

# Mastery1-03-2-el-Complex-Clipping-Mask-manual



## Lesson 3: Complex Clipping Mask, Part 2 for PSE Manual © 2019 Jen White

- Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements.
- Open the scrapbook page (File > Open) that you ended with in Lesson 3, Part 1.

### Invert and Select the Image

- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Adjustments > Invert.

NOTE: The inside of the image should be dark and the outside of the image should be light. If it's not, repeat the last bullet.

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to create a duplicate layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Filter > Adjustments > Threshold.
- In the dialog box, move the slider until the black grunge no longer touches the edges of the white background. Click OK.
- Get the Magic Wand tool.
- In the Tool Options, click on the New Selection icon. Set the Tolerance to 32. Uncheck Sample All Layers and Contiguous. Check Anti aliasing.
- On the image, click on the black pixels.

- In the Layers panel, click and drag the threshold layer to the Trash icon.
- Click on the original image layer to activate it.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to copy the dark pixels of the original image layer to a new layer.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Visibility icon of the original image layer to hide it.

### Darken the Mask

- In the Layers panel, the duplicate mask layer should be active.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Brightness > Contrast.
- In the dialog box, adjust the sliders to make the mask as dark as possible without losing details or adding pure black into the mask. Click OK.

NOTE: The darker the grays, the more opaque the final mask will be.

### Define a Brush

- In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) and click on the Visibility icon of the mask layer. Now only the mask layer should be visible on the document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Define Brush.
- In the dialog box, name the brush Mastery 1 and click OK.
- In the Layers panel, hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) and click on the Visibility icon of the mask layer again. Now the document should have been returned to the previous state.
- Click on the Visibility icon of the mask layer to hide it. Now all mask layers should be hidden.

### Stamp the Brush

- In the Layers panel, click on the top layer to activate it.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker. The new brush should be active at the bottom. Set the Opacity to 100%.
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips.
- On the document, hover your cursor over the document so that the entire boundaries of the brush are within the boundaries of the document. Click once. Do not click and drag.

### Transform the Stamped Brush

- Get the Move tool.
- On the document, click and drag directly on the brush to reposition it.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.
- Click and drag on a corner handle of the bounding box to resize the stamped brush.

- Hover your cursor near a corner handle of the bounding box until you see a curved double-headed arrow. Click and drag in a circular motion.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) inside the bounding box and choose Flip Layer Horizontal or Flip Layer Vertical.
- Click the checkmark to commit.
- If desired, in the Layers panel, lower the Opacity of the stamped layer.

### Add Additional Stamped Layers

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.
- Press the Left Bracket key to make the brush smaller.
- On the document, click to stamp again.
- Transform as desired.
- Repeat adding additional stamps on new layers.

### Group Layers

- In the Layers panel, click on the top stamp layer to activate it.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the bottom stamp layer. Now all stamped layers should be active.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Group Layers icon.

### OPTION 1: Clip a Photo to the Group

- Open a photo (File > Open) that relates well to your first photo.
  - Most of this photo will be hidden.
  - In our design it will be used to support the subject photo only.
  - A landscape-orientated photo will work best.
  - A color-fill layer could be used in replacement of photo.
- Get the Move tool.
- Click and drag the photo onto your scrapbook page.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping mask.
- Click and drag on the image to reposition it.
- Transform as desired.

### OPTION 2: Clip a Color Fill Layer to the Group

- The stamp group should be active in the Layers panel.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- Choose a color from the Color Picker or from your swatches in the Color Swatches panel. Click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

## Organize the Layers & Save

- In the Layers panel, activate the photo or color fill layer.
- Holding down the Shift key, click on the group. Now the group and photo layer should be active.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Group Layers icon.
- Double click directly on the name of the new group and rename it Complex Clipping Mask.
- Save the scrapbook page (File > Save) as a layered PSD document.