

Tagxedo Notes

Tagxedo home page <http://www.tagxedo.com/>

Direct link to Tagxedo Creator bypassing home page <http://www.tagxedo.com/app.html>

Pretty good tutorials:

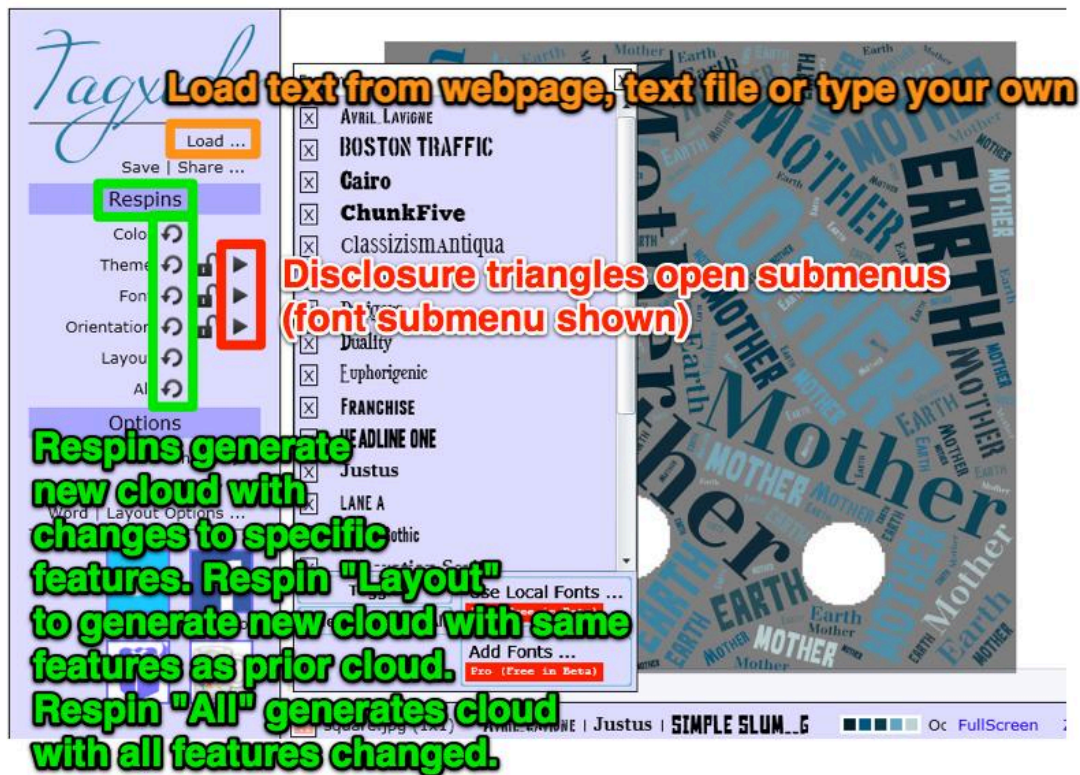
(See these first, because I don't explain the basics in this document)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZwVoqFP-NE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8pCZaFv0Ks>
- <https://techietuesday.wikispaces.com/file/view/Tagxedo.+How+to.pdf>
- <http://vc.uscannenber.org/sites/vc.uscannenber.org/files/documentation/12/Tagxedo%20-%20Getting%20Started.pdf>

Inspiration

- <http://bit.ly/101tagxedo> "101 Ways to Use Tagxedo"
- [How to Make a Great Portrait Tagxedo - Tagxedo Blog](#)
- <http://blog.tagxedo.com/a-creative-abuse-of-fonts-words-and-shapes> - cute use of a dingbats font in word cloud

Review: A few basic features in Tagxedo main window



Be careful not to click respin "All" if you want color, theme, font and orientation to stay the same. Click respin "Layout" instead

More about Tagxedo main menu/window



(1) “History” allows you to reload a prior “respin.” If things go south, it’s a good way to get back to a state you liked. You can also spin a bunch of images before deciding which to save.

(2) Pay attention to the status bar at the bottom - if something’s not working, it can help you figure out what shape, font(s) and theme Tagxedo is using.

