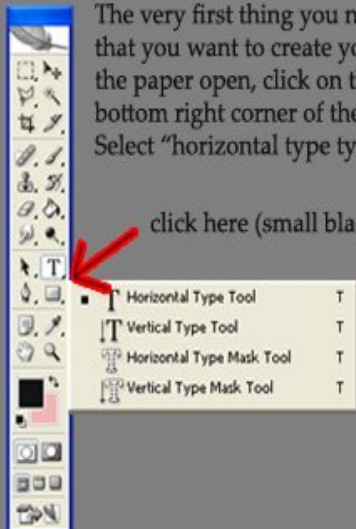


Create Your Own Alpha in Photoshop!!!!


In just a few easy steps – by Sharia Braxton

The very first thing you need to do is open the paper that you want to create your alpha from. Once you have the paper open, click on the small black triangle in the bottom right corner of the TYPE tool in your toolbar. Select "horizontal type mask tool" from the box.

click here (small black triangle)




Once you've clicked on your "horizontal type mask" tool, you will need to draw your text box just like you would normally do, and begin to type. You will notice that a pinkish tint covers your paper (this is a quick mask) and your text appears a yellowish color. While you're in this mode, you can right click your mouse and click on "select all" to either change the font you're using or adjust the size of the font itself. You won't be able to do this once you have clicked the CHECK-MARK in the top of PS to 'finalize' the text.

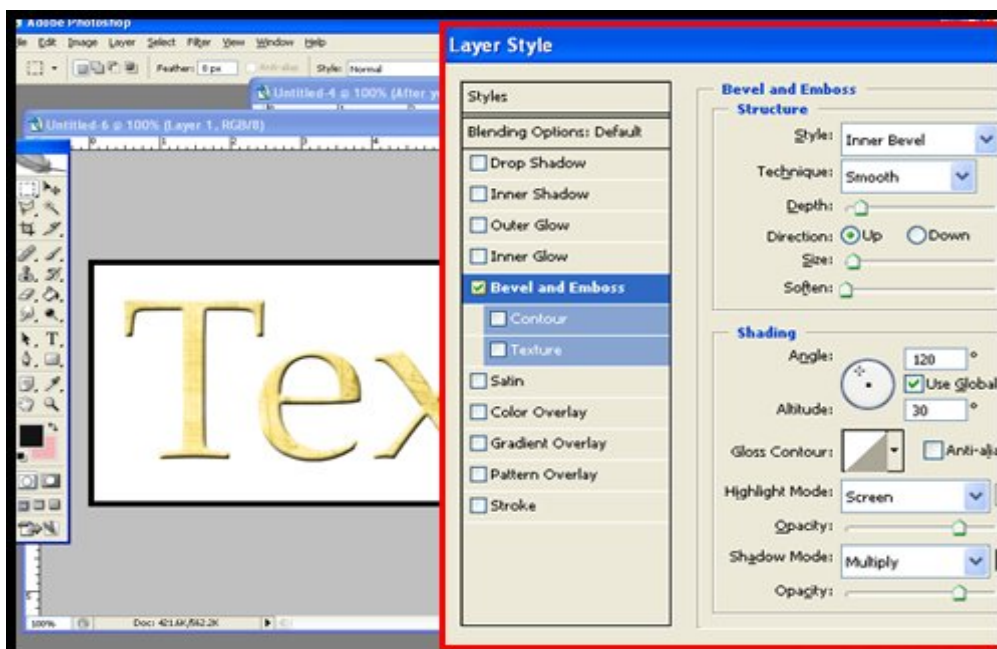



Once you've finished typing your text, click on the CHECKMARK at the top of the Photoshop window. You will notice the pinkish tint go away and your text, rather than being yellowish, will be clear with marching ants in the shape of your text. Once you have gotten this far, go to EDIT and select COPY.

At this point, you should open a new document in Photoshop, which should be 12 in by 12 in and set your dpi at 300.



Now that you've done EDIT, and COPY, you need to click on your new document so that it is the one active on your photoshop stage. Go to EDIT and select PASTE. You will find that a bit of text in the shape and pattern of the paper you typed it is now on your new document. Rather flat though, isn't it?



In your layers palette, click the "f" that's in a circle at the very bottom. This will open your layer styles box. If you click on the WORDS 'bevel and emboss' you'll notice your text immediately becomes an Alpha.

Play with various layer styles. Color overlays, pattern overlays. Stroke... Add drop shadow if you like...you can go on forever!