



Make It Match

Color Blend Mode Recoloring Method: Solid Paper – Adobe Photoshop – Transcript

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Welcome to make it match. In this first section of the class, we're going to learn how to recolor items using the color blend mode method. The color blend mode method is the most basic of all the methods out there. This method utilizes the color blend mode. Explaining how this recoloring method works is best done by showing you. So let's go to Photoshop now and get started.

So here we are in Photoshop. There are two files you need to have open and ready to use. The first is a layered cluster file and the second is a solid paper file you need to download, unzip and open both of those files now. Once you have them open, go to the solid paper document. Then in the menu bar, choose image, duplicate to create a copy. Go ahead and click okay and then close the original paper file. The reason we are copying the paper is that we don't want to accidentally overwrite the original paper file.

So now this paper is a nice light pink, but the layered cluster file we're working with is going to need a solid paper with a different color. We want the paper we're using to be recolored to something that coordinates with the cluster. So to do that, go to the layered cluster document now and then click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker. Now on the document, click to sample the yellow color from one of the yellow dots. So click there and then click okay.

Now we can go back to the solid paper copy document, and then in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. And the dialog box should pop up with the color we already selected so just go ahead and click okay. Now in the layers panel, change the blend mode of the solid color fill layer to color. As you can see, the yellow color stays, but the texture from the pastel pink paper comes through, which is exactly what we want. The color blend mode allows us to change the color of the paper, but keep its texture and it's so easy, it's almost like magic.

So now that our paper is recolored, let's use it in the layered cluster. So 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 go ahead and go to the layered cluster document and then in the layers panel, click on the clipping mask layer to activate it. Now press control V in windows or command V on a Mac to paste. And then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask.

Now we need to resize the paper down just a bit so that it fits on the document. So press control, zero in windows or command zero on a Mac to resize the document to fit the paper's bounding box to our screen. And then click and drag from the bottom right corner handle and make the paper smaller. I'm going to bring the corner up until it's a little outside of the right document edge about there. And then once you're done, click the check mark to commit. And then go ahead and press control plus in windows or command plus on a Mac once or twice to bring your document back up to size.

Now at this point you can save this layered cluster file. The yellow color works perfectly with this cute cluster and this cluster is something you can use to make a card or a postcard to send in the mail. But even though we have finished our objective of recoloring the light pink paper to yellow so that it matches the cluster, I want to show you a couple of more things to help you better understand the color blend mode recoloring method. So now that we've seen that changing a light pink paper to yellow is easy. But what happens if you want to make this light pink paper a dark blue? Let's go to the solid paper copy document to check this out.

Double click on the layer thumbnail of the solid color fill layer to open the color picker. Choose a dark blue color. I'll type in a hex number here: 41D364F. Now before you click okay, I want you to notice that the color of the paper on the document is much lighter than the color of the blue color chip in the color picker. So this blue here is not this blue here. This happens because the color blend mode keeps the hue of the color you chose, but it also keeps the tint or the shade of the layer beneath it. So if you start with a light colored paper, you're going to get a light colored paper with whatever new color you pick.

This shows that the color blend mode recoloring method is fast and easy, but it can have a few limitations. In a later lesson, I'll show you some extra steps you can take to increase the range of colors you can recolor this to. But for the next few lessons, we're just going to work on getting more comfortable with this method before we add any extra steps in. So now let's just click cancel to prevent the blue color change from taking place. Now we can save this solid paper document as a layered PSD file. Let's go to the slides to discuss why and a folder strategy.

I recommend creating a folder on your computer called recoloring templates. Then once you've created the folder, save this solid paper document as a layered PSD file. Name it something like pastel paper paper 24 make a wish Kim Broedelet dot PSD. Keeping the original file name in the recoloring template file name is important so that you know who to credit. Also, saving this recoloring template will allow you to quickly open this file whenever you need a pastel colored paper. Then you can open this template and double click on the solid color fill thumbnail to change the color to whatever pastel color you need. Now let's do a quick review of what we just learned about the color blend mode recoloring method.

The color blend mode method keeps the texture but changes the color. The color blend mode method works best when you use a similar tint or shade of the new color that you need. For example, if you need a light color, when possible, start with a light colored paper. If you need a medium color, start with a medium colored paper. And if you need a dark color, start with a dark colored paper. But starting with a similarly colored paper isn't always an option. So later on in this first section of the class, I'll show you some extra steps to try while using the color blend mode recoloring method. Okay. So now that you've seen how to use this basic method to recolor a solid paper, in the next video, we're going to use the same method to recolor a basic element. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.