Make It Match

Color Blend Mode Method: Extra Steps Part 2 – Photoshop Elements – Transcript

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In the last lesson, we looked at using levels to lighten the color of a flower using the color blend mode recoloring method. In this lesson we're going to use the exact same technique to make the same flower darker.

So here we are in Photoshop and we're going to pick up from where we left off in the last lesson. So I hope you have the flower document still open and ready to use. At this point, click on the visibility icon of the lighten levels adjustment layer to hide it now. Then you also need to download, unzip, and open the layered cluster file that is in the downloads for this lesson. Once you've done that, make sure you're in the layer cluster document. Now we need to sample a color from this cluster and because I want to show you just how dark you can make this flower, let's sample one of the black paint spots. So click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and then I'll sample this paint spot here and then once you're done, click okay. Now let's go back to the flower document. In the layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the solid color fill layer to bring up the color picker and then sample the foreground color chip. Go ahead and click okay.

Now as you can see at this point, the flower is more gray than black, so we need to darken it. To do that in the layers panel and click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose levels. In the dialog box. Drag the upper black slider to the right until it's at about 32 and then drag the upper gray slider to the right until it's at about 0.77 or so. And then drag the lower white slider to the left until it's at about 204. So the reason I use these numbers is because if I went any higher or smaller, we start to lose the detail in the flower and we don't want that, but this looks pretty good. So let's go ahead and close the level's dialog box. Then in the layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to darken and then press enter to commit the name change.

Now we can use this flower on our cluster. So to do that, press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then press shift controls C in windows or shift command C on a Mac to create a merged copy. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. And now we can go to the layered cluster document. In the layers panel, click on the flower placeholder layer to activate it. Then press control V in windows or command V on a Mac to paste. If you don't have the move tool activated, get the move tool and then on the document click and drag the flower into place. Use the flower placeholder as your guide and then you can click and drag from a corner handled to make this smaller, about there. And then once you're done, click the check mark to commit.

Now in the layers panel, right click in windows or control click on a Mac on the name of the flower placeholder layer and choose copy layer style. And then right click in windows or control click on a Mac on the name of the black flower layer and choose paste layer style. Then you can drag the flower placeholder layered to the trash. At this point you can save this layered cluster file. I think using this to make a postcard or scrapbook page would be wonderful. Now let's also go back to the flower document and we can save this document as a layered PSD file called light medium dark, flower nine, stories 365 Kristin Cronin Barrow dot PSD in the recoloring templates folder. When you open this file later to recolor it for a different project, you can either hide both of the levels adjustment layers when you need a medium color or you can unhide the lighten or darken layers depending on the new color you need. Just keep in mind, you might have to make adjustments to the lighten or darken levels in order to get the right new color. You just have to double click on the thumbnail of the levels adjustment layer you want to change, and that will bring up the levels dialog box.

So now that you've seen what the color blend mode recoloring method can do, in the next lesson, we're going to discuss how to recognize when it's not the greatest method to use for trying to recolor an item. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.