



Perfectly Personal Word Art Artistic Letter Mask Variation 3 – Photoshop Elements

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Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Open the Artistic Letter Mask Base (File > Open).
- In the Menu Bar choose File > Duplicate. Click OK
- Make sure to close the original.

Step Two: Update the Type

- Double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to activate the type.
- Type in the new word you wish to use. I'm using the word BUTTONS in all caps.
- Click the checkmark to commit.



- 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.
- In the Tool Options adjust the Font Size so that your entire word fits on the document. I have to change the Size to 110pts.
- Now press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.

- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the Align Horizontal Centers icon and the Align Vertical Centers icon.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.



Step Three: Add the Paint

- Open one of the seven paint files included in the class downloads for this section. I'm using Paint-07.png.
- 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.
- In the Layers panel, move the paint layer below the type layer.
- On the document, click and drag the paint layer until it's positioned behind your word as you like it.



Step Four: Add the Gradient Layer Mask

- In the Layers panel, click on the Type layer to activate it.
- Get the Gradient tool.

- 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. If you still don't see it, then click on the drop down box and choose Default. 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, click on the Add Layer Mask icon.
- 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.



Step Five: Recolor the Mask

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.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a light blue color. I'm using Hex #: 9ca8e2. Click OK.

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



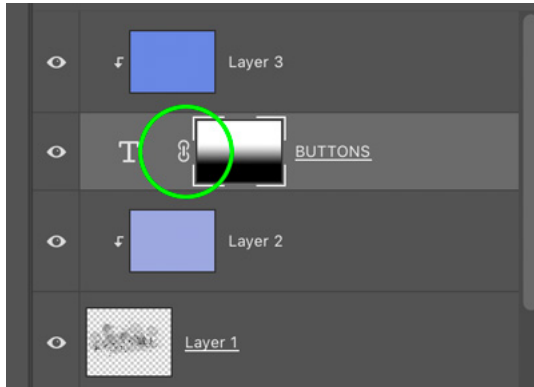
- Now in the layers panel, click on the Type Layer to activate it.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a light blue color that's a few shades darker than the previous color we used for the paint. I'm using Hex #: 6887e4. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.



Step Six: Bonus Tip

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 my mask, I'm wishing the word Buttons was a bit more see through on the bottom. 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.
- Now, in the Layers panel, click on the Layer Mask thumbnail to make sure it's the part of the layer that's active. You can tell it by little box marks outlining the thumbnail.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- 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 middle top handle. I'm going to drag this up until I like the amount of fade on my word. Once it's how you like it, click the checkmark to complete.
- Now in the Layers panel, click on the spot in between the Type Layer thumbnail and the Layer Mask thumbnail to turn the Link back on.



Step Seven: Save As

Now that our file is ready, it's time to save this as both a PSD layered file and as a PNG flat file.

- First, the PSD file.

- In the Layers panel, click and drag the white background layer to the trash.
- 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. Click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As and save this file as Artistic-Letter-Mask-Variation3.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 in a digital project, in the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As and save this file as Buttons.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 photos.



Credits:

Page & Photos: Jenifer Juris

Kit: APP Airy by Anna Aspnes

Fonts: Veteran Typewriter, Bollivia Rosilla Script, League Spartan Bold