



Make It Match

Color Replacement Brush Explained – Transcript – Adobe Photoshop

©2020 Jenifer Juris

For almost all recoloring jobs, the color blend mode recoloring method will fit our needs. But sometimes there are items that we might want to recolor that just won't work with the color blend mode method and so we're going to look at the next best options. The first of the next best options is the color replacement brush.

As we saw in the first section of the class, any object that has easy to select parts is best recolored using the color blend mode method. But sometimes there are items we may want to recolor that have difficult to select parts. In those cases there are alternative methods we can try to use to recolor them. One of those methods is the color replacement brush. The color replacement brush is a tool you can find nestled with the other brush tools. It's easy to use and when it comes to recoloring, it's as fast or faster than the color blend mode method. Its major drawback is that its recoloring process is done in a destructive manner. When I say the term destructive, I mean that the changes occur on the same layer as the original item as opposed to the color blend mode method where the changes occur on separate layers and the original item is still intact.

Because of this, it's even more important that if you choose to use this recoloring method, you always remember to create a duplicate of the item you want to change before you do anything to it. This way you'll never accidentally overwrite your original paper or element. So in this video I'm going to show you how the color replacement brush works. I'm going to explain the various tool settings by showing you how I can use this method to recolor a flower.

So here we are in Photoshop in the downloads for this lesson is a flower PNG file that you need to download, unzip, and open, and have ready to use. And as we just talked about, because this recoloring method is destructive, we need to make a copy of this flower. To do that in the menu bar, choose image, duplicate to create a copy and then click okay. And then you can close the original flower. I'm going to zoom mine out here just a little bit.

So now we can recolor this flower using the color replacement brush. It's nestled with the regular brush tool. So we'll go here. As you can imagine, using the actual brush isn't very difficult, but the settings are important to understand. So let's go over those first. The first thing to look at is the brush preset picker. So let's click to open that. The size will vary depending on the object you're recoloring. Depending on the item you are recoloring, you might want to make the brush very large. I'll explain more about this in a minute, but set the hardness to 0%, and the spacing to 1%, keep the angle at zero degrees, and the roundness to 100%. And keep the size set to pen pressure and the tolerance to off. And it's important to keep the hardness and the spacing set to those settings in order to get a smooth recoloring. So unless you have a situation where you need to change those settings, I would always keep it at zero and 1% respectively.

Then in the tool options, set the mode to Hue. This is basically telling the brush which blend mode to apply to the brush while using the color in the foreground color chip. In some cases you'll want to use hue and in others, saturation or color will work best. Each time you use this brush, you'll have to test to see which mode will work best for what your trying to accomplish. Luminosity is a mode I have yet to have success with, but it can't hurt to try if the others don't work. The next setting I want to discuss is the tolerance. This should almost always be set to 100%. The only time you should lower this is if you are wanting to exclude closely related colors, but I have yet to actually find a situation where 100% doesn't work for me. Now we have to pick a sampling option. The two I prefer are continuous or once the background swatch is not something I have found very useful. In this case we'll stick with continuous. The last option to look at is the limits. We have three options, but find edges does not work for our recoloring purposes here, so don't use that one. In this case, it doesn't matter if we use contiguous or discontinuous because we only have one item to be recolored and it's on its own layer. With most recoloring situations, it won't matter, but you can always try contiguous if discontinuous isn't working.

So now I'm going to pick a color to recolor this flower to. Instead of pink, I want to try blue. So I'll click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker. And for simplicity sake, I'm just going to type in hex number of 0054A6, and then once that's entered I'll click okay. Now on the document I'm going to brush over the flower to recolor it. I want you to see what happens with my brush being smaller. As you can see, the recoloring process isn't very smooth and some places are more saturated than others. Some spots are brighter and some spots are more dull. So I'm going to undo this and then I'm going to make my brush larger than the flower. So I'll use the bracket key to make the brush size bigger.

And now I'm just going to click a few times instead of brushing. So here's what it looks like with one click and then I'll click a few more times and that's a pretty blue. So as you can see, it recolored this flower very nicely and easily, but it doesn't have the deep saturation of blue from the foreground color chip that we would want. That is one of the disadvantages to using the color replacement brush, as we can't adjust the new color we're going to get like you can with the color blend mode and the levels adjustment layer.

So that's how the color replacement brush works. Let's do a quick review before we move on to the next lesson. The color replacement brush is a tool you can find with the other brush tools. It's a destructive recoloring process. So you always want to make sure you create a duplicate of what ever item you're trying to recolor and when recoloring most elements, you'll want to make the brush size larger than the item for a smooth recoloring. In the next lesson, we're going to do a project that will require the color replacement brush tool to get an item recolored. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.