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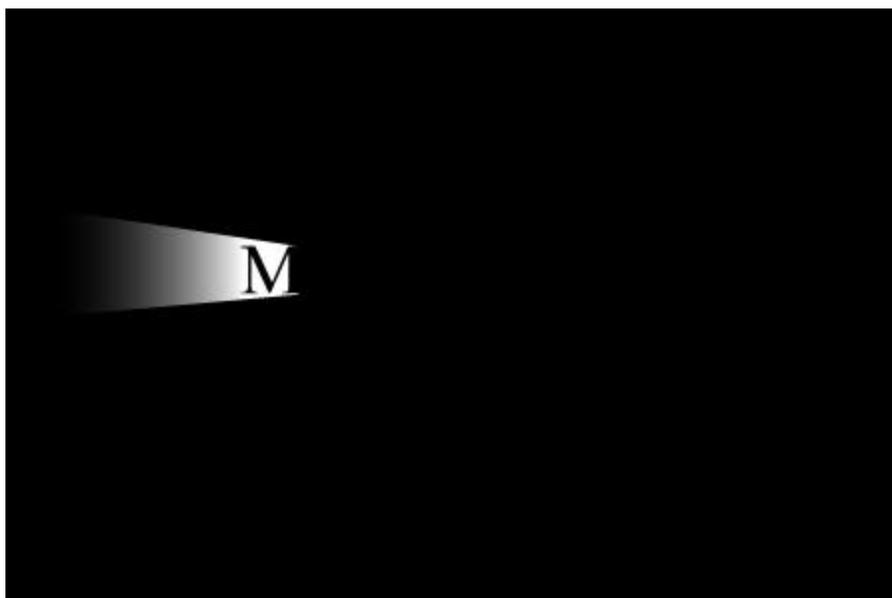
----- VIRTUAL-FX -----

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RAY OF LIGHT EFFECT TUTORIAL

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- [DOWNLOAD THE .FLA](#)
- **SKILL LEVEL: ADVANCED**
- Know how to motion & shape tween
- Know how to use gradients
- And know how to 'envision' the lighting effect



TUTORIAL

NOTE: There are a couple of other effects in the shockwave above that are not covered here. We are **ONLY** covering the light effect.

Since this tutorial is very complicated we are only going to go over the lighting effect of **ONE** letter. Just remember that more letters just means starting them about 5-10 frames apart one after the next =)

1. Ok, first off you are going to need two layers for this letter. One for the letter itself which is the TOP layer. And the light effect which goes below it. Also make your movie have a black background, for ease of this tutorial.
2. Create one letter on your top frame. Break the letter apart (Ctrl + B). Now copy it.
3. Create a new symbol. Name it something you can remember like "A-light" or something like that =)
Paste your letter into the symbol. This is where we are going to create the letters light. Let's go at this in 3 phases:



- a. Step 1 - First off, draw some lines out from the end of your letter such as to create the area of where the light will be.
 - b. Step 2 - Fill the area, and between the letter with one color. REMOVE the excess lines from the edges.
 - c. Step 3 - Now fill the entire thing with the gradient. Black to white.
4. Now that we have the lighting effect symbol, we can add it to the bottom layer on the stage. Half the work is done. Now we just need to motion/shape tween the letter & the light to make it look real.
5. **FADE IN** - Let's start with the light effect. Basically we are looking at 3 phases of motion tweens. Light up, move across, and then dim out. So with that in mind, at frame #1 create a motion tween that does NOT move but only changes color. So at frame #1 tint the light to be 100% black. Then create another frame at frame #6 where it has no tint on it (normal graphic).

SHIFT LIGHT - On frame #6 have another motion tween. Create a new keyframe at frame #14, and merely scale the object to the right. So keep the edge of the light where the letter should be in the same spot and just pull it in some ([download the tutorial](#) to see what I am talking about).

SHIFT & DIM OUT - Now, create the last motion tween at frame #14. Create the last keyframe at frame #22 & scale the letter in more. Also tint it to 100% black again.

6. Now that we have the light finished we can go ahead and tie things up by making the letter match with it.

FADE IN - Basically you have your letter in Frame #1 right now. Make sure it is filled with Black. Create a new keyframe at frame #5. Shape tween this frame. At frame #14 create a new keyframe and fill the letter with white. This will cause the letter to fade from black to white as the light passes over it.

STAY LIT - We are going to skip a couple of frames here as to leave the letter lit for a second.

FADE OUT - Insert a keyframe at frame #18. Shape tween this frame. Insert another keyframe at frame #22 and fill the letter with black.

And there ya have it! It's pretty tough at first and a lot of work for EACH letter =) So make sure to work slowly, so that you don't have to come back and redo your work due to mistakes.