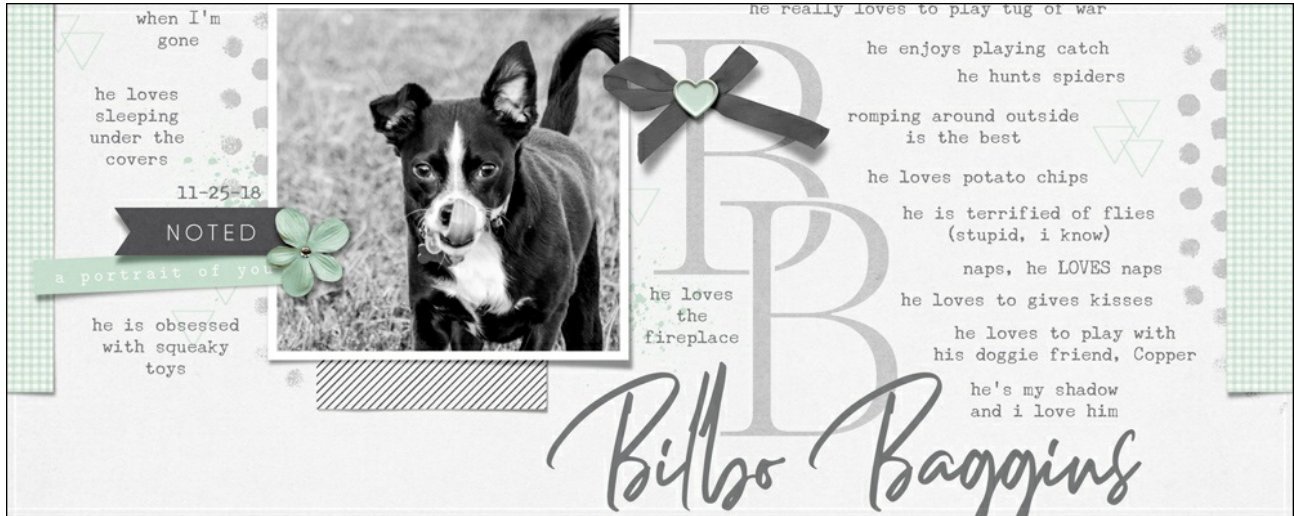# Stenciled Monogram with a Layer Mask

digitalscrapper.com/blog/qt-stenciled-monogram

by Jenifer Juris

Stenciled Monogram with a Layer Mask
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Give your monogram a stenciled look by adding a layer mask.

For this tutorial you will need:

> Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements

This tutorial works well with most font types but it may not be as easy with all letter combinations. You may have to spend some time trying different letters and fonts to get the right look for your project.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- Create a new 4×4 inch document (File > New > Blank File) at 300 ppi with a white background. (PS: Choose File > New.)
- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black over white.
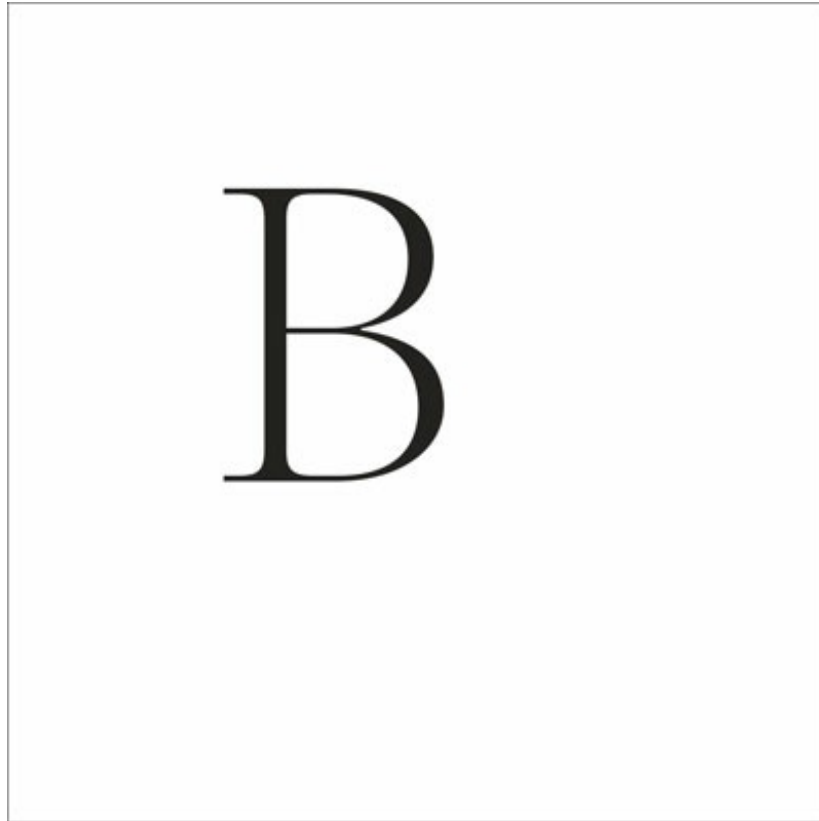
Step Two: Add a Letter