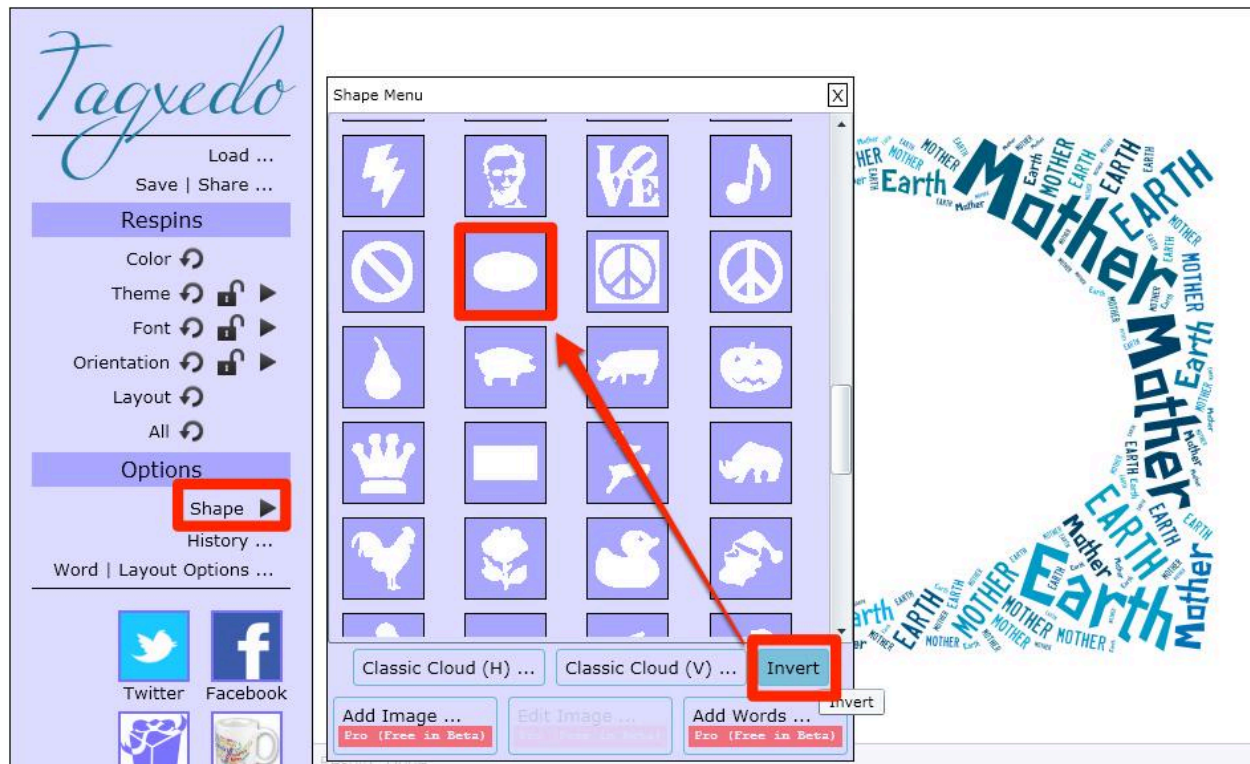
Saving



You can save both jpgs and pngs (which can have a transparent background). The 16MP size will work for most word clouds needed on a 3600x3600 digital scrapbooking LO.

Another useful option for artists and digiscrappers is to print to pdf, which can be modified in photoshop to make a high-quality image for an image transfer. In photoshop digiscrappers can set a black on white layer to the "multiply" blend mode and only the black text will show up.

More about shapes



The dark parts of the shape indicate where the text will go. If you select “Invert,” the light and dark areas will be reversed. After inverting, click on a new thumbnail to have text outside of a shape.

Shapes (cont).



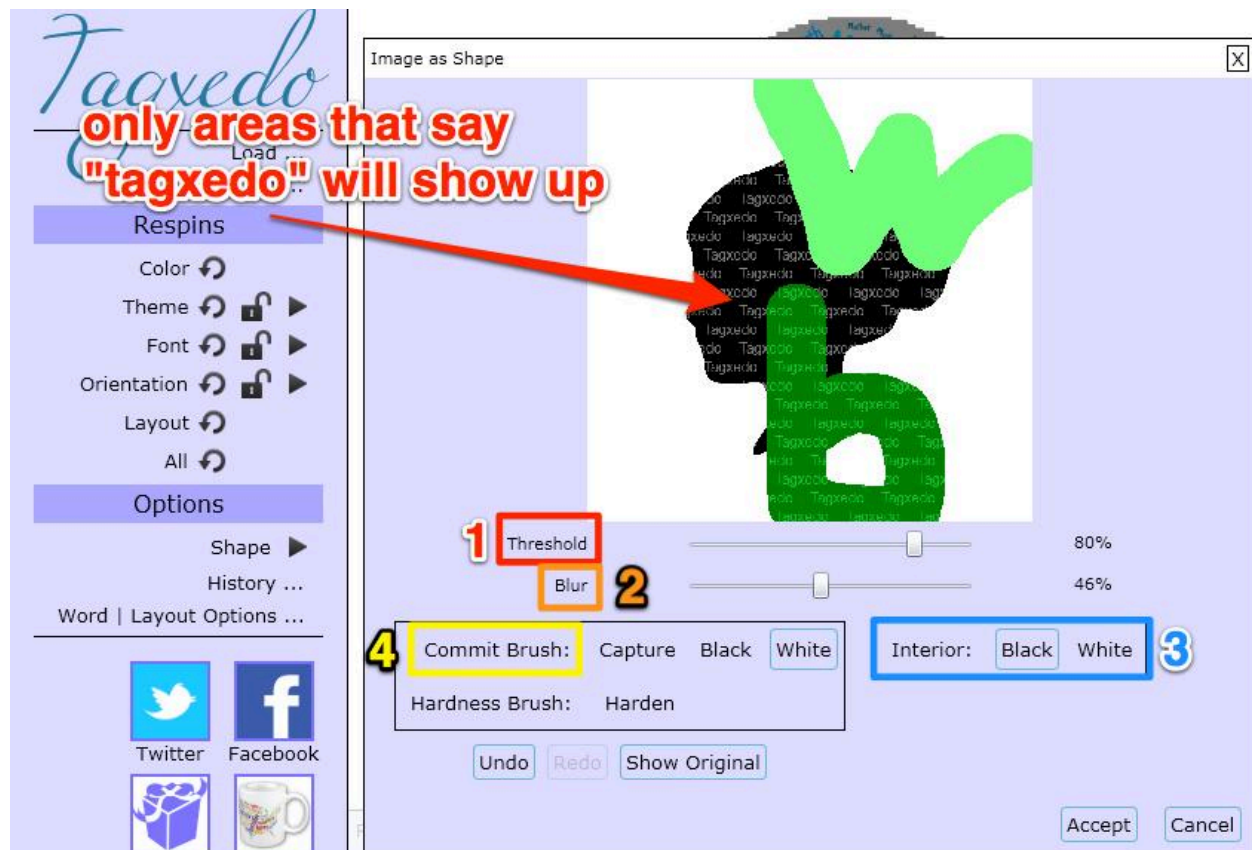
The “unconstrained” shape is not a square - it results in a round word cloud with fuzzy edges. To get a square, you have to use “Add Image” to upload your own square.

