

BMC-S2-L2-el-Mixing-Masks-manual



A Beautiful Mess Simplicity Challenge
Section 2, Lesson 2 - Mixing & Matching Masks
Manual for Photoshop Elements

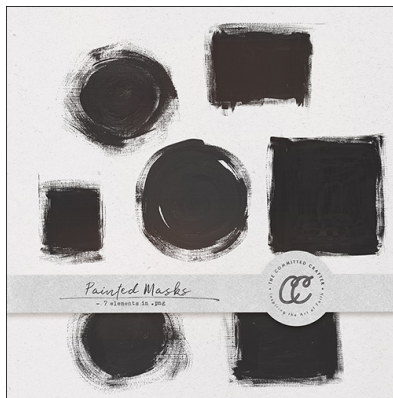
Mix and match masks on your scrapbook page like a pro with the help of a few design tips and some savvy shortcuts.

For this lesson, you will need:

- 2-3 complex masks similar in design
- 2 complex masks similar in design that contrast with the first group

For this tutorial I'm using

- Masks 2, 3, and 4 from [Painted Masks by The Committed Crafter](#)
- Masks 9 and 14 from [Watercolor Portrait by MixPixBox](#).

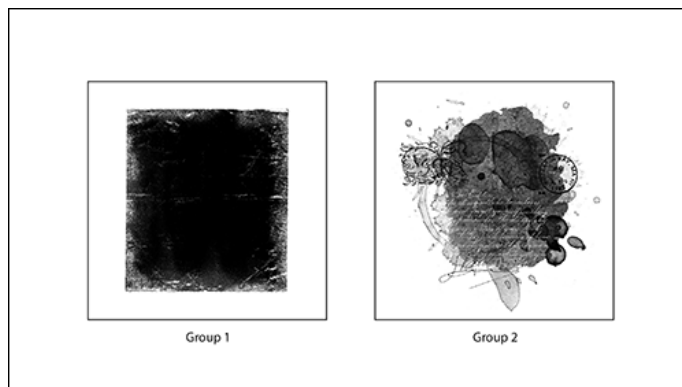


Suitable Substitutes

- 3 inked masks or oil painted masks
- 2 mixed media masks or watercolor masks

Tips for Choosing the Two Groups of Masks

- The two groups of masks should be contrasting by design - what was used to create the masks.
- Black masks will work best. (See How to Neutralize below)



How To Neutralize a Patterned or Painted Masks

- Open the mask (File > Open).
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate.
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- Close the original mask file.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips.
- Press Shift Alt Backspace (Mac: Shift Opt Delete) to fill the mask with black.
- Save the mask (File > Save As) with a unique name in the same location as the original mask.

Prepare Your Workspace

- Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements.
- Open the scrapbook page (File > Open) you left off with in Lesson 1.
- Open the masks you plan to use on your page. I'll open 5 masks.

Which Masks Are Best for Photos?

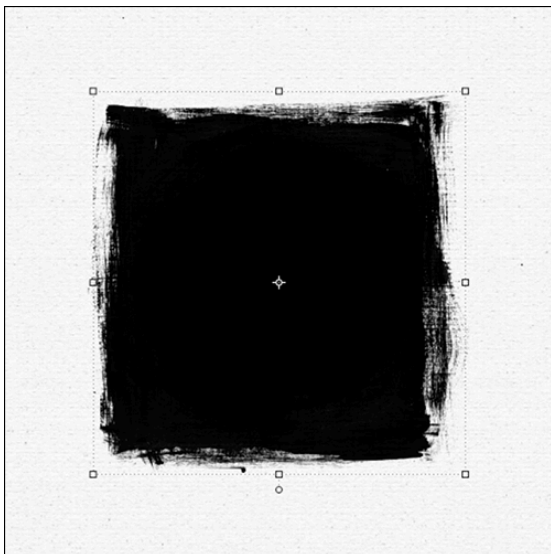
- Masks that are fairly solid in opacity.
- I'll use the painted masks for my photos.

