



## Perfectly Personal Word Art

### Negative Space Mask 02 – Photoshop Elements Transcript

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In this lesson, we're going to use the ellipse tool to help us add perfectly shaped negative space to our mask. It's going to be fun, but the steps are important. So make sure you watch closely.

So here I am in Photoshop elements. I've already created a new document that is 12 inches by 12 inches at 300 pixels per inch with a white background. Press the letter D to reset the color chips to the default of black over white. Now I've also already opened mask zero seven dot PNG that can be found in the downloads for this lesson. So open that mask now and then once your mask is open, get the move tool. And on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the mask onto your working document and let go. Now click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using hex number CCCCCC, and then click okay.

Since the main portion of this mask is circular, I wanted to have some extra fun with this. We're going to create a type layer that follows the bend of the circle. To do that, the first thing we need to do is get the ellipse tool. So in the tool options, set the style to none and the geometry options to fixed size. Enter a width and height of three inches. And then click on the create a new shape layer icon. Now on the document, click and drag to create the circle, getting it as close as possible to the center of the mask.

Now you might be in the habit of simplifying your shapes right away, but don't do that here. Press the letter X to make your foreground color chip white. And then get the horizontal type tool. In the tool options, click to open the font picker and choose a font. I'm using a font called Kingthings printing kit regular. It's a free font that you can download from font squirrel.com. Then set the size to 48 points and the alignment to center.

On the document, move your mouse over the gray circle and you'll see that your pointer turns into a T with a circle around it. That's not quite what we want. That would fill the circle with the text box and that's not the effect we need right now. So slowly move your mouse down to the bottom edge of the gray circle and you'll see your cursor changed from a T with the circle around it to a T with a wavy line through it. That's the cursor we want. Click once now. At this point, type the word or words that you wish to use with your mask. I'm going to create a scrapbook page about my dog Bilbo, so I'm going to use the words Bilbo Baggins in all caps. But don't click the checkmark once you're done typing. As you can see now that you've typed your word, it's upside down. That's not very readable. So with the type

layer still active, press and hold the control key in windows or the command key on a Mac and make sure your mouse is over the type layer so that you get a white cursor just like it looks now. That's what we want. So with the control or command key still pressed, click and drag the type inside of the circle and then you can let, let go of the mouse. But keep the control and command key held down. And you could also rotate the type at this point and place it how you want within the circle. This is about where I want it. So once you're done, click the checkmark to commit.

Now in the layers panel, click and drag the gray circle layer to the trash. And then in the layers panel, make sure the type layer is the active layer, then press control T in windows or 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 to make the type layer slightly larger. I want my type to be as close to the edge of the mask circle as possible. And then once you're done, click the checkmark to commit.

In the layers panel, control click in windows or command click on a Mac on the thumbnail of the type layer to get a selection outline. Then in the menu bar, choose select, inverse. In the layers panel, click on the mask layer to activate it. And then in the layers panel, click on the add layer mask icon. In the layers panel, you can now click and drag the type layer to the trash.

Now in the layers panel, click and drag the white background layer to the trash. And then in the layers panel control click in windows or command click on a Mac on the thumbnail of the complex mask layer, not the layer mask thumbnail but the complex mask to get a selection outline. And then in the menu bar, choose image, crop. Now press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. At this point, you can save this file as negative space mask two dot PNG in the same folder as the previous mask. Now that we've created our second mask together, let's look at how I used it in a project.

Here is the scrapbook page I made using my custom negative space mask. I really love how the mask does double duty by anchoring the photo and giving my page a title all at the same time. I kept the page simple so that the mask plus the photo cluster would be the highlight. Next up, we're going to do a homework project together. It's going to be fun, so I hope to see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.