“Add Words” (green box above) converts a word to an image. The drop-down menu on the right controlling the font in the “Add Words” pop-up window may be blank at first. Click on it to reveal your font choices



Uploading and editing your own image

Make a fairly simple silhouette (or download one to your computer). From the Shape Menu select “Add Image” (boxed in orange above.)

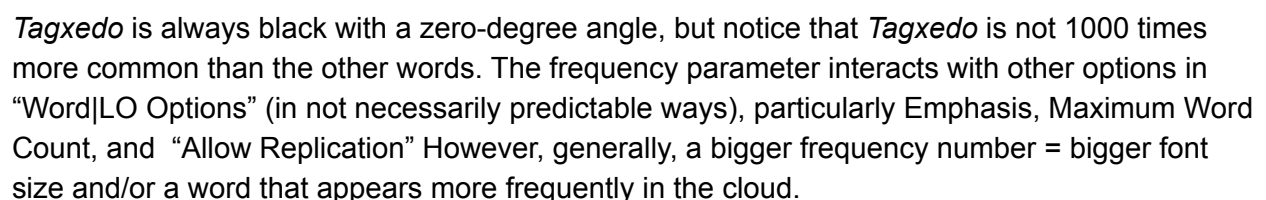


Uploading an image automatically brings up the “Edit Image” window. If you have uploaded and accepted an image, “Edit Image” also shows up as an option to the right of “Add image” in the Shapes menu. Only areas that say “tagxedo” will fill with words. It is easier to fiddle with the sliders in the Edit Image window than to reason out what’s going to happen. Threshold (1) controls whether words show up. Move it right or left until words show up and are constrained to the silhouette. Blur (2) controls how closely the Tagxedo silhouette edges conform to your original image. Higher blur = word cloud with smoother edges. Interior (3) controls whether word cloud will be inside vs. outside of your silhouette. Commit Brush (4) allows you to add black or white “paint” and therefore add to or erase parts of your custom image. In the example above, I painted a “b” with a black brush and a “w” with a white brush.

