



Make It Match

Recoloring to White: Extra Step – Transcript – Adobe Photoshop

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In this lesson we're going to look at what extra step we can take in order to do our best to preserve the detail or texture of something when we want to recolor it to white.

In the downloads for this lesson, you will find a solid paper and a flower. Download, unzip, and open the paper document now. Then in the menu bar, choose image, duplicate to create a copy. Click okay. And then you can close the original paper file.

The first step is to desaturate the paper, so press shift control U in windows or shift command U on a Mac to do that. Then press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate the paper and then in the layers panel change the blend mode of this layer to screen. Now press control J in windows or command J on a Mac 10 times to duplicate the layer 10 more times and now that we've made the paper white, you can see that the texture or the detail of the paper has been lost. So let's try to get that back. To do that in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose levels. In the dialog box, do the following: click on the upper gray or mid tone slider and drag it far over to the right. I'm dragging mine over until it says about 0.2 or 0.19 and that brought the texture back very nicely. If you feel like it's now too gray, you can always go to the layers panel, click on the layer below and then press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate it one more time.

This is such a neat trick that allows us to keep the texture and the detail so that it looks normal instead of washed out or totally white. So now if you want to, you can save a flat JPEG of this paper with a unique name. Just make sure to include the original file name so that you know who to credit in the future.

In order to get some more practice with this extra step, open the flower document found in the downloads for this lesson. Then in the menu bar, choose image, duplicate to create a copy. Click okay. And then you can close the original flower file. So the first thing to do is to desaturate the flower by pressing shift control U in windows or shift command U on a Mac. Then press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate the layer. Then in the layers panel, change the blend mode of this

layer to screen. Then press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate this layer as many times as needed to turn it white. But because we've lost some of the detail, we need to bring that back. So then in the layers panel and click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose levels.

In the dialog box, click and drag the upper or gray mid-tone slider over to the right until the detail has been returned, right about there looks pretty good. And then we will close the levels dialog box. So in order to make this look like a real white flour, we need to add some kind of a tint to it. Right now the flower looks very sterile, but adding a tint will make it look much more lifelike. To do that, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. In the dialog box, use the hex number FFFE8 and then click okay to close the color picker. Then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask. And then change the blend mode of this layer to color. At this point, the flower is ready for saving. Save this file with the unique name as a flat PNG, just make sure to include the original file name in there so that you know who to credit in the future.

So just like with the color blend mode recoloring method, using a levels adjustment layer is very helpful when recoloring items to white. The only difference is that you only need to focus on moving the upper gray slider to the right until the right amount of detail is brought back in. In the next two lessons, we're going to do two projects to help us get more practice with recoloring items white. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.