

SN3-HOW4-2-MaskAltering-transcript



Scrap It Now Tips for Making Complex Masks Magical Fill In, Mask Away, and Color Masks Manual

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Use the Brush tool to fill in, mask away, and color a complex mask to make it more magical for your photos. This video is being filmed in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements, but the instructions for Adobe Photoshop are exactly the same except where noted.

One of the magical things about masks is that they are usually semi-transparent, but they're not so magical when the transparency causes the faces of your beautiful loved ones to be covered in patterns. So if your mask in photo combo is showing a pattern on the faces of your loved ones, here's how to fix that.

In the Layers panel, first activate the mask that the problematic photo is clipped to. Then press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white and get the Brush tool. In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose a Soft Round brush from the Default Brushes. If you're using Photoshop, you would choose a Soft Round brush from the General Brushes. Also, set the Mode to Normal and the Opacity to 100%. If you're using Photoshop, you would also set the Flow to 100%. Then hover your cursor over the subject of your photo and then press the Left or the Right Bracket keys to make the brush larger or smaller. You want the brush to be about the size of the subject. So, I want my brush to be about the size of his little face. You definitely don't want to make the brush larger than the mask itself. We don't want to brush on the outside of the mask, only on the inside of the mask. Then click on the image to fill in areas of the mask so that the pattern disappears from the subject, in my case, this cute little face. Now the pattern has disappeared from his face but not the rest of the background, which makes the mask look more blended and natural.

Another problem you may have on your templates is when there's not enough photo to cover some of the splatters from the mask itself. One thing you can do here is to trick the eye by adding matching color to the splatters of the mask. To do that, first get the Color Picker tool, in Photoshop this is called the Eyedropper tool, and then on your photo click to sample a color. As I'm clicking, you can see the Foreground Color Chip changing to different colors. I'll choose a color that matches his shirt. Next, get the Brush Tool, and in the Tool Options, open

the Brush Picker and choose a Hard Round brush from the Default Brushes. In Photoshop, you would choose a Hard Round brush from the General Brushes. Set the Mode to Normal, the Opacity to 100%, and in Photoshop also set the Flow to 100%. In the Layers panel, click on the photo that is attached to the mask that you want to alter. So I'll want to click on the photo of the little boy yawning. Click on the Create a New Layer icon, and then clip that layer down by going into the Menu Bar and choosing Layer > Create Clipping Mask. Next on the document, hover your cursor over a splatter that you want to fill in, and press the Right or the Left Bracket key to make the brush slightly larger than that splatter. And finally, click to fill in the color. You can fill all the splatters with the same color or you can choose a variety of colors. I'll just use the same.

There will likely also be times when the splatters of the mask are in the way of journaling or other parts of your page. Here's how to mask those splatters away. Get the Brush tool, and in the Tool Options, again open the Brush Picker and choose a Hard Round brush. The Mode should be set to Normal, Opacity to 100%, and in Photoshop the Flow should also be set to 100%. In the Layers panel, click to activate the mask that you'd like to alter. I want to alter the mask that is connected with this photo of the little boy yawning, so I'll click on that mask in the Layers panel to activate it. Then click on the Add Layer Mask icon. The Foreground Color Chip should now be black. If it's not, press the letter X. Then on the document, hover your cursor over the splatter that you'd like to remove and then press the Left or the Right Bracket key to change the size of the brush so that it's slightly larger than that splatter. And finally, click over the splatter to mask it away.

So those are some ways that you can alter the masks on your Scrap It Now templates, and this has been Jen White for Scrap It Now.