



Perfectly Personal Word Art Artistic Big Letter Mask Variation 4 – Photoshop

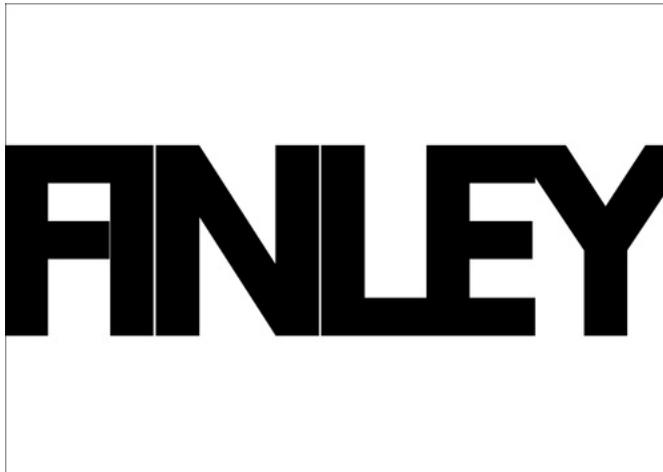
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Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the Artistic Letter Mask Base file (File > Open).
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Duplicate. Click OK.
- Close the original file.

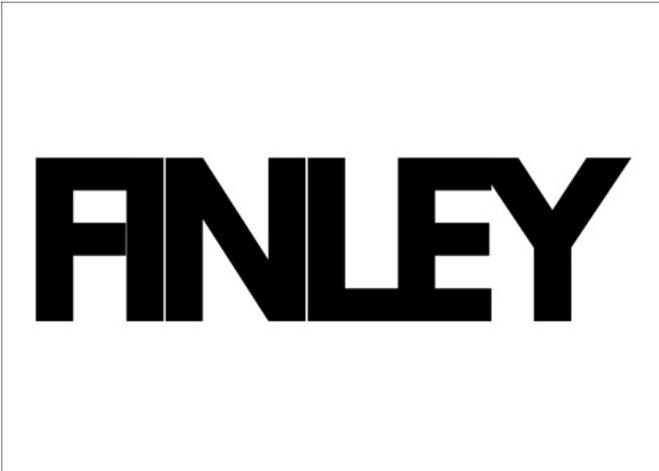
Step Two: Update the Type

- Double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to activate the type.
- Type in the new word you wish to use. I'm using the word FINLEY in all caps.
- Click the checkmark to commit.



- As you can see, my word is just slightly too big for the document so I need to change the Font Size of this word. To do that, get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options adjust the Font Size so that your entire word fits on the document. I have to change the Size to 150pts. Adjust your Font Size accordingly.

- Now press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Horizontal Centers icon and the Align Vertical Centers icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

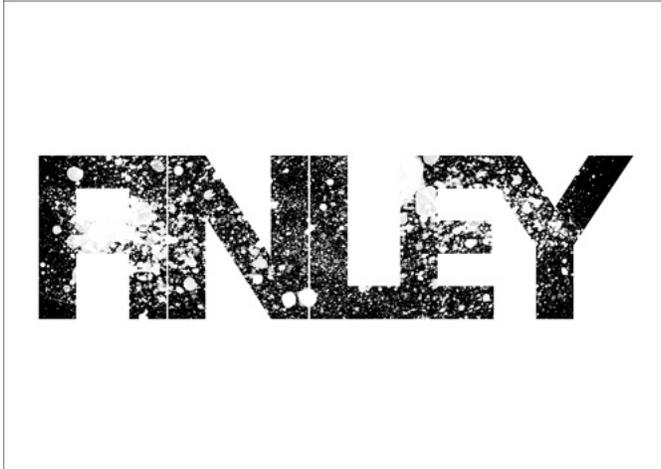


Step Three: Add the Paint Layer Mask

- I've already opened Paint-02.png that comes in the downloads for this section of the class.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paint file onto the base copy document you're currently working with.
- In the Layers panel, move the paint layer below the type layer.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- Press and hold the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) and click and drag from a corner handle to make the paint layer smaller.
- Click the checkmark to commit.
- If necessary, use the Arrow keys to nudge the paint layer into place.

