



Make It Match

Match Color Menu – Transcript – Adobe Photoshop Only

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In this lesson I'm going to show you an alternative option you have to try when it comes to recoloring. Similar to the option available for Photoshop elements users, this option is a bit of a last resort kind of option due to lack of control. But I wanted to show it to you so you at least knew about it just in case it worked for you when other methods didn't.

So here we are in Photoshop. In the downloads for this lesson there are two files for you. One is a button, the other is a bow. Download, unzip, and open both of those files now. Then go to the bow document. We're going to try to recolor the pink bow to the yellow color of the button. To do that in the menu bar, choose image, adjustments, match color. In the dialog box, the first thing you always have to do is set the source. So click on the dropdown box and we're going to choose the button document as our source because that's got the yellow color we want.

This gives us a nice pale yellow bow. It's not a perfect recoloring but it's definitely decent enough to use. Now I would probably just keep it like this, but let's play with the top sliders so you can see how they work. Dragging the Luminance slider to the right or increasing it, increases the light intensity of the bow so it gets pretty bright and if you drag it down it seems to make it look like it's going gray or like the sun's going down. Let's bring this back to 100. And then the color intensity isn't really saturation, but it sort of is. If we lower the intensity, the yellow becomes more pale and a little green. If we increase the intensity, the yellow becomes more pigmented with shadow areas looking a little more orangy, so let's bring that back to 100 as well. The fade slider is set to zero. If you increase the fade, it starts to blend the original bow color with the color you are trying to match, so you can actually get a pretty nice peachy color here depending on where you leave the fade at. But I want to keep it yellow. So I'm going to drag this back down.

So now that you've seen how the match menu works, let's go ahead and hit cancel because I don't want to keep the yellow recoloring at the moment. Now we're going to try the same thing for the yellow button. So let's go to that document. In the menu bar, choose image, adjustments, match color. And now we're going to try to match the yellow button to the pink bow. So in the dialog box, set the source

document to the bow and that actually did a really good job of recoloring the button. So let's hit cancel and get out of this because we don't want to accidentally overwrite the file.

Now that you know how the match color menu works, let me show you some of the downfalls to this method. This part is observational only, so don't worry about following along. Just watch and see what happens. Here I've opened a layered scrapbook page. I've also brought the pink bow from earlier onto the document. With the bow layer still active in the layers panel, in the menu bar, choose image, adjustments, match color. In the dialog box, set the source to the scrapbook page document. Then because the page document has more than one layer, you must select which layer you want it to recolor to. So click on the layer dropdown box and let's just choose layer one because layer one is the merged layered cluster layer. This bow looks pretty ugly because it's taking a combination of the colors and applying it to the bow. Now let's change the layer to layer four. This does a better job, but it still looks pretty gray or dark. Increasing the luminance here to about 125 will help with that. Let's get that up there, but let's reset the luminance back to 100 for now.

Now let's change it to layer five. Layer five is the blue star with the orange border, and that's why this bow has those two colors in it. It's not looking great, is it? Now let's change the layer to layer six. This does a pretty great job at recoloring the bow black to match the black arrow layer. Now, let me show you what happens when you select a layer that is a solid color without any contrast. I'll pick layer two, which is the white background layer. All of the detail is now lost, so that won't work. So basically this menu can be helpful, but it doesn't always work right. And the lack of control is also very frustrating. That said, it's good to at least know about it as an option because sometimes it might be the only one that works. So let me go ahead and hit cancel to get out of this menu.

So that's the match color menu in a nutshell. We're not going to do anything more with it, but it was something I wanted Photoshop users to know about. In the next lesson, we're going to look at the replace color menu. I'm Jenifer Juris with make it match.