Add the First Group of Masks - the Photo Masks

- Open the Photo Bin.
- Click and drag a mask you plan to use for photos onto the document.
- Click and drag the second and third photo masks onto the document.

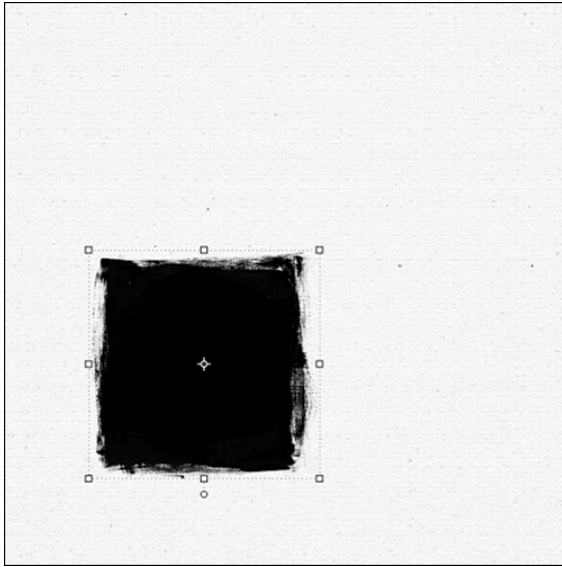
Note: In the Layers panel, the mask layers need to be above the paper layer.

- Close the Photo Bin.



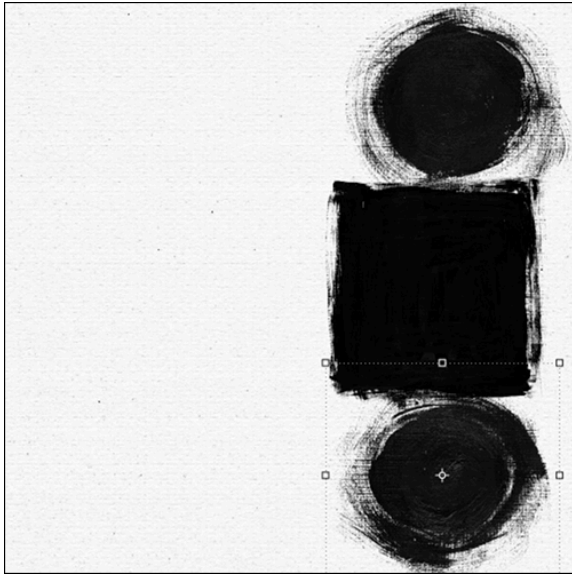
Scale Similar Photo Masks at the Same Time

- In the Layers panel, click on the top photo mask to activate it.
- Hold down the Shift key and click on the bottom photo mask. Now all three painted photo masks should be active.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- On the document, click and drag inward on a corner handle of the bounding box until the masks are about 1/3 the height of the document, so a little under 5 inches tall.
- Click the checkmark to commit.



Place the Masks in a Row

- In the Layers panel, click on the top mask to activate it all by itself.
- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, uncheck Auto Select.
- On the document, click and drag the mask into position on the right side of the page.
- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click to activate the next mask you want to move.
- Click and drag the mask into position on the document.
- On the document, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click to activate the next mask you want to move.
- Click and drag the mask into position on the document.

