Brushability Masks - Vintage Mask

Lesson 2: Worn Away Transcript (Photoshop Elements) © Syndee Rogers
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In this lesson we'll transform a sheet of vintage music into a worn and grungy brush and then use it to add the perfect finishing touch to our vintage mask.

I'm here in expert mode in Photoshop Elements and I've opened up the vintage music document (BRM-VintageMusic-SyndeeRogers.png) from the class downloads and made a duplicate copy and closed the original.

Notice that the background is very aged, and while that's a great look for a lot of things, it's not really something that we want when creating a brush. To make it usable for brush making we want to make the background as white as possible, and one of the ways we can do that is with the Levels Adjustment. So in the Menu Bar, choose Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Levels. Or you can use the shortcut Ctrl or Cmd L on a Mac. Now in the dialog box, click on the White Eyedropper icon, and then on your music document, click anywhere on the aged background. So that did a pretty good job. But if your background still has a lot of color to it, you would move the right Input slider to the left until the background turns white but the black areas are still dark. Next we want to make the black areas as black as we can without reintroducing color to the background. So let's move the left Input slider to the right until the music is really black but the white areas remain white. And then click OK.

Now in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon. And notice that our Foreground Color Chip is now a tan color, that's because the Eyedropper tool samples the background color when we were using the Levels Adjustment. But we need our color to be white, so click on the Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open up the Color Picker and choose white. Click OK. Now get the Brush tool. And in the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the texture brush we created in Lesson 1 of our heart mask brush (BRM-02-01-HeartMaskBase). Set the Size to 286 pixels, the Opacity to 100%, and the Mode to Normal. Now on the blank layer above the music layer, click and

drag on the edges and random areas of the document to hide parts of the music. This gives the illusion that areas are worn away, but leaves our music layer intact. And I like to pay close attention to the edges so that I can get rid of any residual background color that isn't white.

Now if you feel like you've covered up too much of the music, you can get the Eraser tool. And in the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose the same texture brush from Lesson 1 of our heart mask. Set the Size to 286 pixels, the Opacity to 100%, and the Type to Brush. And then on your document, on the brush layer, click and drag to erase some of the white brushed areas, until you're happy with how it looks.

And now we're ready to define our brush. So let's go to the Menu Bar, and choose Edit > Define Brush, let's name it BRM-04-WornMusic, then click OK.

And let's go ahead and save our worn music document, so that way it's all ready to go if we need to define the brush again. So go to File > Save As, and let's name it be BRM-04-WornMusic, navigate to the class folder for this lesson, then click Save.

As you can see here I've opened the Vintage mask document that we ended with in our last lesson. And the next thing we want to do is activate the Background layer in the Layers panel. And click on the Create a New Layer icon, then press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white. Then get the Brush tool. And in the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose your new worn music brush. Set the Size to 2500 pixels, the Opacity to 100%, and the Mode to Normal.

Now on your document, click and stamp the brush on the blank layer to add music.

And now our vintage mask brush is done and we're ready to define it. So go to the Menu Bar, and choose Edit > Define Brush, and let's name it BRM-04-VintageMask, then click OK. And now our brush is now all ready for us to use, and I'll be showing it in action in Lesson 5. And make sure to save your vintage mask document, and join me in the bonus lesson up next. This has been Syndee Rogers with Brushability Masks.