

HOME

Masked Text Effect (Spotlight)

Richard M. McCord II (Rabbit) -- NightLord Enterprises
<http://www.nightlord.com>

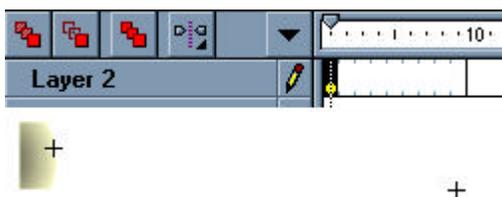
- [DOWNLOAD THE .FLA](#)
- **SKILL LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE**
- Know how to tween frames
- Know how to use gradients and fills
- Have general knowledge of masking layers

Company Info

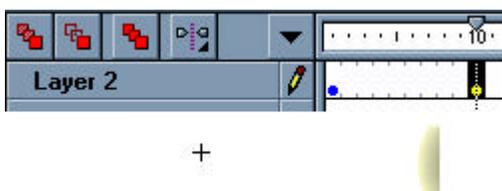
TUTORIAL

I noticed a hint about making a cool text effect where it highlights from left to right. Well, here's a simpler way to do it which also doesn't increase the file size as much AND is easier on the CPU usage.

1. Make a movie-clip symbol called BACKGROUND. Add in enough frames to make the movie 10 frames long.
2. Now, in the first keyframe make a rectangle large enough to cover any of the text you'll be using on your site. Then, use a gradient fill of any color you like on the left side of the rectangle. Try to make the larger portion of the gradient match the color of your movie background as this looks much better.



3. Add a keyframe to the last frame of the movie, and in this frame move the gradient fill to the right side of the rectangle. You can even use a different color for a neat effect.



4. Tween the movie using SHAPE tweening.



5. Create a graphic symbol for the text you wish to add the effect to. You may name it whatever you'd like.

(In my .FLA file I created a symbol called Company Info.)

6. Name the first layer TEXT. Type the text to use onto the screen. I used Company Info. Now, create a second layer UNDER the text layer named ADD BACKGROUND you created in the earlier steps here. Open your library and pull your Background symbol into the movie clip and line it up over the text. Make sure the rectangle is large enough to cover the text entirely.
7. Now, click the first layer and MASK it.



8. Go to the work area of your movie. Open your library and pull the Company Info graphic onto your screen. Run the movie to make sure it works. :)

The great thing about this is that you can create a symbol for each bit of text you wish to use, then use the exact same BACKGROUND file to add the effect all over your site. PLUS, if you have buttons on your site, just do the above to create the text effect, then instead of moving the final product to your main movie area, place it over your button. For an example, check out my website at: <http://www.nightlord.com>

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