

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP Elements TECHNIQUES

Create an Aged and Cracked Text Look

Corey Barker



By taking a stone texture you can create a design that looks like aged and cracked text.

1. Open up your texture image. If you don't have a previously shot texture of your own, try finding one with the help of [Diana Day's blog entry](#).
2. Go to the **Edit** menu and select **Define Pattern**. Name it "texture" and press ok.
3. Go to the **Enhance** menu, than to **Adjust Lighting** and select **Levels**. (Keyboard Shortcut- **PC: Control+L, Mac: Command+L**.)
4. Push the grey slider to darken up the background quite a bit. You can also move over the black slider a bit as well.
5. Go to the layers palette and create a new **Pattern** adjustment layer.

6. In the **Pattern Fill** dialog box, select the texture you just creates using the background image. The scale should be 100 percent. Press ok.
7. Go to the **Effects** panel, select **Bevels** from the drop down menu and choose the **Simple Sharp Inner** bevel and apply it to your Pattern Fill layer.
8. Select the **Text** tool. Type out the word[s] you'd like to use and set it [them] in place. (Helpful Hint: Corey uses a font called Impact. Check out [Dafont](#) for more free fonts to try!)
9. Control-click or command-click on the text layer to make a selection of the text. Hide the text layer.
10. Go to the Pattern Fill layer and click on your layer mask. Press **Alt +Backspace or Option+Delete** to fill in your selection with black, which should reveal the darker background underneath. (Helpful Hint: To default your foreground and background colors to black and white, just press the **D** key.)
11. Double click the **fx** icon to edit your bevel. Add a drop shadow, edit it to your liking and press ok.
12. Select the **Brush** tool. In your tool options bar, choose a small, hard edged brush (around 5 to 15 pixels, depending on the size of your image). Click on the brush icon on the right side to open the **Additional Brush Options** panel and change the **Fade** amount to around 100 to 200 pixels.
13. Start to paint brush strokes starting from the text and moving out into the background to look like cracks in the stone. You can go back to your Additional Brush Options and change the fade amount to vary the cracks.
14. In the layers palette, click on the lock icon of the Pattern Fill layer. Now you can use Free Transform (**PC: Control+T, Mac: Command+T**) to change the size or angle of your cracked text.