

# 161 new transitions in Shotcut, using the “Mask :From File” filter

Dear Shotcut user,

Jonray from the Shotcut forum here. Hello!

I have searched the net and collected 161 short Matte (black and white) video files which can be applied to clips in Shotcut via the “Mask:From file” filter to produce interesting transitions between clips.

## WHAT ARE MATTE VIDEO TRANSITION FILES?

These are short (usually between 1 second and 4 seconds) videos in MP4 format which feature designs using two colours, white and black (or in some cases, grey).

When you stack two video clips on top of the other in Shotcut, (one on track V1, the other on V2), then apply a “Mask:From File” filter to the V2 clip, then select “Custom”, then select one of the Matte video files in this collection, you get the following result:

Any WHITE parts of the Matte video will make the clip on V2 transparent and allow the clip on V1 to show through -

And - any BLACK parts of the Matte video will make the clip on V2 opaque (solid) and NOT allow any of the clip on V1 to show through.

Matte video transition files start by being totally BLACK and end by being totally WHITE (although a few start white and end black). In between is an animated design (created in a very artistic manner) in which shapes evolve, adding more and more white parts, until the video ends totally white.

(If there are any GREY parts of the Matte video, then you will see a mixture of the two clips (V1 and V2)).

These shapes may be lines, rectangles, circles, triangles etc - or even “paint”, “brush” or “splat” effects.

They provide the user with the ability to create artistic transitions from one clip or scene to another as part of your video.

## ABOUT MY COLLECTION OF 161 MATTE VIDEO TRANSITION FILES

I searched online for free Matte animated video files and collected 161 of them. Please note: as far as I am aware they are all copyright-free for anyone to use. Should this not be the case, and I have included some copyrighted designs in error, please let me know and I will immediately remove them from the collection.

For each file, I have trimmed them to make sure they begin black and end white (or in a few cases vice versa) and removed unnecessary solid colour frames from the beginning and the end.

I collected them together in to a folder and categorised them into 7 subfolders -

Brush and Paint Strokes (24 designs)  
Circles and Clocks (28 designs)  
Lines and Rectangles (56 designs)  
Other Shapes and designs (Honeycombs etc) (16 designs)  
Splat and ink transitions (13 designs)  
Squares, Diamonds and Grids (20 designs)  
Triangles (4 designs).

Then I renamed each file. I formatted the name of each file in a consistent way.

To explain further, take a look at this example file-name:

MT LINES and RECTS 012x (VARIED WIDTH lines DIAGONAL with animated left to right wipe  
RANDOM) FAST 012

I'll take each part of the file-name and explain it:

**MT** - short for Matte Transition.

**LINES and RECTS** - within the LINES and RECTANGLES category.

**012x** - I have numbered each Matte video within its folder, so it appears in numerical order in the folder. I added the "x" to help users when searching for the file on their computers. ("012x" will narrow the search much more than "012", for example).

**(VARIED WIDTH lines DIAGONAL with animated left to right wipe RANDOM)** - inside the brackets, I have given a brief description of the character of the animation.

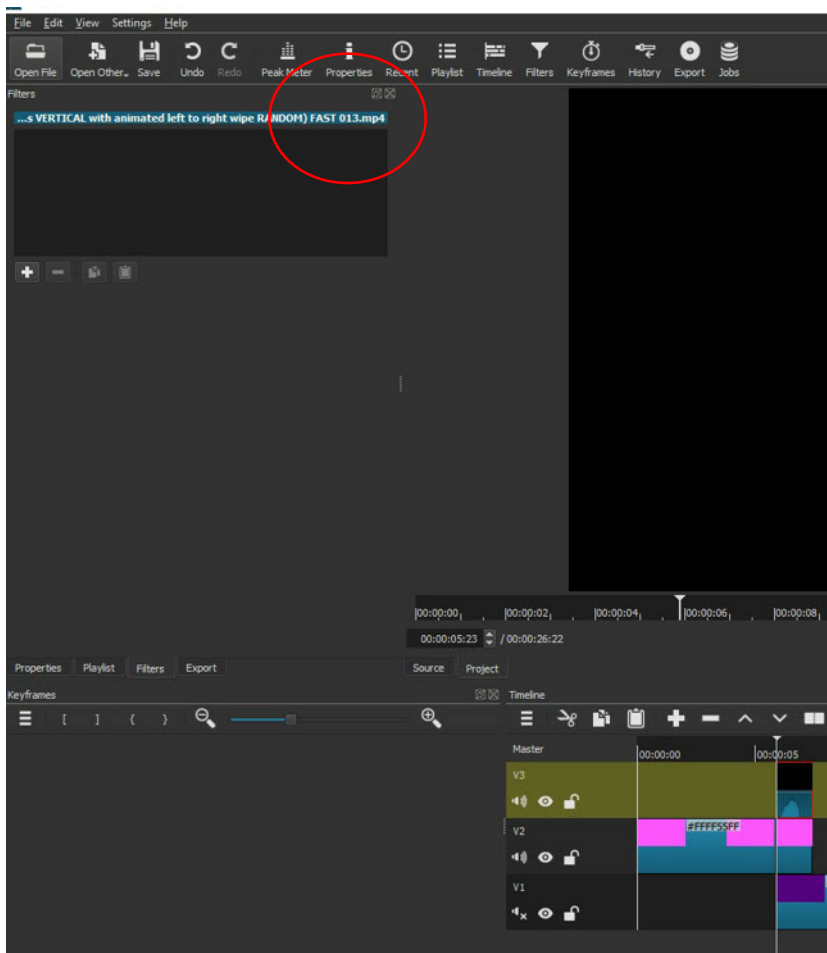
**FAST** - for each file I have tried to give an indication of the speed of the animation - FAST, SLOW or MEDIUM.