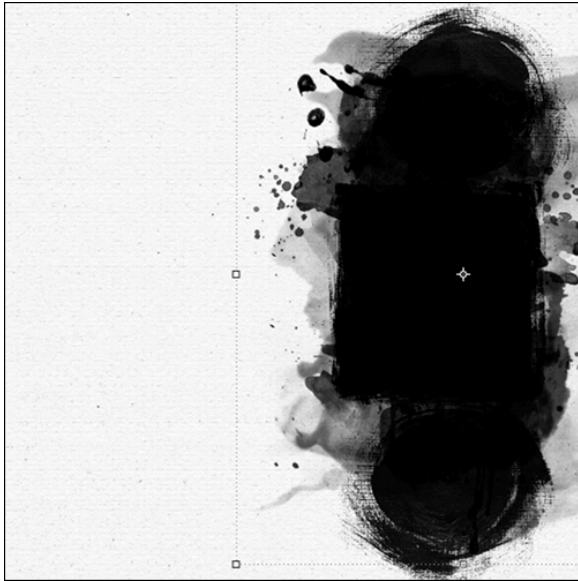


Add the Second Group of Masks - the Anchor Masks

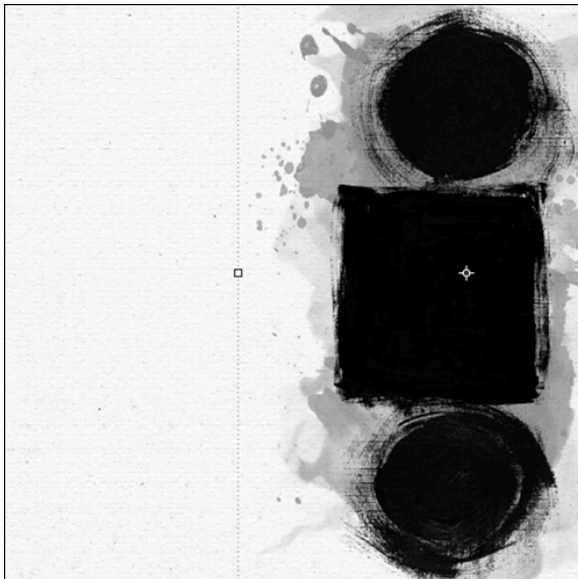
- In the Layers panel, click on the textured paper layer to activate it.
- Open the Photo Bin.
- Click and drag a mask you plan to use for an anchor onto the document.

Note: The mask layer should be directly above the paper layer in the Layers panel. If it's not, click and drag it there now.

- Close the Photo Bin.
- On the document, click and drag the new mask directly behind the photo masks.

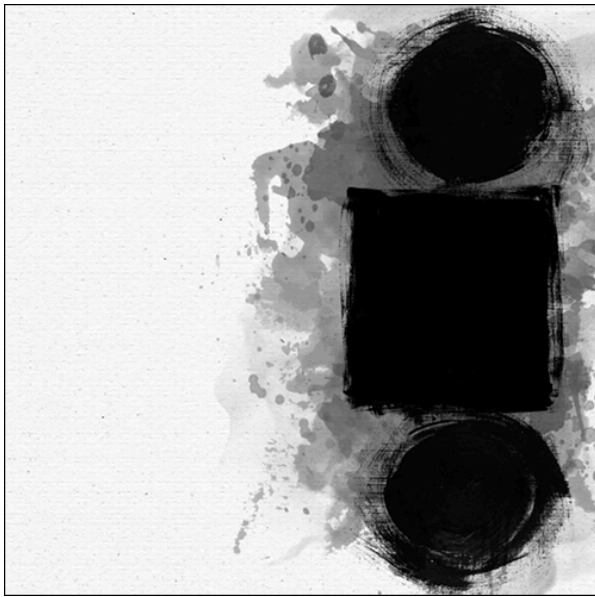


- With the Move tool active, press 4 5 to set the Opacity to 45.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the current bounding box to the screen.
- Click and drag on the handles of the bounding box to stretch the mask to fill the right side of the document.
- Click the checkmark to commit.



- Open the Photo Bin.
- Click and drag the last mask onto the document.

- Close the Photo Bin.
- On the document, click and drag the second mask directly behind the photo masks.
- With the Move tool active, press 4 5 to set the Opacity to 45.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to fit the current bounding box to the screen.
- Click and drag on the handles of the bounding box to stretch the mask to fill the right side of the document.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) inside the bounding box and choose Flip Layer Horizontally.
- Click the checkmark to commit.



Review Design Basics

See the examples of how flow, focus, and repetition are used on this page.