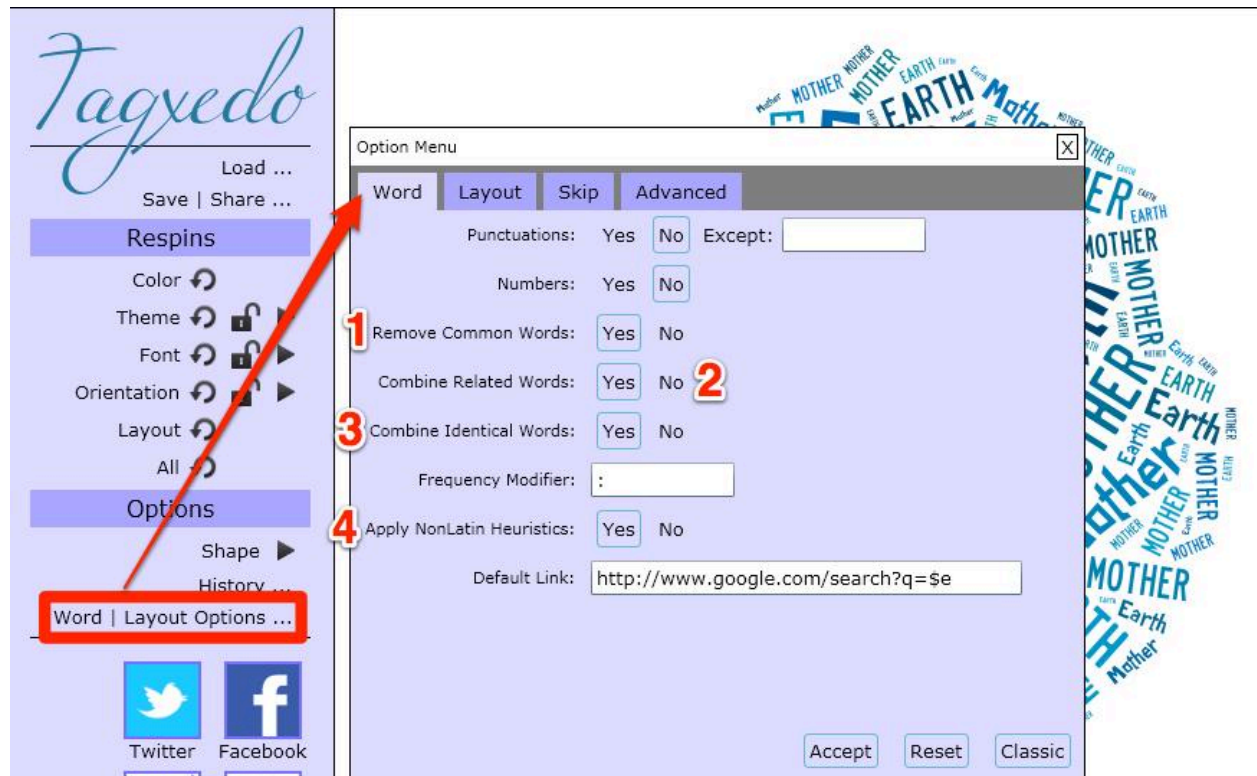
Use a tilde (~) to keep words together, e.g., "San~Francisco"

<http://blog.tagxedo.com/customizing-individual-words-color-angle-and-font>

Here's what I got specifying *tagxedo:!Boston!Traffic:1000:#000000:@0*
(font=Boston Traffic, frequency=1000, color=black, angle=0 degrees)
in the Load window

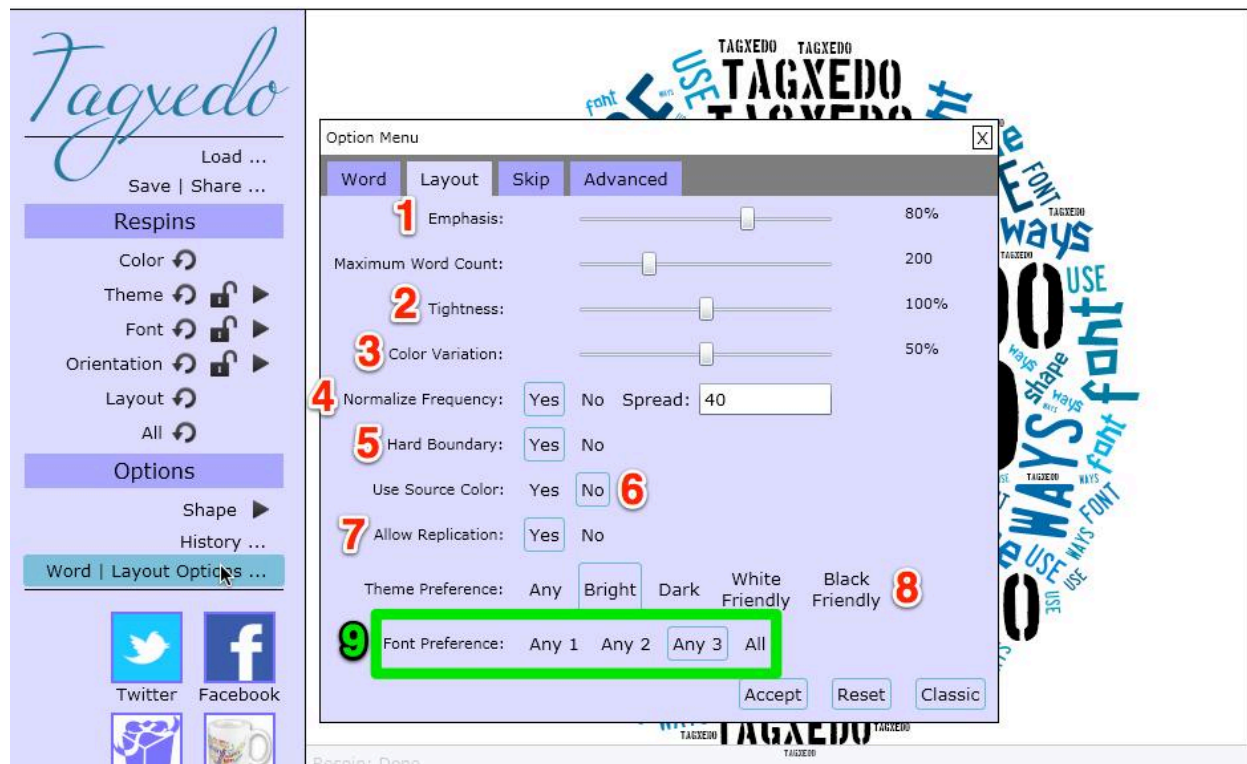


Word|LO options - The “Word Tab”



