Brushability: Masks - Weathered Mask

Lesson 1: Easy Extraction Transcript (Photoshop Elements) © Syndee Rogers
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In this lesson we'll create the first layer of our mask brush by extracting a vintage image with minimum fuss.

I'm here in Photoshop Elements and I've created a new 6 x 9 inch document at 300 pixels per inch with a white background. I've also opened up the scrollwork image from the class downloads and made a duplicate copy and closed the original. And I reset my Color Chips to the default of black over white.

We're going to start off by extracting the black scrollwork element from our scrollwork document. This method of extracting elements is great for things that don't need a precise or smooth edge, which makes it perfect for grungy designs like the one will be creating.

Let's start by activating the scrollwork document. And in the Layers panel, click on the lock icon of the Background layer to unlock it. Now let's get the Magic Wand tool, which lives in the selection tools. The Magic Wand tool is great for selecting solid colored areas. When we click on an area with the magic wand tool, it looks at the color and tone of the area we clicked and selects pixels that share the same brightness and color values. Now in the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, and set the Tolerance to 40. The Tolerance setting determines the range of color that the Magic Wand selects. The higher we set the Tolerance, the higher the range of color values will be included in the selection. Now make sure Sample All Layers and Continuous are unchecked and check anti-aliasing. And then press Ctrl + or (Mac: Cmd +) to Zoom in so we can see what we're doing. And on the document, click anywhere on a white area to make a selection of the white background. Then press the Backspace key or the Delete key on a Mac to delete the white background. And then in the Menu Bar, choose Select > Deselect.

Now let's get the Rectangular Marquee tool. And let's go ahead and Zoom out by pressing Ctrl - or (Mac: Cmd -) on a Mac. And in the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon, set the Feather to 0 pixels, and the Aspect to Normal. Now on your document, click and drag out a

rectangular shape over the top scrollwork element. Then press Shift Ctrl J or (Mac: Shift Cmd J) to place the selection on a new layer.

Okay, let's get the Move tool, and in the Tool Options, uncheck Auto Select layer. And in the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and activate both the scrollwork layers. And now on your document, and still holding down the Shift key, click and drag both of the elements over to your six x nine inch document. Continue holding down the Shift key and move the scrollwork elements to the top of your document. Now in the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icons of both the scrollwork layers to hide them.

In the layers panel click on the Create a New Layer icon. And now we're going to use the handy dandy Rectangle tool to create the foundation of our mask, but it's going to look very different once we're done with it. So let's get the Rectangle tool: it's nestled with the shape tools. And in the Tool Options, set the Style to None, open the Geometry Options and choose Fixed Size. And we want to enter 4 inches for the width, and 6 inches for the height. Check From Center, and then click on the New Shape Layer icon. Now in the center of your document, click and drag slightly to create the shape. And in the Tool Options, click Simplify.

Now get the Move tool, and in the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icons of the scrollwork layers to turn them back on and then activate the top scrollwork layer. Now on your document, click and move the active scrollwork element to the top of your rectangle shape. Some of the element will be tucked under the rectangle shape and that's fine. Now in the Layers panel, activate the bottom scrollwork layer and on your document, click and move the scrollwork down to the bottom of the rectangle shape.

Okay, let's go ahead and save our document, so go to the Menu Bar and choose File > Save As, give it a name: I'll name mine BRM for Brushability Masks, 03 for Section 3 and 01 for lesson 1, Weathered Mask. Navigate to your class folder for this lesson, and then click Save.

In the next lesson, we're going to grunge up the rectangle shape, so I'll see you there! This has been Syndee Rogers with Brushability Masks.