



## Perfectly Personal Word Art Artistic Letter Mask Variation 2 – Photoshop Elements

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The next variation I'm going to show you is taking what we've already done with adding the paint, and just adjusting the Opacity of the layers.

### Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the Artistic-Letter-Mask-Base.psd file.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate to create a copy. Click OK.
- Next, open the Paint-03.png file that came in the downloads for this lesson.

### Step Two: Update the Word

- Go back to the Letter Mask Base document.
- In the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to activate it.
- Type in the new word you wish to use. I'm using the word NIECE in all caps. Click the checkmark to commit.

NIECE

### **Step Three: Add the Paint**

- Go to the Paint-03.png file we previously opened.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paint file onto the Letter Mask Base Copy file document.
- In the Layers panel, move the paint layer below the type layer.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- While holding down the Alt key, click and drag from a corner handle until the left and right sides of the bounding box line up with the left and right edges of the document. Click the checkmark to commit.
- With the Move tool still active, on the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the paint layer up or down until it's positioned how you prefer. I'm moving my paint layer down just a bit.



### **Step Four: Change the Opacity**

- In the Layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it.
- Change the Opacity of the type layer to 80%. If you have the Move tool activated, you can simply press the number 8 to change the opacity to 80%.

NOTE: This keyboard shortcut won't work when you have something like the brush tool activated. When you use the keyboard shortcut of the number 8 while the brush tool is activated, this will change the brush tool's opacity, not the layer's opacity. So make sure the move tool is active when you do this.



- In the Layers panel, click on the Paint layer to activate it.
- Again, press the number 8 key on your keyboard to make the Opacity of this layer 80%.



### **Step Five: Recolor the Layers**

Now, sometimes it's hard to see what this mask might look like when it's pure black so let's just take a quick look at this mask while it's a different color.

- To do that, click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a shade of teal. I'm using Hex #: 49c7b4. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, make sure the Paint Layer is still the active layer and then click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- Then in the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- Now press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate this layer.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the teal layer above the type layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



Now you can more easily see how this mask might look as a title or decorative accent on a project. I think this looks pretty cool.

- But, let's say you want to change the color of the paint behind the type. To do that, in the Layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the Solid Color Fill that is clipped to the paint layer to pull up the Solid Color Fill Color Picker.
- Choose a bright pink color. I'm using Hex #: e978a7. Click OK.



So as you can see, playing around with the Opacity of the layers can offer a slightly different look. And while we were playing with the Opacity, you also saw one method of how to recolor these masks for any project you're using.

### **Step Six: Save As**

- As with any of these files, you can either save this as a layered file (PSD) or you can delete the white background layer and save this as a flat PNG file. I have been doing both just to make sure I have my bases covered.

So now that I've shown you how changing the Opacity of the layers is another great variation on the letter mask base, let me show you how I used this mask in a project.

So here is the scrapbook page I made using my second variation on the big letter mask. I really like the artsy style of this page and the big letter mask with the paint and lowered opacity really helps add to the design.



Credits:

Page: Jenifer Juris

Photo: Heather Love

Kit: What Little Girls Are Made Of by Simple Pleasure Designs

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