

SN3-HOW3-ClippingToMasks-transcript



Scrap It Now How to Clip Photos to the Clipping Masks Transcript

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If you're not used to using clipping masks for the photos on your scrapbook pages, you might find these templates a little bit tricky. Let me show you the quick ins and outs of clipping masks to get you started off on the right foot.

I'm beginning here in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements, but the instructions are exactly the same for Adobe Photoshop unless were noted. The template I have open has already been duplicated and the original was already closed.

The first thing you'll want to do is to go into the Layers panel and activate the layer that you're wanting to clip a photo to. I'll activate this top layer right here, which coordinates to that photo right there. Next, open a photo that you want to clip to that mask. I already have one open. I'll get the Move Tool and then click and drag the photo onto the template. As a side note, occasionally when dragging a photo onto your document, it will not land in the correct place in the Layers panel. If that happens to you, simply click and drag the photo directly above the mask that you wish to clip it to. Next, click and drag on the corner handles of the bounding box to resize the photo so that the subject is clearly visible on your document, but make sure that the boundaries of the photo are still quite a bit larger than the photo mask behind it. If you cannot see the corner handles of the bounding box, press Ctrl 0, Cmd 0 on a Mac, to fit the bounding box to your viewing area. And if you need to reposition the image, simply click and drag inside the bounding box. Click the checkmark to commit and then in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

Now that we can clearly see the subject of the photo inside the photo mask, you may want to resize it even a little bit smaller. I'll do the same thing as before by clicking and dragging on the corner handles of the bounding box. Click and drag inside the bounding box to reposition. And when the photo is where you like it, click the checkmark to commit.

Extra instruction is helpful when clipping photos to complex masks, such as this mask down here in the corner of the template. And that's because the edges of a complex mask are not usually uniform. So when resizing a photo that's clipped to a complex mask, you need to watch out for the sharp edges of your photo. Let's take a look at the edges of this photo

mask for an example. Good practice for filling a photo mask like this is to make sure that all of the splatters are either completely filled with the photo or not filled at all. Let me show you what I mean. I'm going to click and drag the edge of this photo over here to the edge of the mask. You can now see that this splatter in the mask is only half filled with the photo. That would be considered bad practice. There are times when you just don't have enough photo to fill the entire complex mask. And in that case, my suggestion is to either completely fill the splatters or do not fill them at all. If this were the case for me, I would move the photo over to the right just enough so that these splatters are not filled and they're just a solid color, but these other splatters here to the right are filled with the photo.

And this is a good time to make a note, that it's never acceptable to click and drag on the side handles of a photo. Doing that is going to stretch the photo out of proportion and it's going to make your scrapbook page look very unnatural. We'll talk more about working with complex masks and adjusting them in another video in this section of class. So that's how to clip photos to the clipping masks of your Scrap It Now templates. This has been Jen White with Scrap It Now.