**Perfectly Personal Word Art**
**Negative Space Mask 02 – Photoshop 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. 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. Then I've also already opened mask zero seven dot PNG that can be found in the downloads for this lesson. You'll want to open that now. 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. Next, click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a light gray color. I'm going to use 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. In the tool options, set the tool mode to shape, the fill to solid color, and the stroke to none. Click to open the path operations and choose new layer. And then click to open the geometry options and choose fixed size. Enter a width and height of three inches. Also make sure align edges is checked. Then on the document, click and drag to create the circle and place it as close to the middle of your mask as possible, but the exact placement doesn't matter at the moment.

Now 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 going to use 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 mouse 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 isn't the effect we need right now. So slowly move your mouse down to the bottom edge of the gray circle and at some point you're going to see your cursor change from a T with a circle around it to a T with a wavy line through it. That's the cursor we want, click once now.

Now type the word or words that you wish to use with this mask. I'm going to create a page about my dog Bilbo. So I'm going to use the words Bilbo Baggins in all caps, but you can use whatever you like, but

don't click the checkmark when 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 you place your mouse exactly over the type layer and you're going to get a white cursor with a double sided arrow. And that's what we want. So with the control key or the command key still pressed, click and drag the type inside of the circle. Now at this point you can also rotate the words around the circle to place it where you would like. I'm going to place mine in the lower right portion of the circle. So go like this with the control key or the command key still pressed. You can do this and that's about how I want it. And then once you're done, you can click the checkmark to commit.

Now in the layers panel, click and drag the gray circle layer to the trash. Then in the layers panel, make sure that your 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 the type to be as close to the edge of the circular part of the mask as possible. So let me do that now. And then once you're done, click the checkmark to commit.

Now 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. Then in the layers panel, click on the complex mask layer to make it the active layer. Then in the layers panel, click on the add layer mask icon. In the layers panel, click and drag the type layer to the trash. Now in the layers panel and click and drag the white background layer to the trash Now in the menu bar, choose image, trim. And in the dialog box, set the based on to transparent pixels and set the trim away to all four options of top, bottom left and right, and then click okay.

At this point you can save the 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.