



Perfectly Personal Word Art

Big Letter Mask Variation 3 – Photoshop Elements Transcript

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In this lesson we're going to create a third variation on the big letter mask using the gradient tool along with a layer mask. This is another fun way to give our big letter mask an artistic touch.

So here we are in Photoshop elements. Like the previous variations, we're going to start with the artistic letter mask base file, so make sure to open it. Then as we did previously, make sure you duplicate the file by going to the menu bar and choosing file, duplicate. Click okay and then make sure to close the original. I've already done all of that here.

Now double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to activate the type. Type in the new word that you wish to use. I'm using the word buttons in all caps and then once you're done, click the checkmark to commit. As you can see, my word is too big for the document, so I need to change the font size of this word. To do that, get the horizontal type tool. And in the tool options, set the font size to 110 and then press enter to commit that. Now press control A in windows or command a on a Mac to select all. And then get the move tool. And because we changed the font size, we need to recenter the word on the document, so click on the align vertical centers icon and the align horizontal centers icon. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select.

Now we need to add the paint. So open one of the seven paint files included in the class downloads for this section. I'm using the paint 07 dot PNG file. With the move tool still active, on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the paint onto the artistic letter mask base copy document, then let go. Then in the layers panel, move the paint layer below the type layer. And then on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the paint layer until it's positioned behind the word as you would like it. So I'm just going to drag my down a little bit.

Now in the layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it. Then get the gradient tool and in the tool options click to open the gradient picker and choose the foreground to transparent gradient. If you don't see the foreground to transparent gradient, click to open the fly out menu and choose large list. If you still don't see the gradient, then click on the dropdown box and choose the default list. Then click on the linear gradient icon. Set the mode to normal, the opacity to 100% and check reverse, transparency, and dither. Now in the layers panel, click on the add layer mask icon and at this point make sure the foreground color chip is black. If it isn't, press the letter X to switch it back to black. Then on the

document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the gradient from the top of the letters all the way down to below the bottom edge of the letters.

I'm going to use this letter mask to create a title for scrapbook page I'm making about the bachelor button flowers that grow natively where I live. So the next step is to recolor the layers. I'll be using colors that coordinate with my scrapbook page and photos. Feel free to use the same colors, or colors of your own choosing. First, let's get the move tool because we don't need the gradient tool anymore. And then in the layers panel, click on the paint layer to activate it. Click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a light blue color. I'm using hex number 9CA8E2 and then click okay.

Then in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. Then click okay and in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask. Now in the layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it. Then click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a light blue color that's a few shades darker than the previous color you used for the paint. I'm using hex number 6887E4 and then click okay. Now in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. And then click okay in the dialog box. And in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask.

Now I'm going to show you a bonus tip on customizing this variation. In the layers panel, look at the type layer with the layer mask. Notice the icon that shows that the layer mask is linked to the type layer. That little icon is what keeps the layer mask positioned exactly in line with the type layer we added it to, but now that I've recolored my mask, I'm wishing the word buttons was a bit more see-through on the bottom. Instead of starting over, I can simply do the following. In the layers panel. Click on the layer mask link icon I just pointed out to turn it off. Then in the layers panel, click on the layer mask thumbnail to make sure it's the part of the layer that's active. You can tell by the outline around it. Then press control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options.

And I'm going to change how high up my gradient goes by pressing and holding the shift key while I click and drag from the middle top handle. I'm going to drag this up until I like the amount of fade on my word, so about there and once it's how you like it, then you can click the checkmark to commit. Now in the layers panel, click on the spot in between the type layer thumbnail and the layer mask thumbnail to turn the link back on.

Now that our file is ready, it's time to save this as both a PSD layered file and a flat PNG file. First the PSD file. In the layers panel, click and drag the white background layer to the trash and then in the menu bar, choose file, Save as and save this file as artistic letter mask variation three dot PSD. Doing this will allow you to save this file and change the word without having to do all of the steps again. You can also recolor the color layers using this PSD file as well. Now to save this file for using in a digital project, in the menu bar, choose file, save as and save this file as buttons dot PNG. This will save a flat version of the mask that you can easily use on any digital project.

So now that you've seen how to create a third variation, it's time to show you how I used it in a project. Here is the scrapbook page I made using my buttons big letter mask. Mixing this mask with a script font for a striking title is a fabulous way to use these custom big letter masks. And since I can customize the colors, I was able to match my mask to the colors from the page and the photos.

Next up we're going to look at one more variation of the big letter mask. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.