Perfectly Personal Word Art
Negative Space Mask Homework – Photoshop
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Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open Mask-03.png.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Duplicate. Click OK.
- Close the original file.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips.

Step Two: Add the Type

- Press the letter X to switch the Foreground color to white.
- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, set the Font to Kingthings Printingkit, set the Size to 40pts, and the Alignment to Center.
- On the document, click once and type the word or words you wish to use. I'm making my QP about my niece being a flower girl in my sister's wedding so I'm going to use the words FLOWER GIRL in all caps with a return used after the word flower. Once you're done, click the checkmark to commit.
- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, move the type into place. I want my type placed along the bottom center of the mask.

Step Three: Add 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 activate it.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- In the Layers panel, drag the type layer to the Trash.

Step Four: Save As

- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As and save this file as Neg-Space-Mask3.png in the same folder as the others.

Ok, so now that we've got our negative space mask ready, let me show you how I used it on this quick page located in the downloads for this lesson. The quick page has been provided for you so that you can practice right along with me. I know that your pictures and words will be different from mine but it's good to practice using the negative space mask so you get comfortable with it.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the QP.png file seen above.
- Open the Neg-Space-Mask3.png file we just created.

Step Two: Place the Mask on the Quick Page

- While on the mask document, get the Move tool.
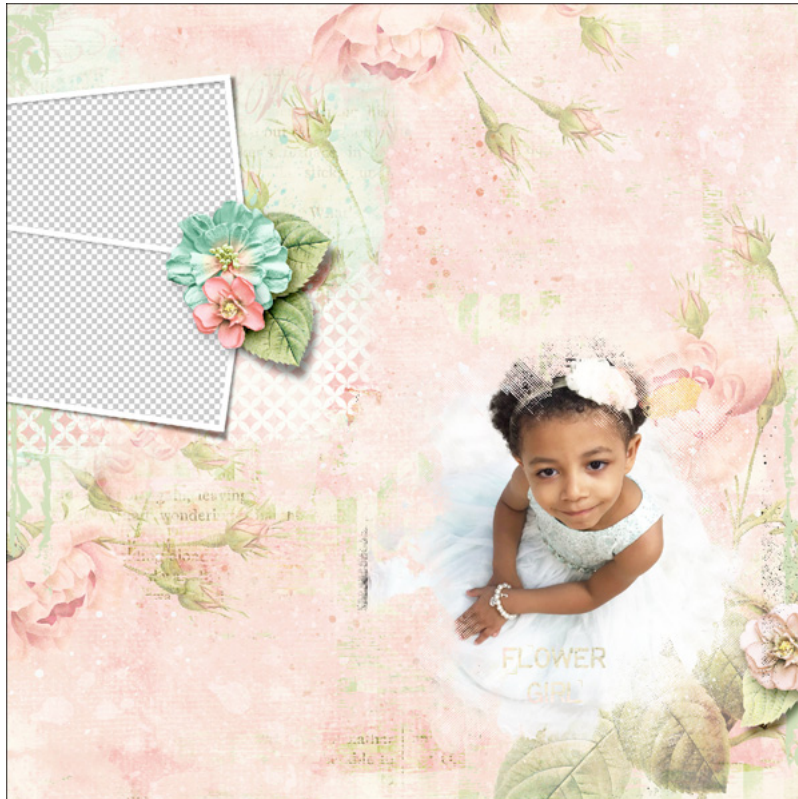- On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag the mask onto the QP document.

- On the document, click and drag the mask layer towards the bottom right corner.
- Now Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- On the document, click and drag from the top left corner handle and reduce the size until it's about 78% smaller. Click the checkmark to commit.
- If necessary, use the Arrow keys to nudge the mask into place.

Step Three: Add the Photos

- Open the photos you'd like to use with this quick page. I've already opened the two photos I plan to use and I'm looking at the first photo that I plan to clip to my negative space mask.
- With the Move tool still active, on the document, click and drag the photo onto the quick page document.
- Then, move the photo over the top of the negative space mask.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

- As you can see, the photo doesn't quite fill the mask. So at this point, I have a few options. The first option is to transform the photo and make it larger. But that doesn't always work depending on the photo and I really don't want to do that here.
- With this photo, I'm lucky. The entire photo backdrop has white or almost white as the color. So instead of resizing the photo, I'm going to recolor my mask to white.
- So, in the Layers panel, click on the mask layer to activate it.
- Your Foreground Color Chip should still be white but if it isn't, make it white now.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Mask layer to activate it.
- Now press Shift Alt Backspace (Mac: Shift Opt Delete) to fill the complex layer with the Foreground Color. Depending on your photo, you might need to use a different color so keep that in mind. Just know that this trick doesn't always work with every photo out there. But I wanted you to know about it in case it does help you here.

- Now it's time to move the other photo or photos to your quick page document. So, here I've gone to my second photo that's open.
- On the document, click and drag the photo onto the quick page document.
- In the Layers panel, drag this second photo to the bottom of the Layers panel.
- Then position and possibly Transform your photo to fit the space.

Step Four: Final Touches

- At this point, my photos are placed but if you haven't noticed, my negative space message, the words flower girl, are hard to read right now. Let me show you a quick trick to help fix that. This is something you can use on your scrapbook pages, too.
- So, in the Layers panel, click on the pink layer below the negative space mask + layer mask layer to activate it.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a darker color from the background. I'm using Hex #: bfcb92. Click OK.
- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, click to open the Brush Picker and choose a Soft Round Brush. If you don't see the Soft Round Brush, click to open the flyout menu and choose Restore Default Brushes. If you still don't see the Soft Round Brush, click to open the folder called General Brushes. Set the Size of the brush to 500 pixels. Close the Brush Picker and set the Mode to Normal and the Opacity to 50% and the Flow to 100%. Set the Smoothing to 0%.
- On the document, click and drag over the area where the words are in the mask.

Now, all that's left is for you to add a title, some journaling, and a date.

So that's how my quick page looks now that I'm done! I hope you have fun customizing your mask and quick page for your own photos.

Credits:
Quick Page Design: Jenifer Juris
Photos: Jody Johannes (Step Mother)
Kit: Quiet Beauty by Syndee Nuckles
Fonts: Kingthings Printingkit, Bollivia Rosilla Script