



Brushability: Making Mask Brushes - Vintage Mask

Lesson 1: Foundation Transcript (Photoshop Elements) © Syndee Rogers

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In this lesson we'll layer brushwork and elements to create the foundation of our vintage inspired mask brush.

Here in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements, I've already created a 10 x 10 inch document at 300 pixels per inch with a white background. And I've opened the modified roses image from the heart mask Lesson 2 (BRM02-02-Color2BW). I've also reset my Color Chips to the default of black over white by pressing the letter D.

Let's start by activating our roses document. Holding down the Shift key, click and drag the roses over to your document. Now in the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the Background layer to hide it. And now let's get the Magic Wand tool, and then in the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Tolerance to 40, and make sure Sample All Layers and Contiguous are unchecked, and check Anti-aliasing. Now on your document, with your roses layer active, click with your Magic Wand tool on any white area. Then press the Backspace or the Delete key on a Mac, to get rid of the white areas of the roses. In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Deselect. And in the layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the Background layer to turn it back on.

Okay, the next thing we're going to do is add a flourish to our document. So open the flourish element (BRM-04-Flourish-SyndeeRogers.png) that's included in the class downloads. Then get the Move Tool, and click and drag the flourish on to the document. Then click and drag inside the bounding box and position so that it's roughly centered on top of your roses element. The next step is to add a floral motif. So open the floral motif element (BRM-04-FloralMotif-SyndeeRogers.png) from the class downloads. And then with the Move tool, click and drag the floral motif over to your document. Then click and drag inside the bounding box and position so that it's roughly centered on top of your roses element as well.

And now for the fun part! At least I think it's fun. We're going to paint a round shape with the Brush tool that will act as a photo mask. So in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon and get the Brush tool. And in the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose one of the texture brushes we created in our previous lessons. I'm using the grunge texture brush we created in lesson 3 of our Heart Mask (BRM-02-03-GrungyText). If you don't see your brush see the manual for tips on finding and loading your brush. Now set the Size to 500 pixels, the Mode to Normal, and the Opacity to 100%. Now on your document, roughly in the center of your elements, click and drag to paint a round shape. Now remember this doesn't need to be perfect, the whole point is that it looks painted in grungy. You can use the reference mask in your class downloads as a guide for the shape and size if you would like. Refer to the manual for detailed instructions on how to do so.

Now if you look at the mask so far, something looks out of place. Have you guessed it yet? There's a section of the stem of the roses that's visible at the bottom of our mask, and I think you'll agree that it looks out of place there. So in the Layers panel, activate the roses layer. Then get the Lasso tool, and in the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, check Anti-aliasing, and set Feather to 0. Then on your document, click and drag out a selection around the stem of the roses that is visible at the bottom of the mask. Now press the Backspace or the Delete key on a Mac to get rid of the stem. And in the Menu Bar, choose Select > Deselect.

And that's it for this lesson, but save it as a PSD by going to File > Save As. Give it a name, I'll name mine BRM, 04 for Section 4, 01 for Lesson 1, Vintage Mask. Navigate to your class folder for this lesson, and click Save.

I think it's already looking pretty fabulous, but the fun continues in the next lesson where we will create a grungy music brush. See you there! This is been Syndee Rogers with Brushability Masks.