

Mastery1-03-1-el-Complex-Clipping-Mask-transcript



Digital Scrapbooking Mastery, No. 1

Lesson 3: Complex Clipping Mask, Part 1 for PSE

Transcript © 2019 Jen White

The web is home to amazing mask potential. In lesson three, I'll show you the best way to extract texture, define a brush and paint with precision to create a fantastic complex Clipping mask for our scrapbook page. Instead of starting this lesson in Photoshop or starting on the Worldwide Web, and we're going to be using Google Images. The reason we're here is to find a fantastic texture for our scrapbook page. Here's how to do it. In Google Images, type in a word. I'm going to type in texture and then click Return, and here's the thing about Google Images. All these images that you see are not for you to use to find the ones that you can really legally use. Here is what to do. In this Menu Bar up here, click on Tools and then click on usage rights, and then click on labeled for Reuse.

Now, not only does that make things a little more legal, but it actually brings out a lot of very useful images that you can use on your scrapbook page. When looking for images for this technique, you want to look for an image that has a Vignette around it, and the darker the Vignette, the better. Also, you want the Vignette to be all the way around the outside.

Sometimes it's just a matter of trial and error, but let me see if I can find one that would work really well for this technique. Notice this image right here. There's a light spot in the center and then the outside is much darker. This is the perfect kind of image to use for creating a complex clipping mask. If you find an image that you like, click on it and then take a look at the size of the image. The size of the image is listed right below the image here in Google

Images. This image that you're looking at right here is 960 px wide. Now your scrapbook page, if you're scrapping 12 by 12, is 3,600 px wide, so this image is pretty small, but you can often find a larger version of this same image by clicking on the Visit icon.

Clicking on that icon will often take you to a stock photography site because that's the place a lot of times where you can get royalty free images. Now you can see that this image here is available for downloading for free on Pixabay.com. So if I click on free download, it's going to ask me what size I want my download. Remember, think about your scrapbook page. My 12 by 12 scrapbook page is 3,600 px wide, so if I really want the best clear image, I need to choose an image that's a little bit bigger or about the same size as my scrapbook page. So in this case I'm going to choose the 6,000 by 4,000 and then I'll click download. My browser shows that the image downloaded the settings of your computer will depend on where this image actually ended up. My computer is set to place downloaded images in my downloads folder.

After navigating to my downloads folder, I can see that that texture image is sitting there and waiting for me. By the way, if you don't want to go through the process of finding the perfect image right now on Google Images, this image that I'm using is available for you in the downloads for this class, so I'm going to go ahead and open this image with Photoshop Elements. Then I'm going to drag it onto my scrapbook page. Using the Move tool, hold down the Shift key and click and drag the image onto the scrapbook page. The image should have landed at the very top of the layers panel on your scrapbook page. Now we'll want to resize the image so that it fits just inside the boundaries of the page. To do that, press Ctrl T, Cmd T on a Mac, to get the Transform Options.

If you can't see the Bounding Box handles, open the Tool Options and click and drag to the left on either the width or the height until the image fits, just inside the boundaries of that page, and then click the check mark to commit and then I'll close the Tool Options. The next step is to turn the image black and white and to add more contrast, I'll do that with a black and white adjustment in the Menu Bar. Choose Enhance > Convert to black and white. This black and white dialogue box can look a little scary, but the key is to select one of the styles and then adjust. Remember, the purpose of this step was to turn this image black and white and create more contrast. So I'm going to try the presets and see if I can come up with something a little better. One thing that you need to watch out for with these filters is to make sure that the image doesn't blow out.

Even though we're going to try to get more contrast, you want to make sure that there are no big areas of total white, so I'll just begin by clicking on one of the styles and see what happens. There's Infrared, Newspaper portraits, Scenic, Urban, and the Vivid, which doesn't do much. So let's go back to the urban and now that I've got the one with the most contrast, now we'll move the sliders a little bit. Let's start with the green because there appears to be quite a bit of green in this image, so I'll click and drag the slider a little bit to the left and see what happens. I can see that it's darkening up quite a bit. What if I were to move the blue to the right just a little bit. Now let's try adding a little bit more contrast, move it just a little bit at a time and see what a difference it makes.

Now notice when looking at the image that there's quite a bit of pure white here in the center and that really is something that we need to avoid, so I'm going to continue working with the sliders until I can get a little bit more clarity back into that image. There are no exact settings in this Dialog box, so you kind of have to just keep fiddling around with it in order to find something that you like and just about every time you do this you're going to come up with a different result. So I'm just going to go ahead and stop there and click OK.

This concludes part one of lesson three. I'll see you in the next video.