- Get the Horizontal Type tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and pick a font of your choice. I'm using BentonModDisp Light. Set the Size to 150 pts and the Alignment to Center.

NOTE: You may have to adjust your font size depending on the font you use.

- On the document, click to place the cursor a little left and a little above the center of the document.

- Type one letter. I'm using the letter B.
- To reposition the letter, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click and drag inside the bounding box.
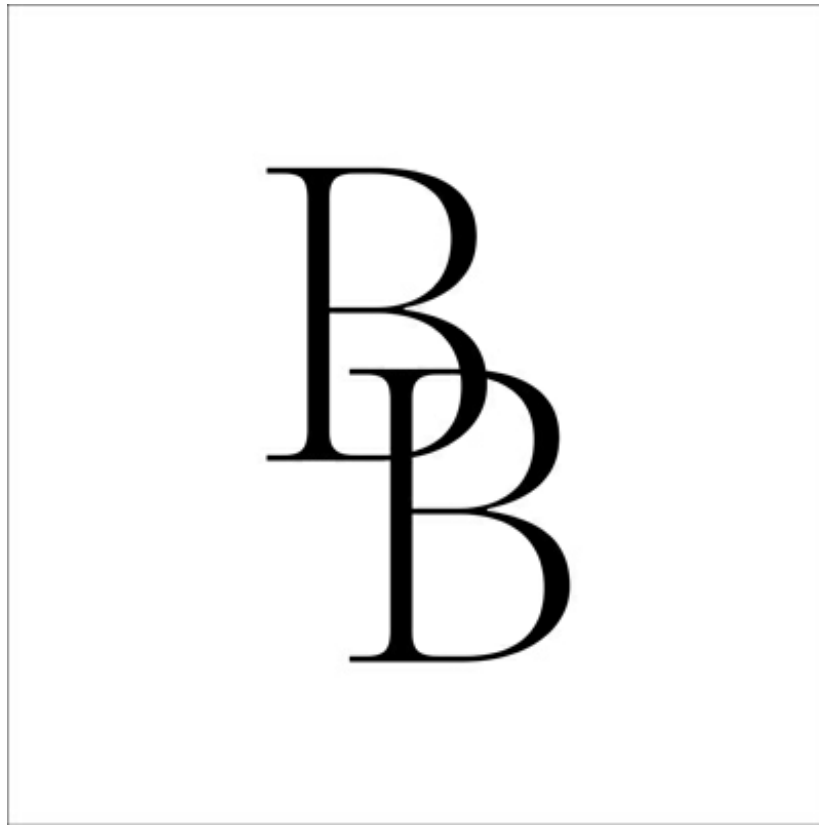- Click the checkmark to commit.