**012** - This is a repeat of the number at the beginning of the file-name.

This is because when the filename appears in the "Properties" pane in Shotcut, the END of the filename is on view when the file-name is long.

See the screenshot on the next page.

This enables the user to quickly identify the file.



## HOW DO I CREATE MATTE VIDEO TRANSITIONS IN SHOTCUT?

Step-by step instructions:

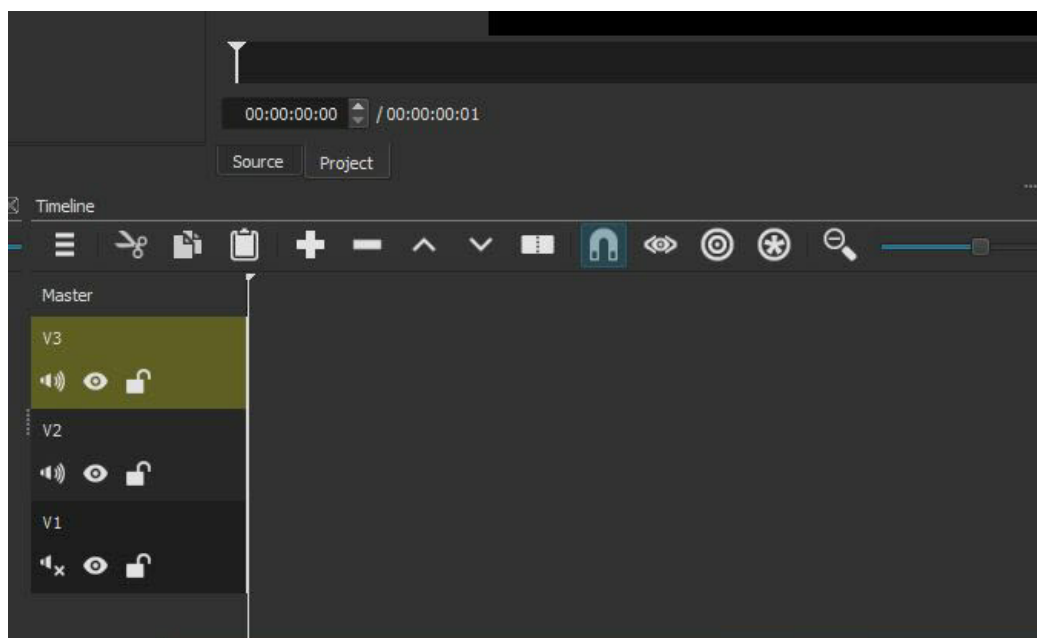
STEP 1. Download the “All Matte transition MP4 videos JONRAY collection final” folder from here:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vI9jHXgwDOD7o4m1\\_17rYYCw5aCBZTxv](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vI9jHXgwDOD7o4m1_17rYYCw5aCBZTxv)

Place the folder in a convenient place of your choice on your computer (eg Desktop or My

STEP 2.

