Perfectly Personal Word Art
Big Letter Mask Variation 4 – Photoshop Transcript
© 2019 Jenifer Juris

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 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. So first we need to update the word, so double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to activate the type. And then type in the new word you wish to use. I'm going to use the word Finley in all caps. Then I'll click the checkmark to commit. And my word is just slightly too big for the document. So I need to change the font size of the word. To do that we'll get the horizontal type tool and in the tool options I'm going to adjust the font size to 150 points. If you use a different word, you'll probably have to use a different size. Now press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. And we need to recenter the word on the document. So get the move tool and in the tool options, click on the align horizontal centers icon and the align vertical 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 dot PNG file that comes in the downloads for the section of this class. On the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the paint file onto the base copy document that you're working with and let go. 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. Then once you're done, click the checkmark to commit. And also if necessary, you can use the arrow keys to nudge the paint layer into place.

Now 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. 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 very hard to tell what the first and second letters are. So to do that we're going to use the same tip that 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 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 it 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 my paint a bit bigger and then move it down so that the middle STEM of the letter F isn't completely white. So once the paint is positioned how you like, you can click the checkmark to commit. Let me just make this a little bit bigger. Move it down just a little bit, about there.

Then in the layers panel, click in between the type thumbnail and the layer mask thumbnail to once again link the two layers together. Now in the layers panel, click on the type thumbnail, not the layer mask thumbnail so that the type is what is active. We're doing this because if you try to change the foreground color chip while the layer mask is active, it will only show you shades of gray, since layer masks only work with grayscale colors. Now click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a color that will work with your project. I'm using hex number, AFCED1 and then click okay. In the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. Click okay. And then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask.

Now in the layers panel, you can drag the white background layer to the trash and then in the menu bar you can choose file, save as and save this file as a layered PSD file that is named artistic letter mask variation 4 dot PSD. Doing this will allow you to change the type and the color for future projects. Now before we save this as a PNG file, we need to trim the excess pixels. To do that 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. Now 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.