



## Perfectly Personal Word Art

### Big Letter Mask Variation 2 – Photoshop 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, open the artistic letter mask base dot PSD file. And then in the menu bar, choose image, duplicate to create a copy and then click okay. Now you can go ahead and close the original artistic letter mask base dot PSD file. Next you're going to want to open the paint.03 PNG file. Let's go back to the letter mask base document for a second. In the layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to activate it and then type in the new word you wish to use. I'm going to use the word niece, but you can use whatever you want. And then click the checkmark to commit once you're done. Now go back 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 file document. Then let go. Then in the layers panel, move the paint layer below the type layer. Now press control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options.

And 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, so about there. 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 down just a bit, about there.

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%. Note, this is 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 layers opacity. So make sure the move tool is active when you do this. Now in the layers panel, click on the paint layer to activate it and then again, press the number eight on your keyboard to make the opacity of this layer 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 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 the click. Okay. Then in the layers panel,

make sure the paint layer is the active layer and then click on the create a new filler adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. And then 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 then in the layers panel, click and drag the teal 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 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, and I'm going to choose a bright pink color. I'm using hex number E978A7 and then click okay.

As you can see, playing around with the opacity of the layers can have 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. As with any of these files, you can either save this as a layered file, which is a PSD, 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.

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 use 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 lowered 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.