Step Three: Add Another Letter

- Get the Horizontal Type tool. Keep all the settings the same.
- On the document, Shift click to place the cursor a little right and a little below the center of the document.
- Type one letter. I'm using the letter B again.
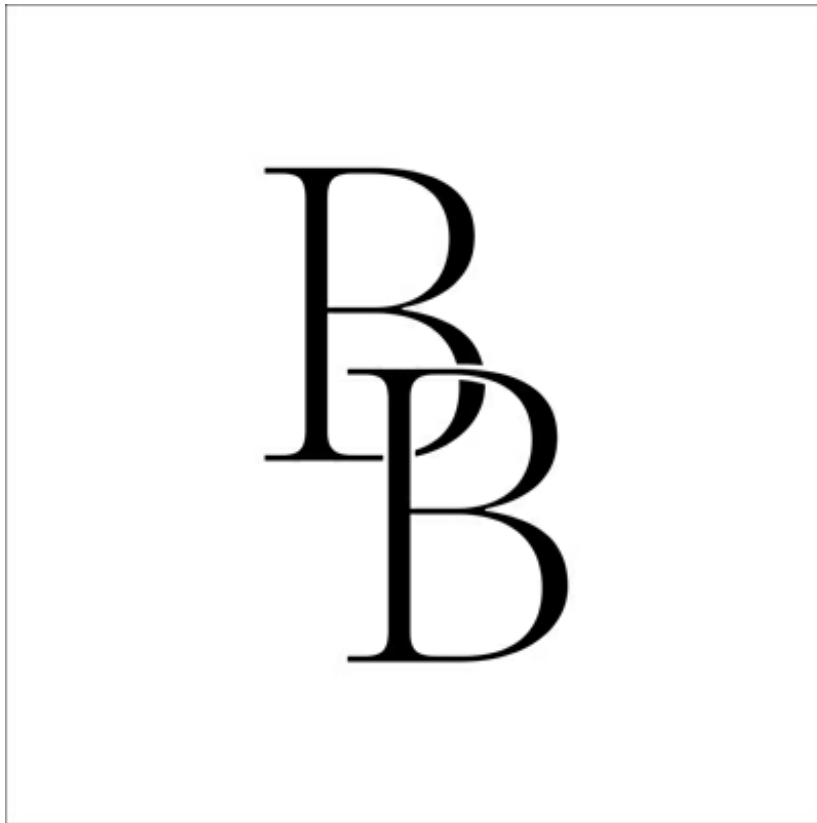
NOTE: Holding down the Shift key while placing the cursor will make sure the new type layer does not interfere with previous type layers.

- To reposition the letter, hold down the Ctrl key (Mac: Cmd key) and click and drag inside the bounding box.
- Click the checkmark to commit.
- Get the Move tool.
- Use the Arrow keys to nudge your second letter into place if needed.

Step Four: Mask the Overlapping Portion

- In the Layers panel, Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on the thumbnail of the top letter layer.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Select > Modify > Expand.
- In the dialog box, set the Expand By to 7 px. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, click on the bottom letter layer to make it the active layer.
- In the Layers panel, while holding down the Alt key (Mac: Opt key) click on the Add Layer Mask icon.

Step Five: Use in a Project

For this step to work properly, you must already have a saved or unsaved document started that will contain your project using the stenciled monogram letters. Duplicate these two letter layers to your project document by doing the following:

- In the Layers panel, Shift click on the top letter layer so that both letter layers are active.
- In the Layers panel, Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the layer names, not the thumbnails, and choose Duplicate Layers.
- In the dialog box, set the Destination to your project's document and click OK.

NOTE: You may need to resize your letter layers larger or smaller depending on your project.

Here is how I used my Stenciled Monogram letters:

he hates it
when I'm
gone

he loves
sleeping
under the
covers

11-25-18

NOTED

a portrait of you

he is obsessed
with squeaky
toys

he really loves to play tug of war

he enjoys playing catch

he hunts spiders

romping around outside
is the best

he loves potato chips

he is terrified of flies
(stupid, i know)

naps, he LOVES naps

he loves to gives kisses

he loves to play with
his doggie friend, Copper

he's my shadow
and i love him

he loves
the
fireplace

Bilbo Baggins

Here's a Christmas card I made using the same technique:

Credits:

Page & Photo: Jenifer Juris

Tutorial: Stenciled Monogram by Jenifer Juris

Kit: Duly Noted by One Little Bird

Extras: Paint from Artisan by One Little Bird

Fonts: BentonModDisp, Underwood Champion, Dellamonde

Card: Jenifer Juris

Tutorial: Stenciled Monogram by Jenifer Juris

Kit: Christmas Chic by Studio New Life Designs

Fonts: BentonModDisp, Amelia Script

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