- (1) Remove common (English “stop”) words. One-letter words are considered “common,” something to keep in mind if you’re using a dingbat font.
- (2) Combine related words. Tagxedo uses a technique called “Stemming” that combine related words into a single word for the purpose of determining the frequency. For example, “shape”, “shapely”, and “shaped” are considered the same word and among all possibilities, the one with the most common occurrence will be shown.
- (3) Combine identical words. Applies when you insert a page link using the “Load” menu.” When turned on, each word in the web page is shown only once and the size reflects the frequency of the word on the webpage.
- (4) Apply NonLatin Heuristics - has to do with foreign (e.g. Chinese) fonts

Word|LO Options - the Layout tab



- (1) Emphasis and (2) Tightness - explained in the [Tagxedo FAQ](#).
- (3) Color Variation - lower numbers result in themes with similar hues
- (4) Normalize Frequency - when on, Tagxedo makes a “pleasing” cloud (or what we normally think of when we think of a word cloud). Turning it off can create interesting results, even if they don’t look very word cloud-like.
- (5) Hard Boundary - when off, words can violate the shape’s boundaries
- (6) Use Source Color - words take on the color of a custom image. Example: <http://blog.tagxedo.com/an-exact-step-by-step-guide-to-making-a-unique-tagxedo-gift>
- (7) Allow Replication - interacts with “Maximum Word Count” and “Combine Identical Words” in not entirely predictable ways. However, if you have uploaded a small list of words, this needs to be on or your cloud may not fill.
- (8) Theme Preference - should be self-explanatory, but also seems to be somewhat buggy, because “black-friendly” themes contain black word colors.
- (9) Font Preference - limits fonts to 1, 2, 3 or all fonts specified *in the main font menu* (see below)

Specifying which fonts will be used in your cloud

The screenshot shows the Tagxedo application interface. On the left is a menu bar with options: Load..., Save | Share..., Respins, Color, Theme, Font, Orientation, Layout, All, Options, Shape, History, and Word | Layout Options... The 'Font' option is highlighted with a red square and a red arrow pointing to the 'Font menu' dialog box. The 'Word | Layout Options...' option is highlighted with a blue box and a blue arrow pointing to the 'Word | LO options > Font Preference' section. The 'Font menu' dialog box is open, showing a list of fonts with checkboxes: AVRIL.LAVIGNE, BOSTON TRAFFIC, Cairo, ChunkFive, classizismantiqua, SatoutsFLF, Designers, Duality, Euphorogenic, FRANCHISE, HEADLINE ONE, Justus, LANE A, and League Gothic. The 'Select/Unselect All' button is highlighted with a red box. The 'Add Fonts ...' button is also highlighted with a red box. The background of the application shows a word cloud with the word 'Mother' repeated.

To use only a few fonts, tick them all OFF in the Font menu. (Use "Add Fonts" to upload fonts from your computer), then tick on the ones you want to use

