



Make It Match

Color Blend Mode Method: Extra Steps Part 1 – Adobe Photoshop – Transcript

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Up to this point. We have seen that using the color blend mode recoloring method has limits. Using this method has restricted us to use a paper or element that has a similar tint or shade to the new color we want it to have. Well in this video I'm going to cover the extra steps you can take in order to increase the range of colors you can recolor something to. We're going to use a levels adjustment layer and it's going to almost seem like magic when you see how great it works.

So here we are in Photoshop. There are two files you need to download, unzip, and open to follow along with this lesson. The first is a basic flower and the other is the layered cluster file. Once you have both files open, go to the basic flower document. Then in the menu bar, choose image, duplicate to create a copy and click okay. And then you can close the original flower document.

So the first thing we need to do is recolor the flower. So let's go to the layered cluster document now to find what we want to recolor it to. We want to sample a color from this document to recolor our blue flower to. Previously I would have said we couldn't use the mint color, but this time we're going to try it. So click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and sample the mint green color from the paper strip on the cluster here and then click okay. Now we can go back to the flower document.

So now in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. It should pre-fill with the mint color we just selected, so click okay. And then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask, and then change the blend mode of the solid color fill layer to color. As you can see, some extra steps are needed before we can make this flower match the light mint green we sampled. As it is, this flower is way too dark, but let's fix it.

So in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose levels. I want you to take note that before we start making any adjustments, you need to understand something. The settings you use in the levels adjustment dialog box are going to depend on two things. First, the original color of the flower you are starting with, and second, the new color you wish to use. There isn't a set formula for what to set your level sliders to, so each time you use this method you'll have to keep adjusting the sliders until the new color is what you want it to be. So using the level sliders is going to give us the power to take this flower from a medium darker green to a light mint green. Let's just start

playing around to see what happens. The first thing to go over is to know which part of the levels to adjust. Let's just look at what happens when we move each option available to us first. Take note that there are two areas we can move the sliders. One is above, these three options here and one is below, these two options here. If we move the top black slider to the right, you'll see that the flower starts to get darker, so that's the opposite of what we want. Let's drag that all the way back over. If we move the top white slider to the left, the flower starts to lighten. That's what we want. Let's move it over to about 150 for now. Also note, if you take any of the sliders too far, you will start to lose detail. Make sure you never move a sliders so far that the details of the flower begin to be lost. When that happens, go back to where the detail remains and adjust other sliders instead. So now let's move the gray midpoint slider. If we move it to the right, things start to get darker again. So let's move it to the left instead. Let's keep moving this over until we get to about 2.2 for the middle number. Now let's see what happens when we move the lower white slider to the left. Oh, things start to get darker again. So let's take that back all the way to the right. Last, let's see what happens when we move the lower black slider to the right. Things continue to lighten up, so let's move this over until it's at about 55. So I think that did it. This flower looks very close to the color here in this color thumbnail, so we can close the level's dialog box.

So now we can move the flower to the cluster. To do that, press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then press shift control 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. Then let's go to the layered cluster file. 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. And if you don't have the move tool activated, get the move tool now. And then click and drag from a corner handle to resize the flower smaller using the flower placeholder layer as a guide. Then once you're done, click the check mark to commit. And then 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 mint flower layer and choose paste layer style. Then you can drag the flower placeholder layer to the trash.

At this point you can save your layered cluster file for use on any project. Now let's go back to the flower document. In the layers panel, double click on the name of the levels adjustment layer and we're going to change it to lighten and then press enter to commit the name change. Now don't save or close this file just yet. We're going to use the same flower in the next lesson, so just leave it open and ready to use. Before we wrap up this lesson though, let's do a quick review.

So the big thing we learned today is that we can add a levels adjustment layer to the color blend mode recoloring method in order to increase the range of colors we can recolor something to. We also learned that using the level sliders will be different for every recoloring scenario. So each time we recolor something new, we'll have to move the sliders a different amount depending on the desired result. Next up, we're going to use the same method to take the blue flower and make it black or darker. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.