



Lesson 7: Color Me Happy & Assignment Transcript © Syndee Rogers

Now that we have upped our pattern game, it's time to add a little color and move on to our assignment.

Most likely you are going to at least want to add color to your overlays as you are making papers and backgrounds. So I like to add a Color Fill layer to my Pattern overlays. This makes it super easy to change colors to match a project.

I'm filming this video in Photoshop Elements but the instructions are just the same in Adobe Photoshop unless were noted.

Let's begin by opening one of our newly created Pattern overlay. As you can see I've opened my Diagonal Stripes Overlay. Now in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer button and choose Solid Color. The Color Picker window pops up, and now we can choose a color and then once you've chosen your color click OK. As you can see in our Layers panel, we have a new Color Fill layer. The only problem is that the Color Fill layer is covering up or overlay. So we just need to clip the solid color fill layer to our pattern layer. To do that, make sure your Color Fill layer is activated and in the Menu Bar, go to Layer > Create Clipping Mask. The great thing about this, is whenever you want to change the color, all you have to do is double-click on the Color Fill thumbnail in the layers panel and choose a different color. And you can just cycle through the colors until you find one that you're happy with, and then click OK.

We can also use a Color Fill layer as a background. In order to do that, make sure your Color Fill layer is activated in the Layers panel and press Ctrl J or Cmd J on a Mac to duplicate the layer. Then drag the duplicate Color Fill layer down under your Pattern overlay layer. And then we just need to double-click on the Color Fill thumbnail and choose a different color, then click OK.

Let's go ahead and save our pattern with the Color Fill layer. If you want you can save a copy of this, but I like to add a Color Fill layer to most of my pattern overlays to make things quick. You can either use the shortcut Ctrl S or Cmd S on a Mac, or you can go up to the Menu Bar and choose File > Save.

Now on to the assignment! Don't worry it's a simple one, and I hope you will find it fun! So far in this class we learned about color and ways to choose colors that play nicely together, and we have created some basic pattern overlays. For this assignment, grab your color wheel and choose two complementary colors. Or you can do white or black with any color, or a color and a lighter shade of the same color. Using your chosen colors and one of your new pattern overlays, add a background color or paper from your own stash and play with the Scale and Color Fill options of your Pattern overlay to create your own paper. And then please save it as a PSD file, and then save a JPEG and upload to our private class Facebook group.

And here are some ideas to help get you started.

Idea number 1: add a solid color digital paper you have from a favorite kit as a background, and layer one of your Pattern layers over the top. And then add a coordinating Color Fill layer above your overlay, and clip it to your overlay.

Idea number 2: create a clean more graphic paper by adding a Color Fill layer as a background, and then set the Blend Mode of your Pattern overlay to Soft Light, so that it blends in softly to the background color.

Idea number 3: use a couple papers from a digital scrapbooking kit, and use one as the background and clip the other to one of your overlays using a Clipping Mask.

I can't wait to see what you come up with! This is Syndee Rogers with Passion for Paper.