

Adobe Photoshop

Creating Transparent Overlays in Photoshop with Julieanne Kost

Software needed Adobe Photoshop 6.0 or later

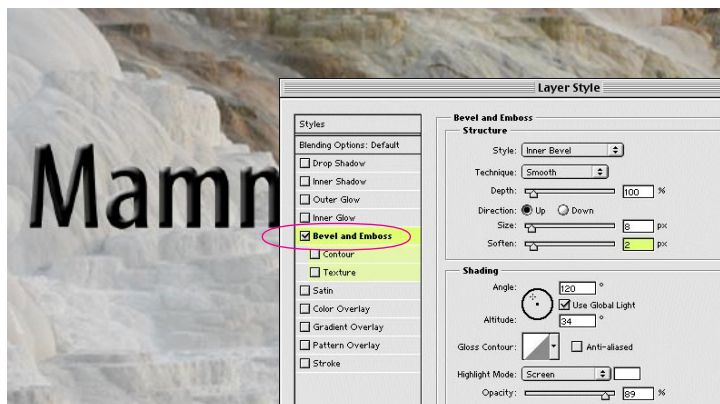


The power of Layer Effects is the ease with which you can create common effects such as drop shadows and glows. However, you might want to put a more advanced spin on that effect. This technique shows you how to take this feature to the next level by separating the layer effect from the layer using advanced blending options.

Open the file that you need to add the overlay to. Select the type tool and click in the image area to add the necessary type. *Note: this technique also works with shape layers and content layers, so you're not limited to just type!*



In the Layers palette, double click on the name of the Type layer to access the Layer Style dialog box. Add the layer style that you desire. *Note: checking the box next to the style will apply it, clicking on the name of the style will apply it as well as reveal it's options. The Drop Shadow, Inner Shadow, Outer and Inner Glows, and the Bevel and Emboss work well with this technique.*



While still in the Layer Styles dialog box, remove the fill of the type by clicking on the Blending Options Default option. Under Advanced Blending, lower the Fill Opacity to zero and watch the fill melt away while the effect stay! *Note: in the General Blending area, lowering the Opacity will lower both the fill and the effects.*

