



Make It Match

Replace Color Menu Explained – Transcript – Adobe Photoshop

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The replace color menu is our last alternative method we're going to discuss in this section of the class. I've saved it for last because it's not the easiest menu to work with. But in saying that, I don't want you to be scared. This menu can be very helpful when you're trying to recolor items that are difficult to recolor using the color blend mode method.

So here we are in Photoshop. In the downloads for this lesson, I've included a paper with watercolor lines on it. You need to download, unzip, and open that paper now. And then before we do anything else in the menu bar, choose image, duplicate to create a copy. Click okay and then you can close the original paper. One of the things you have to do before you access the replace color menu is you have to know what hex number you want to recolor to. So I'm going to click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and I'm going to type in a specific hex number. The hex number is A186BE but before you click okay, we need to select this hex number and then press control C in windows or command C on a Mac to copy it. This step is absolutely important. If you don't do this, you'll have to cancel out of the menu and start over because it won't let you sample anything in the menu. So now I can click okay, now that I've copied the hex number.

Now that we have our hex number, we can recolor the paper. To access the replace color menu, go to the menu bar and choose image, adjustments, replace color. This is going to bring up a dialog box. Let's take a look at all of the things in here. Before we do anything else, we need to change the top color chip to the color that we're selecting to change. To do that, click on the top color chip and then on the document click on one of the blue paint strokes to select that color. This tells the replace color menu that that's the color we want to replace and then you can click okay to close the color picker.

The first thing to notice is that there is a preview area. You want to make sure that this is marked to show the selection and not the image. The reason is that the selection will show you what areas are going to be changed by showing what is in white and shades of gray. Anything in black is going to stay the same. Right now we just see white and gray, but let me show you what happens when we move the fuzziness slider lower to about 45. If we lower it to 45 you can see that it's only selecting the blue paint

strokes, but nothing has changed yet and that's because we need to now tell the replace color menu what we want to change those blue paint strokes to. So to do that, click on the bottom color chip. At this point you can select any color in the chip area, but it's always very hard to find the right color without being able to sample it. So this is when you can press control V in windows or command V on a Mac to paste in the specific hex number you want to change it to and then you can click okay to close the color picker.

As you can see, this is doing a decent job, but parts of the selected paint strokes are still showing as blue. We can control that in two different ways. The first method is to just increase the fuzziness slider up until you see the correct amount of purple. If you bring this all the way up to about 200 then the fuzziness allows you to add in more colors from the blue family. Because of this, the other paint stripes on the page begin to change because they are also in the blue color family. Let's take this back down to 50 and let me show you another thing. You can try.

First, click on the add to sample dropper, which is this one right here. Then in order to select some of these blue pixels that are still showing up here, I'm going to have to zoom way in, so I'll hit control plus in windows or command plus on a Mac a bunch of times until I can select the pixels I want to change to purple. I'm going to scroll up here to the top. And then on the document, click once on one of these teal or blue pixels to add them into the purple paint recoloring.

There's still a few blue pixels here along the edges, but it's not looking too bad, so let's go ahead and hit control zero in windows or command zero on a Mac to resize their paper to fit the document and that actually looks pretty decent. Now before we close out of this menu, let me show you the bottom three options and what they do. First, the hue slider, I'm just going to move it left and right and you'll see it changes the outcome of the color pretty drastically. I don't like that change, so I'm going to press control Z to undo it.

Next, the saturation slider. When we move that left or right, it either increases or decreases the saturation of the color output, but let's put that back at minus 21. And then last, the lightness slider. This does exactly that. It either increases or decreases the lightness of the color output, but the extreme left and right completely changed the look of the paper. So we always want to avoid that. And let's leave that back at about plus 20. So now that we're done recoloring the paper, we can click okay. You'll notice that in the layers panel, the changes took place on the same layer as the original paper. This means that the process is destructive. So that is the replace color menu in a nutshell. Let's go back to some slides for a quick review before we wrap this up.

The replace color menu recoloring method is something to use when the color blend mode method and the color replacement brush method don't work. It can be quirky and difficult to get the desired outcome, but when it does work, it works well and makes recoloring easy. The fuzziness slider allows more or less colors to be included in the selection of the color we're changing. The add to and subtract from droppers can be helpful in fine tuning a color selection. The hue, saturation, and lightness sliders can help you achieve a more drastic color change, but they can be tricky to get right. The replace color menu method is also destructive, so making a copy of whatever you're recoloring is imperative so you don't overwrite an original file. Now that you have some familiarity with the replace color menu, we're going to do a couple of projects to get more practice with it. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.