient tool as shown:



Now starting from the very top edge drag down to the bottom edge and release. You should end up with this:

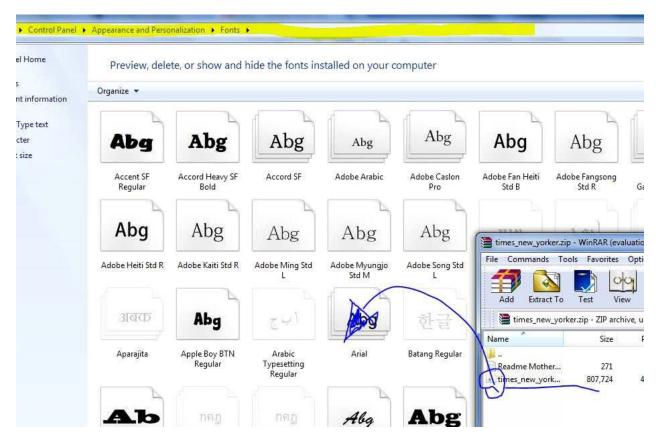


This is the base for our cover now you can add an image and font or just font. For this example I will just use font and recipe images:

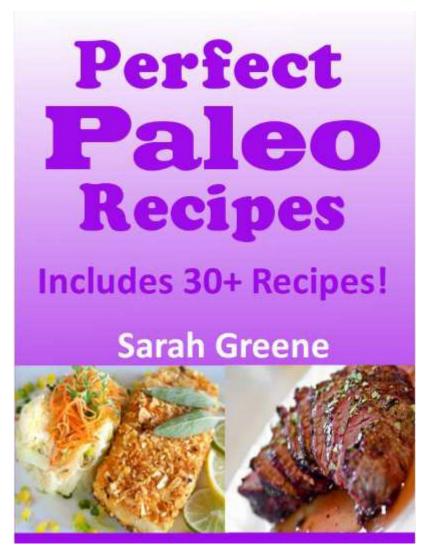
If you need better fonts then download them form DaFont.com here:

http://www.dafont.com/

Open the download folder and your computer fonts (located at Start-control panel-appearance-fonts) Then drag your downloaded font into your fonts.



The Difference between Recipe and non-fiction is you should include images of your recipes at least one!



Hopefully now you can make your own Cover in less than 10 minutes! Well what are you waiting for? Or you can outsource your cover to fiverr.com for \$5 dollars and wait days for it to deliver your choice!