Perfectly Personal Word Art
Big Letter Mask Variation 3 – Photoshop Transcript
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In this lesson we're going to create a third variation on the big letter mask using the gradient tool along with a layer mask. This is another fun way to give our big letter mask an artistic touch.

So here we are in Photoshop. Like the previous variations, we're going to start with the artistic letter mask base file, so make sure to open it. Then as we did previously, make sure you duplicate the file by going to the menu bar and choosing image, duplicate. Click okay and then make sure to close the original. I've already done all of that here as I want to work with a copy so that I don't overwrite the original file.

Next, we need to update the type. So depending on the project you want to use for this, you can use the same word as I do or you can use your own word. But to do that we're going to double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to activate it. And then type in the new word you wish to use. I'm using the word buttons in all caps. And then once you're done, click the checkmark to commit. Now as you can see, my word is too big for the document, so I need to change the font size of this word. To do that, get the horizontal type tool and in the tool options I'm going to change this font size to 110 points.

So now I'm going to press control A in windows or command a on a Mac to select all. And then I need to get the move tool and I need to recenter this on the document after changing the font size. So I'll click on the align horizontal centers icon and the align vertical centers icon and then I'll press control D and windows or command D on a Mac to de-select.

Now you need to open one of the seven paint files included in the class downloads for this section. I'm going to use the paint 07 file. So with the move tool still active, on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the paint onto the artistic letter mask base copy document. And then bring it down and let go. Then in the layers panel, move the paint layer below the type layer and on the document click and drag the paint layer until it's positioned behind the words as you would like.

Now in the layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it. Then get the gradient tool. And in the tool options click to open the gradient picker and choose the foreground to transparent gradient. If you don't see the foreground to transparent gradient, click to open the fly out menu and choose large list. And if you still don't see that gradient, then choose reset gradients and click okay to amend the list. Then in

the tool options, click on the linear gradient icon. Set the mode to normal and the opacity to 100%. Check reverse, dither, and transparency. In the layers panel, I'll click on the add layer mask icon. And on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the gradient from the top of the letters to a little ways below the bottom edge of the letters.

I'm going to use this letter mask to create a title for a scrapbook page I'm making about the bachelor button flowers that grow natively where I live. So now let's recolor the layers. I'll be using colors that coordinate with my scrapbook page and photos. Feel free to use the same colors or colors of your own choosing. In the layers panel, click on the paint layer to activate it. Then click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a light blue color. I'm using hex number 9CA8E2 and then click okay.

And 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, click on the type layer to activate it. And then click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a light blue color that's just a few shades darker than the previous color we used for the paint. I'm using hex number 6687E4 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. Then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask.

Now I'm going to show you a bonus tip on customizing this variation. In the layers panel, look at the type layer with the layer mask. Notice the icon that shows that the layer mask is linked to the type layer. That little icon is what keeps the layer mask positioned exactly in line with the type layer we added it to, but now that I've recolored by mask, I'm wishing the word buttons was a bit more see-through on the bottom, but instead of starting over, I can simply do the following. In the layers panel, click on the layer mask link icon I just pointed out, to turn it off. Then in the layers panel, click on the layer mask thumbnail to make sure it's the part of the layer that is active. You can tell by the little box marks that outline it. Now press control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options. And I'm going to change how high up my gradient goes by pressing and holding the shift key while I click and drag from the top middle handle. I'm going to drag this up until I like the amount of fade on my word. Once you like how it looks, you can click the checkmark to commit.

Now in the layers panel, click on the spot in between the type layer thumbnail and the layer mask thumbnail to turn the link on. Now our file is ready and it's time to save as both a PSD layered file and a flat PNG file. First the PSD file. In the layers panel, click and drag the white background layer to the trash and 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, and then click okay.

In the menu bar, choose file, save as and save this file as artistic letter mask variation three dot PSD. Doing this will allow you to save this file and change the word without having to do all of the steps. Again, you can also recolor the color layers using this PSD file as well. Now to save this file for using on a digital project, in the menu bar, choose file, save as and save this file as buttons dot PNG. This will save a flat version of the mask that you can easily use on any digital project.

So now that you've seen how to create a third variation, it's time to show you how I used it in a project. Here is the scrapbook page I made using my buttons, big letter mask. Mixing this mask with a script font

for a striking title is a fabulous way to use these custom big letter masks and since I can customize the colors, I was able to match my mask to the colors from the page and the photos. Next up we're going to look at one more variation of the big letter mask. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.