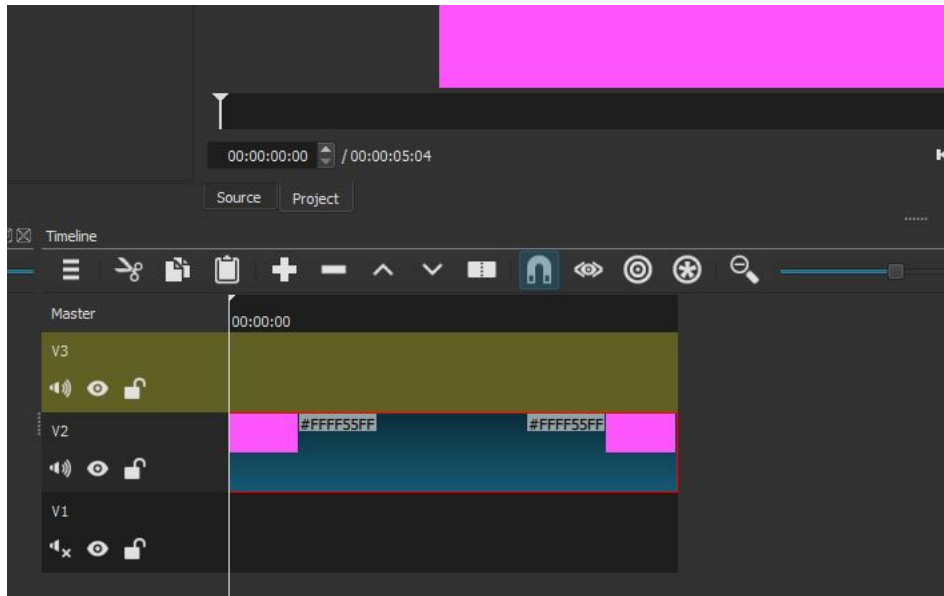
In Shotcut, create 3 video tracks.



### STEP 3.

Go to “Open File”, open a clip and drag it to track V2 on the timeline.

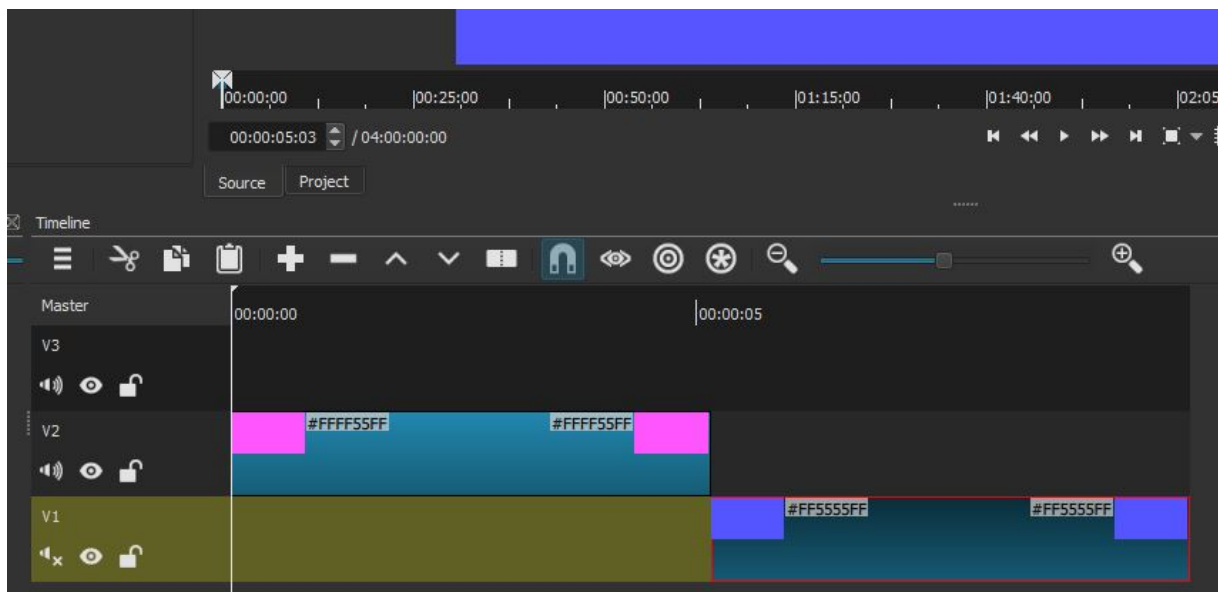
(For this example I’m using a pink colour clip but any clip will do).