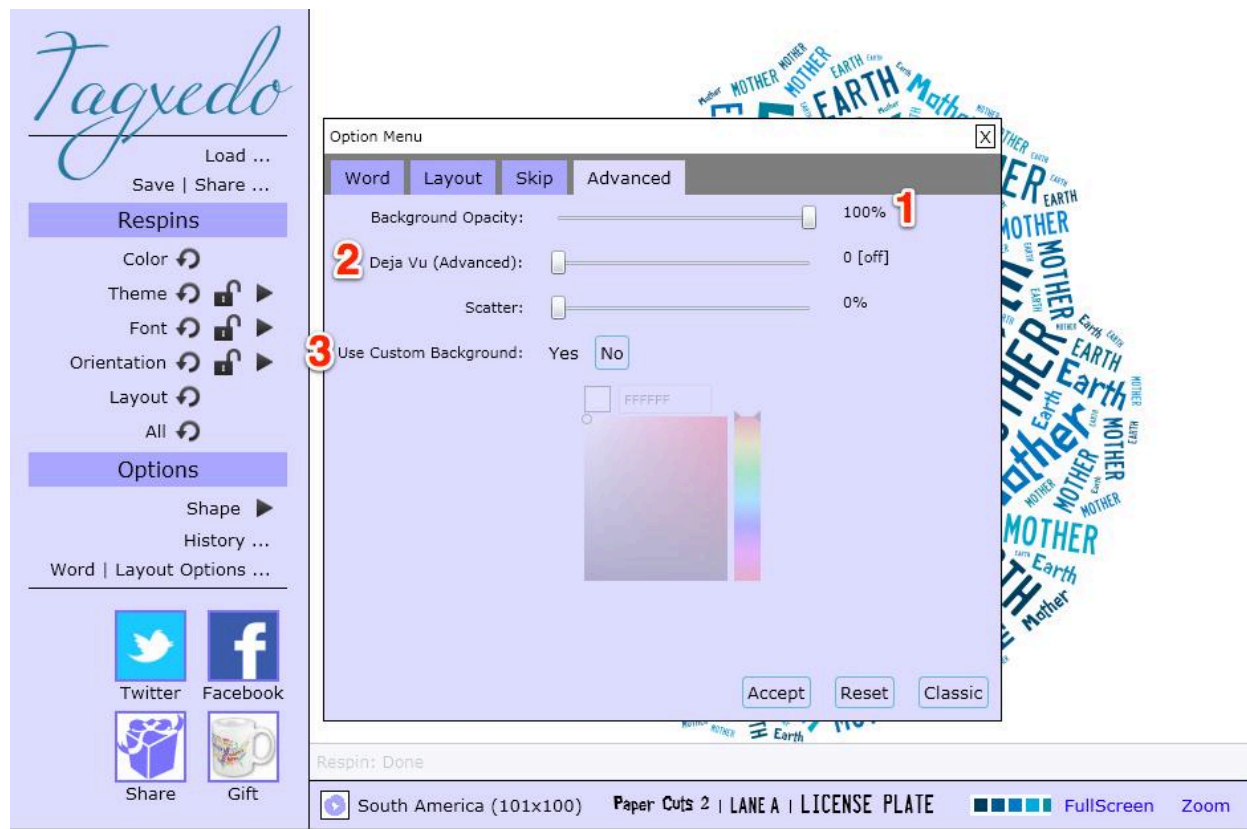
Once you've ticked your desired fonts, under Word | LO options > Font Preference, choose "1" "2" "3" or "all (ticked)" to control which fonts will appear in the cloud. If need be, come back to this panel for a font respin

This part of the menu bar says what fonts are being used. Remember, "All" = all TICKED

A word about the Word|LO Options > Skip tab

Be careful when using "Skip" - it eliminates a word from your list and there's no way to get it back other than by reloading a prior spin in "History"

Word|LO Options > Advanced



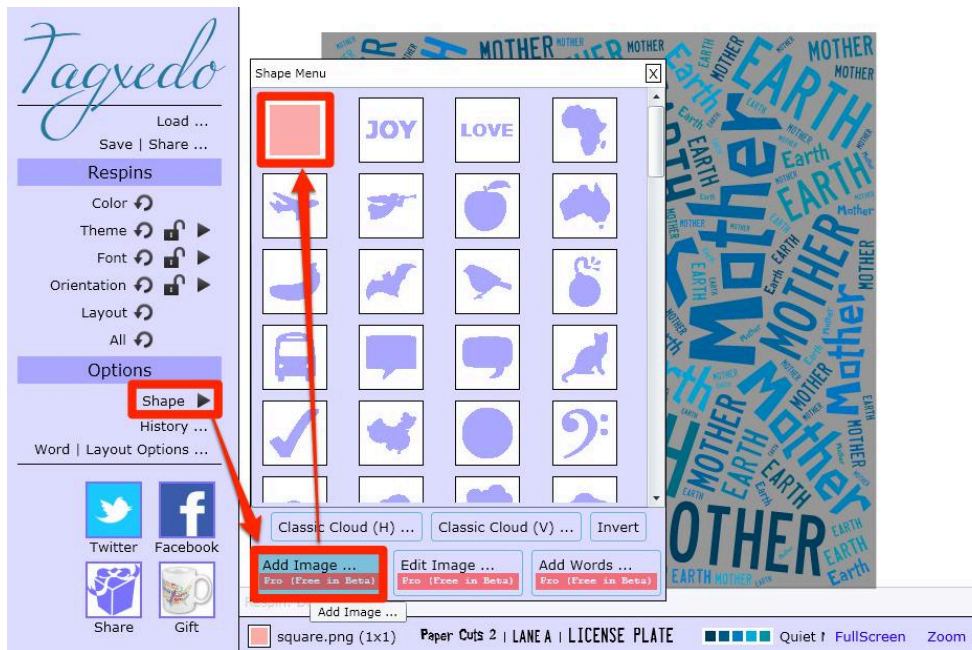
(1) Set Background Opacity to zero for a png with a transparent background. To be on the safe side, if you know you want a transparent background, DO THIS BEFORE YOU START MAKING YOUR RESPINS. Most of the time I have been able to change the background after the fact, but on one occasion I couldn't load a layout with a solid background from the history and make its background transparent after the fact.

