



Perfectly Personal Word Art Negative Space Mask 2 – Photoshop

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Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new document (File > New) that is 12 inches by 12 inches at 300ppi with a white background.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.

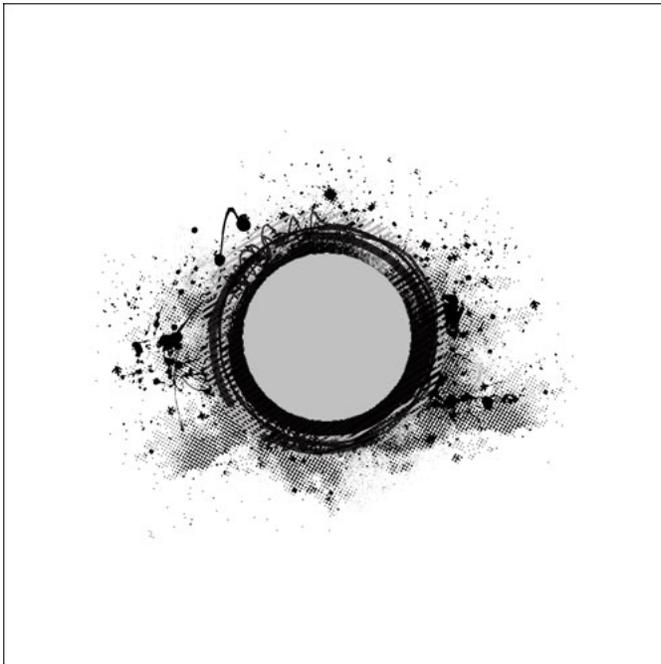
Step Two: Add the Mask

- Open Mask-07.png that can be found in the downloads for this lesson.
- Once your mask is open, get the Move tool.
- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the mask onto your new document.



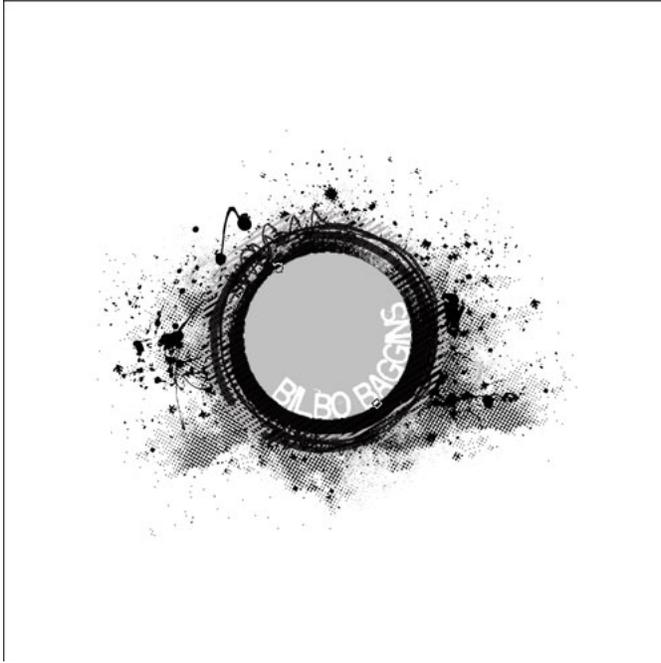
Step Three: Create the Type

- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a light gray color. I'm using Hex #: cccccc. Click OK.
- 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. Click to open the Geometry Options and choose Fixed Size. Enter a width and height of 3 inches.
- On the document, click and drag to create the circle. Place it as close to the middle of your mask as possible.



- Press the letter X to make your Foreground Color Chip white.
- 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 Printingkit that you can find for free from Font Squirrel.com. Set the Size to 48pts, the Alignment to Center, and the Tracking to 0.
- 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 a 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. At some point you'll 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 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 don't click the checkmark when you're done typing.

- As you'll 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 Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and make sure you place your mouse exactly where the type is resting. When it is, the cursor will turn into a white arrow with a double sided arrow next to it. This is what we want. So with the Ctrl or Cmd key still pressed, click and drag the type inside the circle. At this point, you can also rotate the words around the circle so place it where you like. I'm going to place mine in the lower right portion of the circle. Once it's placed, click the checkmark to commit the type.



- In the Layers panel, click and drag the gray circle to the Trash.
- In the Layers panel, make sure the type layer is the active layer.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- While holding down the Alt key, click and drag from a corner handle to make the type layer slightly larger. I want the type to be close to the edge of the circular part of the mask. Once that's done, click the checkmark to commit.



Step Four: Create the Layer Mask

- In the Layers panel, Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on the thumbnail of the type layer to get a selection outline.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Inverse.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Mask layer to make it the active layer.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- In the Layers panel, click and drag the type layer to the Trash.
- The document won't look any different than before but now we just have one layer instead of two.

Step Five: Save As

- In the Layers panel, click and drag the white Background layer to the Trash.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Trim.
- 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. Click OK.



- At this point, you can save the file as Neg-Space-Mask2.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.



Credits:

Page & Photo: Jenifer Juris

Negative Space Mask: Jenifer Juris

Kit: Family Time by Meg Designs

Fonts: Kingthings Printingkit