### STEP 4.

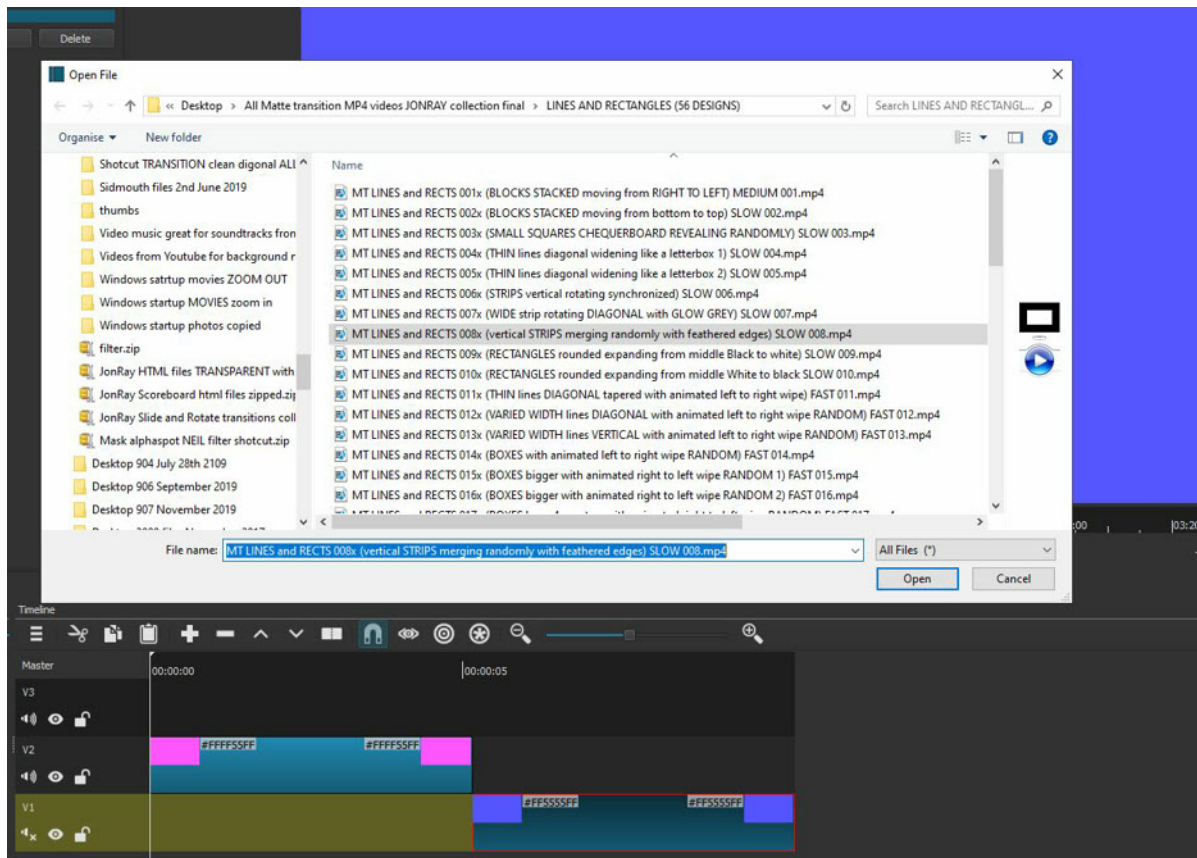
Open a second clip and put it on V1.

(For this example I’m using a blue colour clip).