(2) Deja Vu - words will have the same colors in subsequent spins (same effect as if you had specified the color of each word in the "Load" window. However, with Deja Vu on, clicking "Layout" doesn't change anything

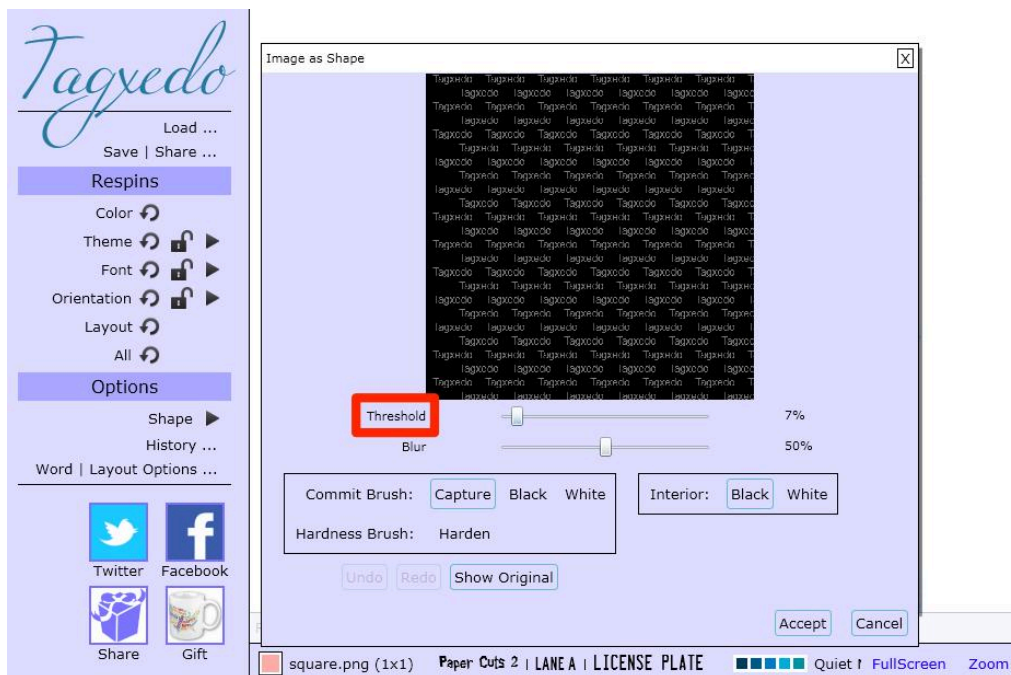
(3) Use Custom Background - lets you specify the background color of your cloud

Putting it all together - creating a square word cloud using words selected from <http://www.peterlevitt.com>

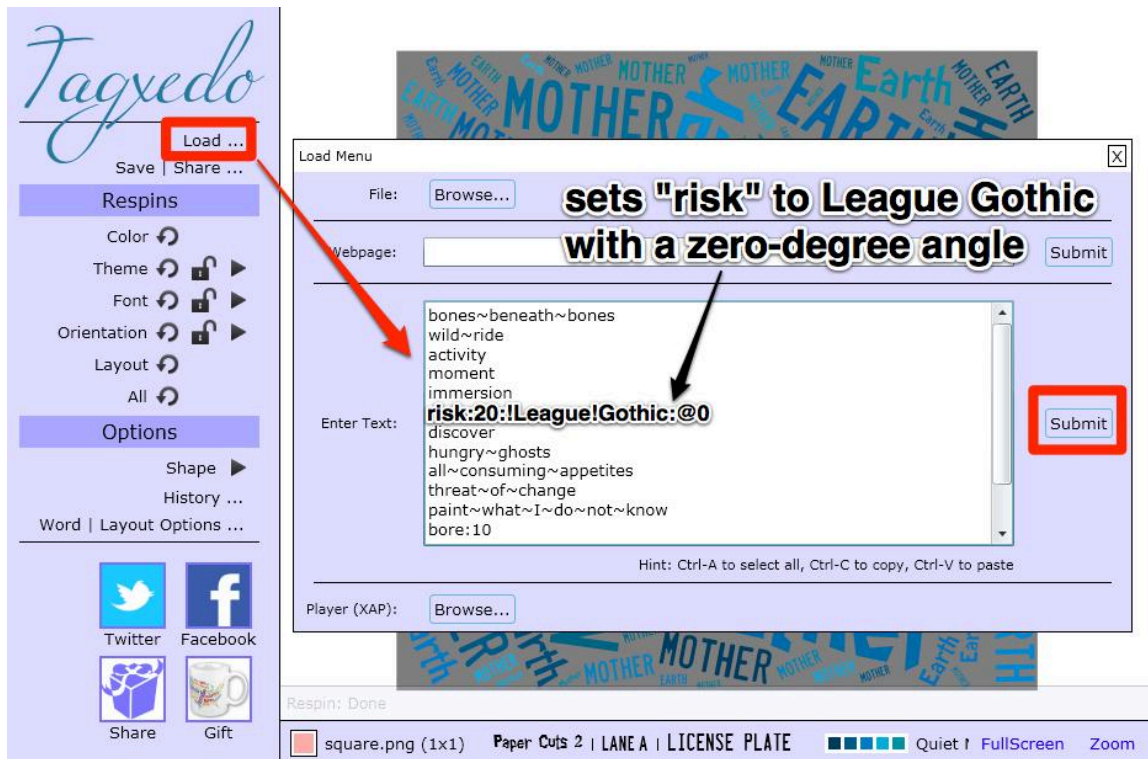
- Uploaded a png of a square (Shape > Add Image)



