



Perfectly Personal Word Art Big Letter Mask Variation 4 – Photoshop Elements Transcript

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In this lesson we're going to look at one last variation on the big letter mask. It's pretty simple, but it gives us another artistic option to use.

So here I am in Photoshop elements and like before I've already opened the artistic letter mask base file. And like before, I've already created a duplicate and closed the original. Now you can double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to update the type. Pick a word that you want to use. I'm going to use the word Finley in all caps and then click the checkmark to commit. Now my word is just slightly too big for the document, so I need to change the font size. To do that, let's get the horizontal type tool. And in the tool options I'll need to change my font size to 150 points. You might have to use a different font size depending on the size of your word. Now press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. And we need to center the word on the document again. So get the move tool and in the tool options, click on the align vertical centers icon and the align horizontal centers icon. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select.

So I've already opened the paint 02.PNG file 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 and let go. And 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 press and hold the alt key in windows or the option key on a Mac and click and drag from a corner handle to make the paint layer smaller. And then once you're done, click the checkmark to commit. Now if necessary, use the arrow keys to nudge the paint layer into place. In the layers panel control click in windows or command click on a Mac on the thumbnail of the paint layer to get a selection outline. Then in the menu bar, choose select, inverse. Then in the layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it and then 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 kind of hard to tell that that first letter is a letter F. So to do that, we're going to use the same tip we used last time. 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 control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options. I'm going to make the paint just a little bit bigger and move it down so that the middle STEM of the letter F isn't so white. Let's see here, about there. And then once you're done you can click the checkmark to commit. Then in the layers panel, click in between the type layer thumbnail and the layer mask thumbnail to once again link the two layers together.

Now in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. In the dialog box, set the hex number to the color of your choice. I'm using AFCED1 and then click okay. Then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask. Now in the layers panel, drag the white background layer to the trash.

And then in the menu bar, choose file, save as and save this file as a layered PSD file that is named artistic letter mask variation 4.PSD. Doing this will allow you to change the type and the color for future projects. Now before we save this as a flat PNG file, we can trim the excess pixels. So to do that 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 image, crop. Now press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. Then 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's 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.

Next up, we're going to do something a little different for the homework because big letter masks aren't always something you see as often as traditional paper piece word art. We're going to spend our homework practicing using our big letter mask to create a beautiful card. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.