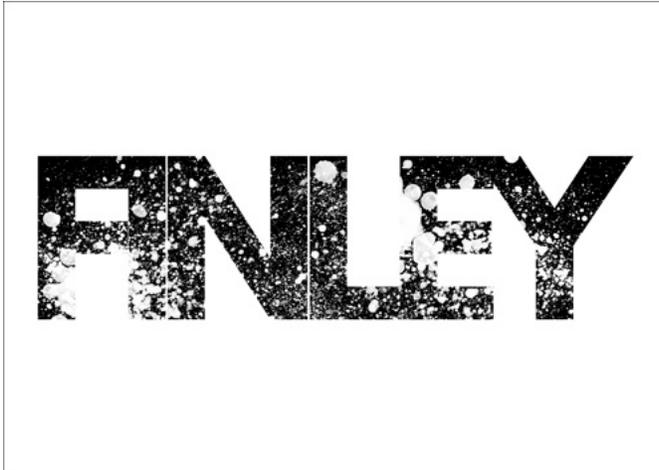


- In the Layers panel, Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on the thumbnail of the paint layer to get a selection outline.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Inverse.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Type layer to activate it.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- In the Layers panel, drag the paint layer to the trash.



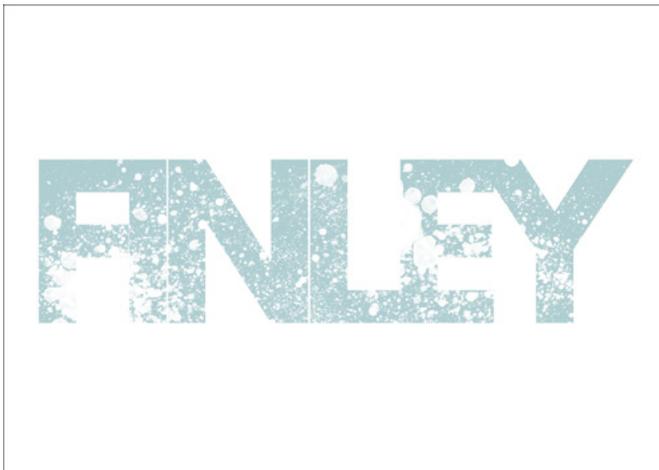
Now at this point, I can see that I need to reposition my paint slightly as it's making it very hard to tell what the first and second letter are. To do that, we're going to use the same tip we used in a previous lesson. If you're using a different word, you may not need to do this next part.

- So, in the Layers panel, click on the Link Layer Mask icon to unlink the layer mask from the type.
- Then, make sure that in the Layers panel, the thumbnail of the layer mask is the part of the layer that's active. If you're not sure, just click on the layer mask thumbnail to activate it.
- Now on the document, you can either move the paint around until it's how you want, or if necessary, you can change the size of the paint within the layer mask by pressing Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- I'm going to make the paint a bit bigger and then move it down so that the middle stem of the letter F isn't completely white. Once the paint is positioned how you like, Click the checkmark to commit.
- Then, in the Layers panel, click in between the Type thumbnail and the Layer Mask thumbnail to once again, link the two together.



Step Four: Recolor the Type

- In the Layers panel, click on the Type thumbnail (not the Layer Mask thumbnail) so that the Type is what is active. We're doing this because if you try to change the Foreground Color Chip while the Layer Mask is active, it will only show you shades of gray since Layers Masks only work with grayscale colors.
- Now, click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a color that will work with a project. I'm using Hex #: afced1. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



Step Five: Save As

- In the Layers panel, drag the white background layer to the trash.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As and save this file as a layered PSD file that is named Artistic-Letter-Mask-Variaton4.psd. Doing this will allow you to change the type and the color for future projects.

- Now, before we save this as a PNG file, we need to trim the excess pixels. To do that, In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Trim.
- In the dialog box, set the Based On to Transparent Pixels and set the Trim Away to all four options of Top, Bottom, Left, and Right. Click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As and save this as a flat PNG file for using in your digital project.

Now that we've made our fourth variation on the big letter mask, let's look at how I used this on a project.

Here is the scrapbook page I made using my FINLEY word art. I love how it became the anchor for my title. And because of the paint making the word a little harder to read, I made sure to include the last name again in a much smaller font size with a completely different font to help emphasize their last name.



Credits:

Page: Jenifer Juris

Photo: Jodi Finley (sister)

Kit: Chasing Dragonflies by Brandy Murry

Fonts: League Gothic Bold, Bollivia Rosilla Script, Veteran Typewriter