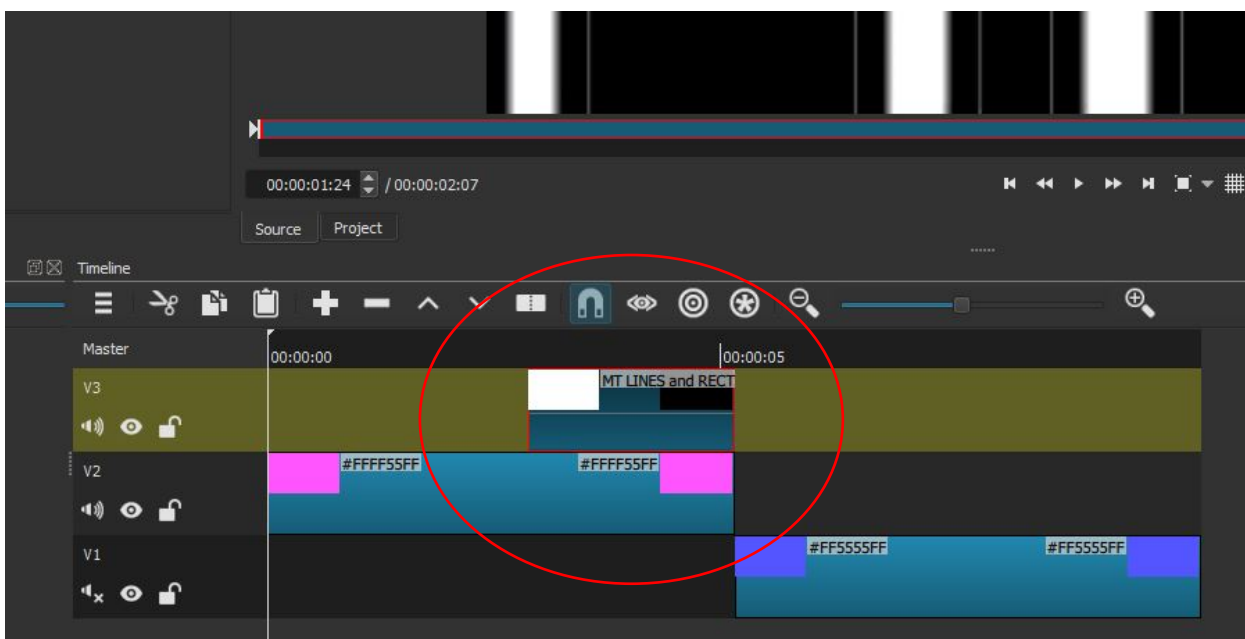
## STEP 5.

Open a 3rd clip. This must be one of the Matte Video clips (mp4s) from the collection.



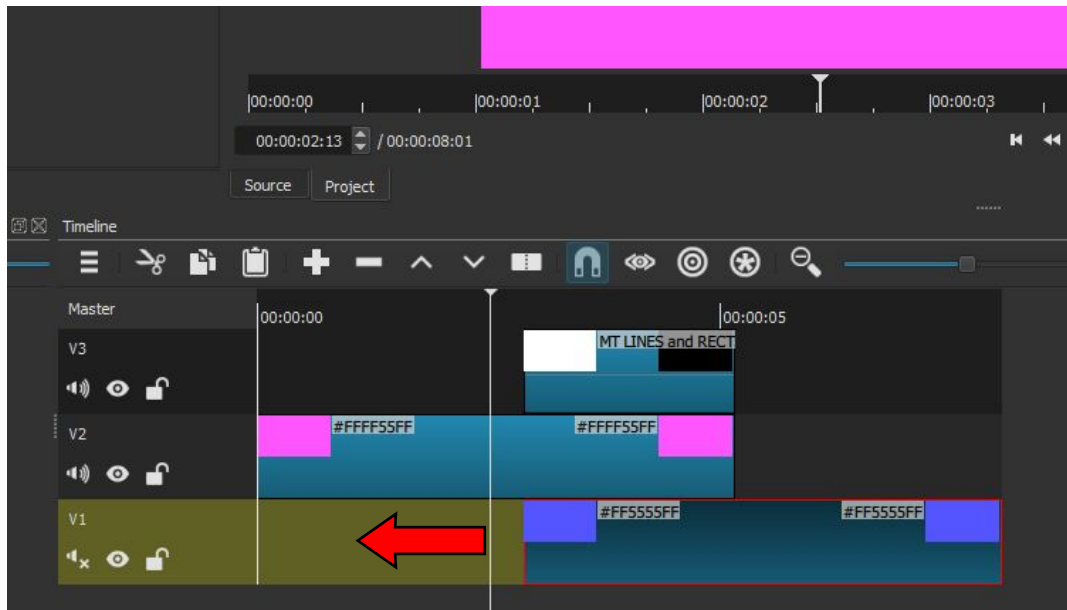
## STEP 6.

Drag the Matte file to the timeline and place it to align with the end of the pink clip HERE:  
(Note, this is an important step because it tells you the exact length of the matte file).



