Creating a Mask Layer

A mask layer is a special type of layer than can be placed over an existing layer, which is then referred to as the masked layer. A mask layer covers the masked layer below it with the exception of a hole that is used to create a spotlight effect. The mask achieves the effect by both covering up the objects on the masked layer and creating a hole through which various objects on the masked layer below can be viewed.

To create a mask layer:

1. Create a layer with the objects that will be viewed through the mask, such as the following text:

   **Welcome**

2. Insert a keyframe in frame 50.
3. Rename Layer1: masked
4. Create a new layer above the masked layer, naming it: mask
5. Select the mask layer, select a dark Fill color and a transparent Stroke color, and then draw a filled oval to the left of the text that is sized to cover the letter “W”:

   **Welcome**

6. Select the oval, then select Insert → Timeline → Create Motion Tween.
7. Select the mask layer, insert a keyframe in frame 50, and then drag the oval to the right of the “Welcome” text.
8. Select the mask layer and then select Modify → Timeline → Layer Properties, which displays a dialog box. In the dialog box, select the Show check box, the Lock check box, select Mask, and then select OK:

   ![Layer Properties dialog box](image)

8. Select the masked layer and then select Modify → Timeline → Layer Properties, which displays a dialog box. In the dialog box, select the Show check box, the Lock check box, select Masked, and then OK. Note that the masked layer appears indented below the mask layer.
9. Play the movie.