



Perfectly Personal Word Art

Big Letter Mask Variation 2 – Photoshop Elements Transcript

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In this lesson, we're going to spend a few minutes going over a second variation we can do to the artistic letter mask base file.

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. So first of all, make sure you open the artistic letter mask base file and then in the menu bar, choose file, duplicate to create a copy and then click okay. Now go back and close the original artistic letter mask base file.

Next, open the paint 03.PNG file that came in the downloads for this lesson. But before we use that, go back to the artistic letter mask base copy file, and in the layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to activate it. And we're going to type in a new word that you'd like to use. I'm going to use the word niece in all caps and then click the checkmark to commit. Once you're done if you end up picking a word that's bigger than the word niece or it doesn't fit on the document and you have to make the font size smaller, you'll want to make sure that you center the new word on the document, after you've resized the font.

Now go to the paint 03. PNG file we previously opened and 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 document and then in the layers panel, drag the paint layer below the type layer. Now press control T in Windows command T on a Mac to get the transform options. And then while holding down the alt key in windows or the option key on a Mac, 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. And then 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 lower just a little bit.

So now 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 eight to change the opacity to 80%. Now this keyboard shortcut won't work when you have something like the brush tool activated. When you use the keyboard shortcut of the number eight while the brush tool is activated, this will change the brush tool's, opacity, and not the layer's opacity. So make sure the move tool's active when

you do this. Then in the layers panel, click on the paint layer to activate it. And press the number eight again to change the opacity of this layer to 80. 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 number 49C7B4 and then click okay. Now in the layers panel, make sure the paint layer is 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 okay. Then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask. Now press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate this layer. And in the layers panel, click and drag this duplicated layer above the type layer. And then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask.

Now you can more easily see how this mask might look as a title or a decorative accent on a project. I think it 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 to pull up the solid color fill color picker. Choose a bright pink color. I'm using hex number E978A7 and then click okay. 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 got to see one method of how to recolor these masks for any project you're using. As with any of these files, you can either save this as a layered PSD file or you can delete the white background layer and save it as a flat PNG file. I have been doing both just to make sure I have my bases covered, but it's totally up to you.

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's 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 the lower opacity really helps add to the design. Next up, we're going to look at a third variation to the big letter mask. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.