## STEP 7.

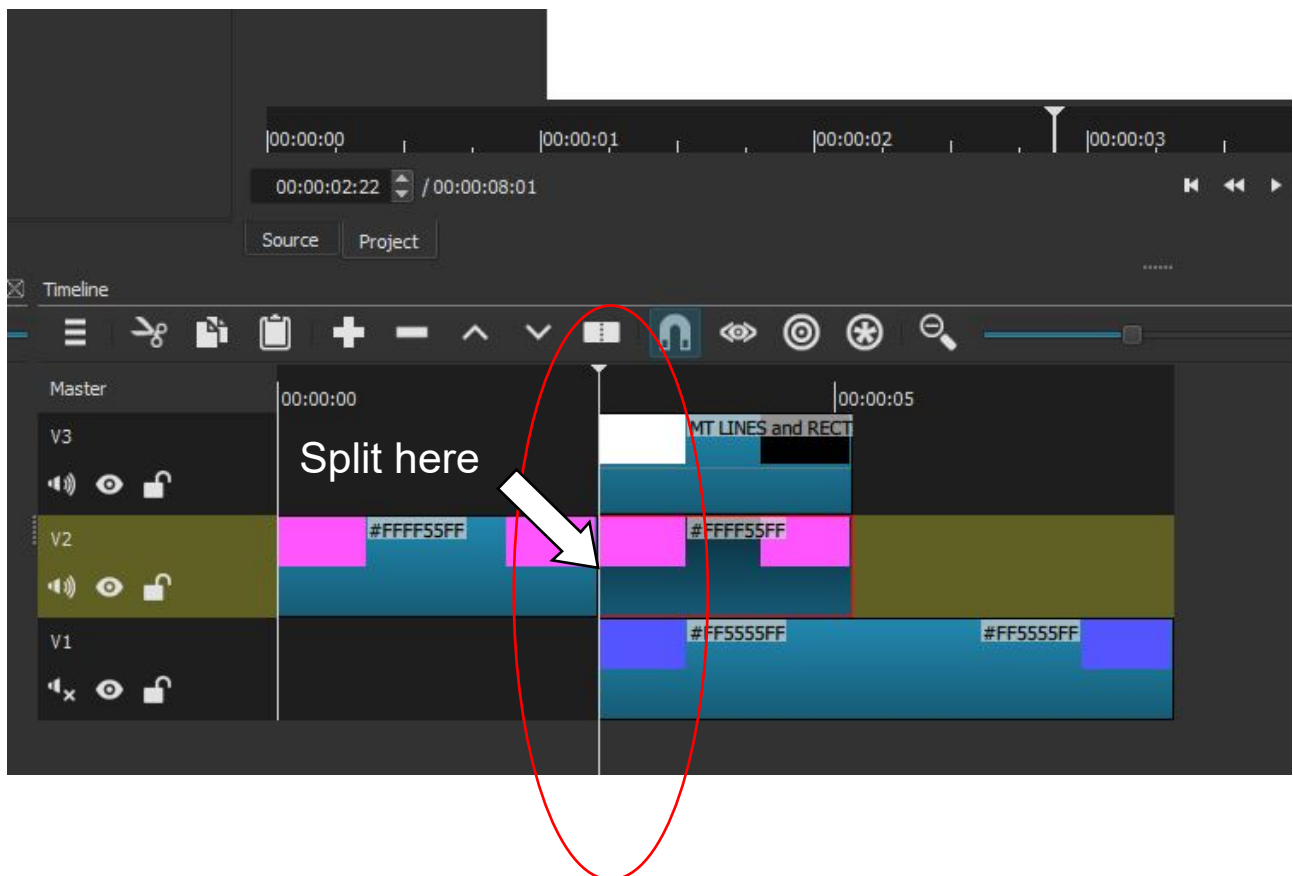
Drag the blue clip to align with the Matte clip:



