

SN3-HOW4-1-MaskTransforming-transcript



Scrap It Now

Tips for Making Complex Masks Magical Transforming and Liquifying Masks Transcript

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Masks can't be magical if they don't work nicely with the photos that you're clipping to them. In this video, we'll use Transform and Liquify to make the complex masks on your scrapbook page better fit your photos.

First of all, you should know that masks are not like other elements and papers in your scrapbook kits. Those things should not be squeezed and skewed and stretched. But masks on the other hand, can do all of those things. This video is being filmed in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements, but the instructions for Adobe Photoshop are exactly the same except where noted.

Once you have a photo clipped to a complex mask, you may find that you want to alter the mask to better fit your photo. I'll activate this mask that's behind this photo right here. And to squeeze the mask smaller, hold down the Shift key and click and drag inward on a side handle of the bounding box. You should also feel free to click and drag outward with the Shift key held down, but you do want to make sure and not extend the mask past the boundary of the photo. I'll click on Cancel and show you another thing that you can do.

Masks can also be skewed into place. Hold down the Ctrl key, or the Cmd key on a Mac, and click and drag on one of the corner handles of the bounding box and you can skew a side in if that makes it better fit your photo. You can also skew a photo from the side handles of the bounding box. Again, hold down the Ctrl key in Windows, or the Cmd key on a Mac, and click and drag on a side handle and that skews the shape one way or another.

The takeaway here is that masks can be transformed any which way in order to fit your photo better. But what if you don't want to raise the entire top of the photo, just a small portion? I wanted to fill in a little bit more of my grandsons head up here. Instead of using transform for that, we'll use the Liquify filter. In the Layers panel, start by activating the mask that you want to alter, and if you're using Photoshop Elements, you'll want to make a note of the part of the mask that you want to expand or contract. I'm going to make a mental note that it's about the

center of the top of this mask right here. Then in the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Distort > Liquify. If you're using Photoshop, you would choose Filter > Liquify. In the dialog box, use the zoom to navigation down at the bottom left corner so that your mask is easily viewable and transformable. Then, get the Bloat tool and hover your cursor over the mask and then press the Left or the Right Bracket keys to make your brush smaller or larger. You want the size of the brush to be slightly smaller than the mask itself. Photoshop users can also check, Show Backdrop, and set the Opacity of the backdrop to 50%. Then remembering where you wanted to bloat the mask, hover your cursor over the edge of the mask and click once. You'll see it instantly bloat. One click actually goes a long way. If you click and hold down your mouse, the mask will transform very quickly. That will usually result in something a little unnatural looking. So I'll undo that and instead I'll just make a series of quick clicks here to kind of bow the top of that mask. If you're using Photoshop, you can continue clicking until you like the look of the mask. Here in Elements, it's just a guessing game. So when you think you probably have it where you like it, click OK. Here it was before, and here it is now. If you feel like you'd like to add more bloating, simply repeat the process.

In the next video, we'll cover three magical mask altering tips. I'll see you there.