

## Brushability: Making Mask Brushes - BONUS

### Lesson 4: Minute Mask Manual (Photoshop Elements) © Syndee Rogers

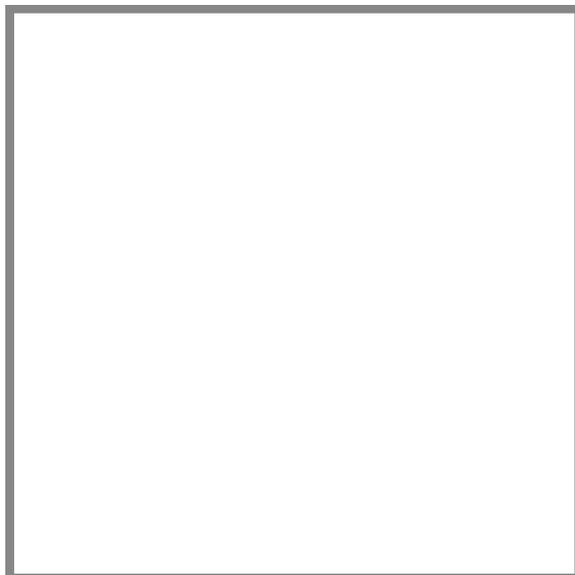
#### Terms of Use

In this bonus lesson we'll create a super easy blended mask that'll have you going gaga for Shapes!

This lesson was filmed in Photoshop Elements, but the instructions are the same for Adobe Photoshop unless where noted.

#### Step One: Prepare Your Workspace

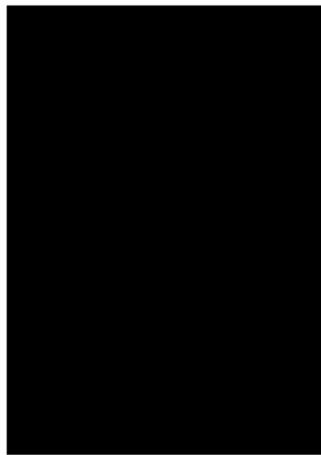
- Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop by creating a new 10 x 10 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. (**PS:** File > New.)



- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

### **Step Two: Create the Mask Shape**

- Get the Rectangle Shape Tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Style to None, open the Geometry Options and choose Fixed Size. Enter 5 inches for the width and 7 inches for the height. Check From Center and Click on New Shape Layer. (**PS:** Choose Pixels, set the Mode to Normal, the Opacity to 100%, and click on the Anti-Aliasing icon. Set the Path Operations to New Layer. Then Open the Path Options and choose Fixed Size, enter 5 inches for the width and 7 inches in height).
- On the document, click and drag slightly to create the shape.

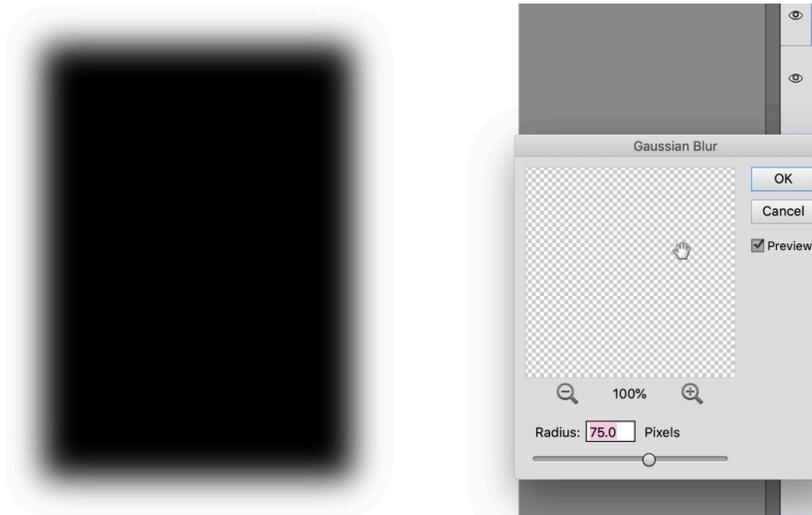


The size of your mask will depend on the size of your photos so this is just a guide.

- Open the Tool Options, and click Simplify to rasterize the shape. (**PS:** No need to rasterize in Photoshop since we chose Pixels.)

### **Step Three: Soften the Shape**

- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur.
- In the dialog box set the Radius anywhere from 75-100 px. Depending on how soft and blended you want your mask to be. Click OK.



#### Step Four: Clip a Photo to the Mask

- Get the Move tool.
- Open a photo (File > Open) to clip to the mask.

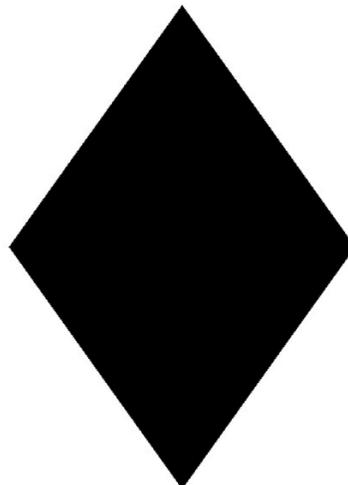


- Activate the photo.
- Holding down the Shift key, click and drag over to your document, on top of your photo mask.
- Press Alt Ctrl G or (Mac: Opt Cmd G) to clip the photo to the mask.
- On your document, click inside the bounding box of the photo and move into position.



### Step Five: Create a Second Mask (Optional)

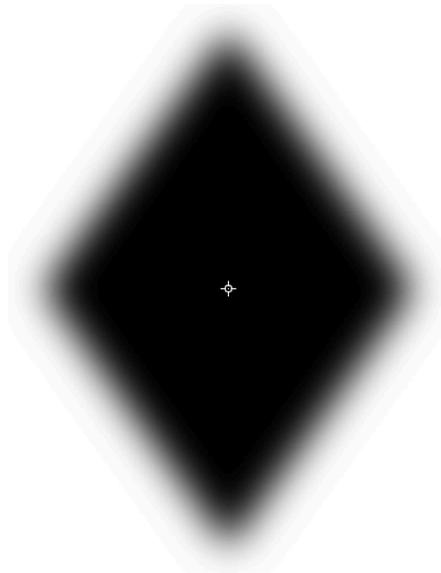
- In the Layers panel, Click on the Visibility icons of the photo and mask layers to hide them.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Get the Custom Shape tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Shape Picker and choose Shapes, and then choose the Diamond shape.
- Set the Style to None, open the Geometry Options and choose Fixed Size, Enter 5 inches for the width and 7 inches for the height. Check From Center and Click on New Shape Layer. (**PS:** Choose Pixels set the Mode to Normal, the Opacity to 100%, and click on the Anti-Aliasing icon. Open the Path Options and choose Fixed Size, enter 5 inches for the width and 7 inches in height.)



- On the document, click and drag slightly to create the shape. The size of your mask will depend on the size of your photos, this is just a guide.
- Open the Tool Options, and click Simplify. (**PS:** No need to rasterize in Photoshop since we chose Pixels.)

### **Step Six: Soften the Shape**

- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur.
- In the dialog box set the Radius anywhere from 75-100 px. Click OK.



### **Step Seven: Clip a Photo to the Diamond Mask**

- Get the Move tool.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the photo layer up above the diamond mask layer
- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the photo to turn it back on.
- Press Alt Ctrl G or (Mac: Opt Cmd G) to clip the photo to the diamond mask.



### **Step Eight: Save the Document**

- Save your document (File > Save As) as a layered PSD in the class folder for this lesson (BRM-04-04-Bonus).