## STEP 8.

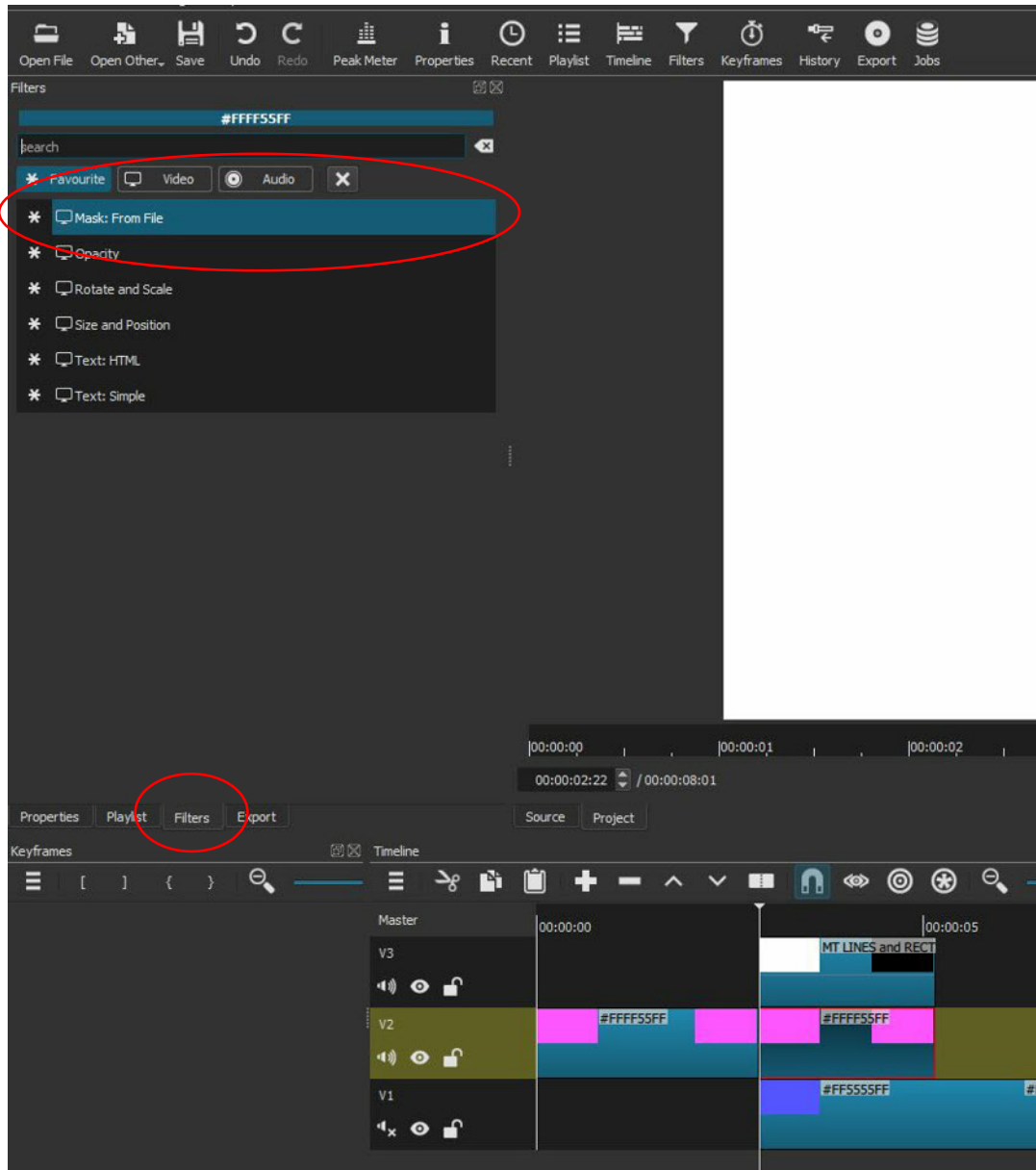
Select PINK clip.

Use keyboard shortcut ALT + RIGHT ARROW to move playhead to align with tracks on V1 and V2, then press "S" to split the pink clip.



STEP 9.

