

Clipping Patterns Cheat Sheet

Masking & Clipping in SVG: Complete Guide

About This Document

This reference accompanies the article: Masking & Clipping in SVG: Complete Guide

Read the full article at: <https://svgeneration.com/docs/masking-clipping-svg>

Article Summary

Use clipPath and mask elements to create complex shaped patterns, reveal effects, and dynamic compositions.

Text-Clipped Patterns

One of the most striking techniques: fill text with an SVG pattern. Use `<text>` inside a `<clipPath>`, then apply that clip to a pattern-filled rectangle. The pattern appears only inside the letter forms. Alternatively in CSS: `background-clip: text; -webkit-background-clip: text; color: transparent` simpler and more maintainable.

Gradient Masks for Pattern Fades

Create a pattern that fades to transparent at the edges using a mask with a gradient. Define a `<mask>` containing a radial or linear gradient from white (centre) to black (edges). Apply it to your pattern element. The result: the pattern is fully visible in the centre and smoothly fades to transparent at the edges perfect for hero section patterns.

Animated Masks

Animate mask coordinates using CSS or SMIL to create reveal effects. A pattern hidden behind a mask that animates its x-position creates a "wipe" reveal. A radial gradient mask whose radius animates from 0 to 100% creates a circular reveal. These effects work with CSS custom properties and JavaScript to create scroll-triggered or interaction-triggered reveals.

Free Resources

Visit [SVGeneration.com](https://svgeneration.com) for 600 free SVG background patterns. No attribution required.

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