- The Edit Image window comes up - set threshold to 7, because that's what makes "tagxedo" appear in the square



- Using the Load menu, uploaded the following text (space-separated would work too; the words and phrases don't have to be on separate lines)

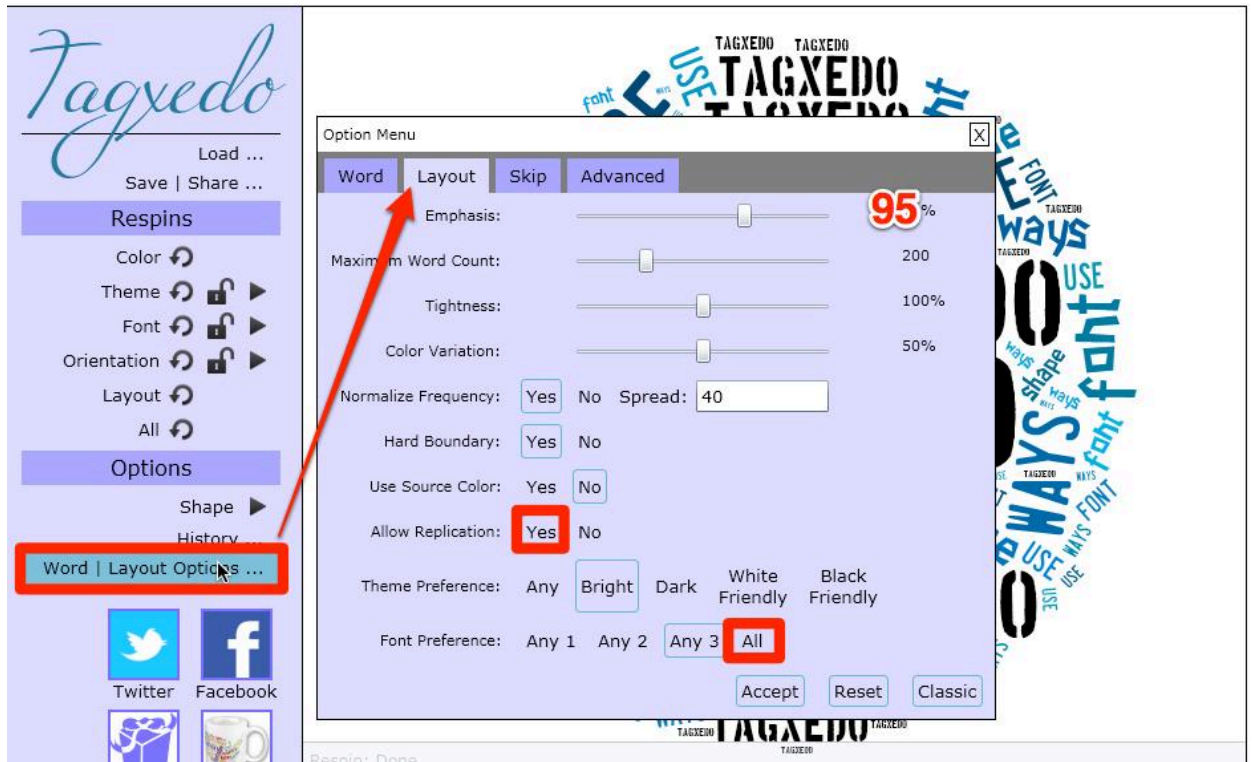


I wanted “*risk*” to be the biggest, most common word and “*bore*” to be bigger and more common than the other words and arbitrarily picked 20 and 10 for frequencies. I kept phrases, such as “*bones beneath bones*” together using tildes (*bones~beneath~bones*).

- Toggled all the fonts off, then uploaded AI Verdigris, League Gothic and Pea Aubrey from my computer - the three new fonts are automatically ticked on and are the only ones ticked on (well, not greyed out)
- Picked main menu settings of Theme = Black on White, Orientation = H/V



- Changed the Word | Layout Options > Layout tab to:
 Emphasis=95
 Font Preferences=All; that means *all three fonts I uploaded from my computer and only those three (the only ones not greyed out in the Font menu) will be used*
 Allow Replication should be ON (default condition)



- After testing, “risk” and “bore” weren’t big enough. I went back into “Load” and changed the loaded text to *risk:200:!League!Gothic:@0* and *bore:150*
- Ran a few more Layout spins to get what I wanted, used Word | Layout Options > Advanced to set the background opacity to zero, and saved as a 16MP png