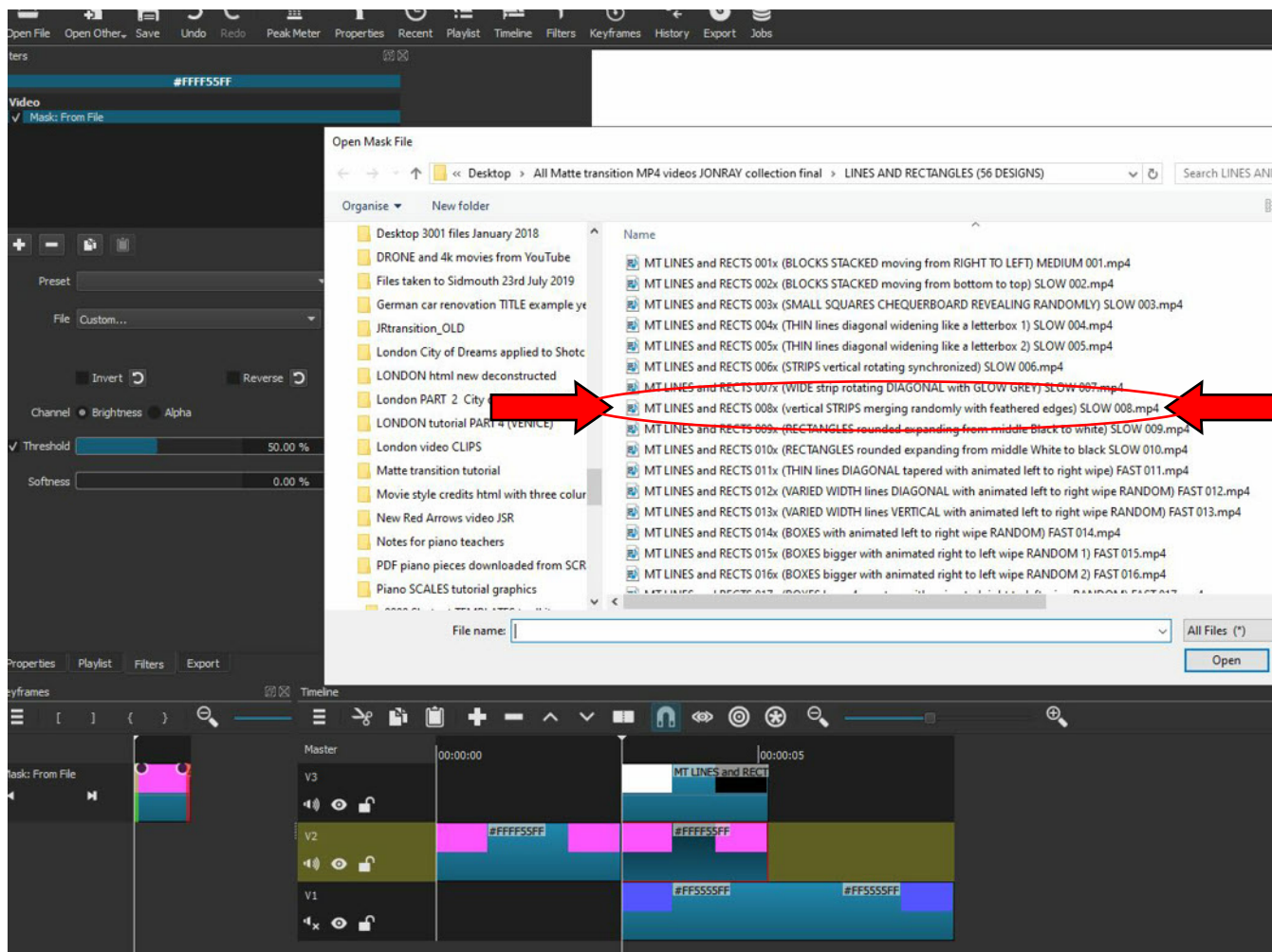
Apply a “Mask:From File” filter to the second part of the PINK clip.



## STEP 10.

In the dropdown list, select “Custom”.

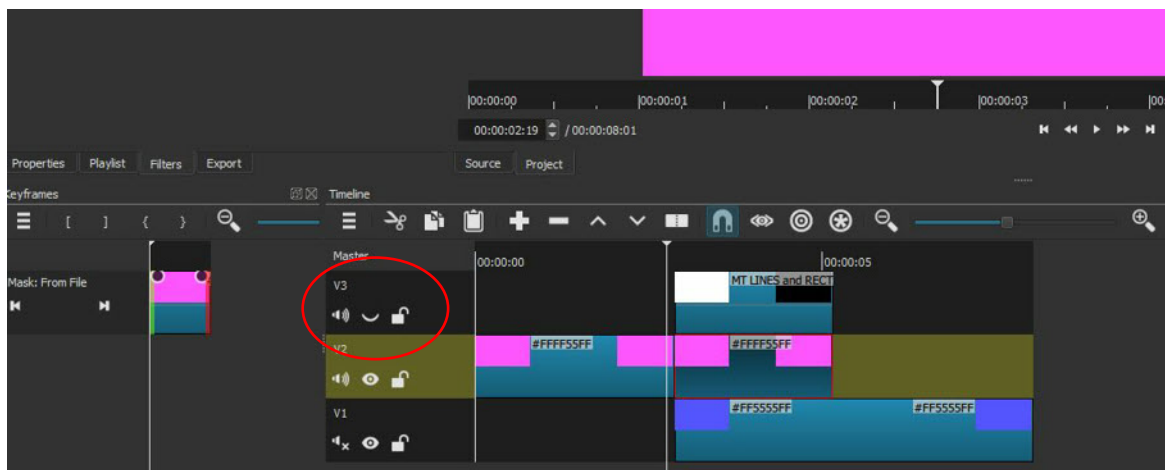
Then navigate to the same Matte file as you chose in step 9, and select it.





## STEP 11.

Click the EYE icon (to close the eye) at the start of track V3. This prevents it from showing.



## STEP 12.

When you press “play”, the blue clip will show through only when there are white parts on the Matte video.

In this case, the result is a multiple vertical stripe effect which creates an eye-catching transition from one clip to another.

