Make It Match
Replace Color Menu Explained – Transcript – Photoshop Elements
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The replace color menu is our last alternative method we're going to discuss in this section of the class. I've saved it for last because it's not the easiest menu to work with. But in saying that, I don't want you to be scared. This menu can be very helpful when you're trying to recolor items that are difficult to recolor using the color blend mode method.

So here we are in Photoshop elements. In the downloads for this lesson, I've included a paper with water color lines on it. You need to download, unzip, and open that paper now. Then before we do anything else, in the menu bar, choose file, duplicate to create a copy. Click okay and then close the original paper file. Then in the menu bar, choose window, images, consolidate all to tabs.

One of the things you have to do before you access the replace color menu is you have to know what hex number you want to recolor to. So I'm going to click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and I'm going to type in a specific hex number. It's A186BE and before you click okay, we need to select the hex number and then we need to press control C in windows or command C on a Mac to copy this hex number. This is important. If you don't do this, you'll have to cancel out of the menu and start over because it won't let you sample anything in the menu, so now you can click okay.

Now that we have our hex number, we can recolor the paper. To access the replace color menu, go to the menu bar and choose enhance, adjust color, replace color. This will bring up a dialog box. Let's take a look at all of the things in here. Before we do anything else, we need to change the top color chip to the color that we're selecting to change. To do that, click on the top color chip and then on the document click on one of the blue paint strokes to select that color. Then click okay to close the color picker.

The first thing to notice is that there is a preview area. You want to make sure that this is marked to show the selection and not the image. The reason is that the selection will show you what areas are

going to be changed by showing what is in white and shades of gray. Anything in black is going to stay the same. Right now we just see white and gray, but let me show you what happens when we moved the fuzziness slider lower. Let's lower it to about 45 and as you can see it's only selecting the blue paint strokes, but nothing has changed yet on the document and that's because we need to now tell the replace color menu what we want to change those blue paint strokes to.

So to do that, click on the bottom color chip. At this point you can select any color in the color area, but it's always very hard to find the right color without being able to sample it. So now is when you will press control V in windows or command V on a Mac to paste the hex number we copied earlier and then you can click okay to close the color picker. As you can see, this is doing a decent job, but parts of the selected paint strokes are still showing as blue. We can control that in two different ways.

The first method is to just increase the fuzziness slider up until you see the correct amount of purple. When you drag it all the way back up to 200, the fuzziness allows you to add in more colors from the blue family and because of this, the other paint stripes on the page begin to change because they are in the blue color family. So let's take this back down to 50 and let me show you an alternative method. First, click on the add to sample dropper, which is this one right here. Then in order to select these blue pixels that are still showing, I'm going to have to zoom way in. So I'll hit control plus in windows or command plus on a Mac a bunch of times until I can see the pixels I want to change. So I'm going to scroll all the way up to this top paint stroke here and then on the document, click on these blue pixels to make them purple. As you can see, there's still a little bit of blue showing along the edges, but this is pretty good. So now we can press control zero in windows or command zero on a Mac to resize the paper to fit the screen.

And this does look much better. The purple paint strokes look more purple without having to change the color of the teal stripes. Now before we close out of this menu, let me show you the bottom three options and what they do. First, the hue slider. I'm going to move it left and right and you'll see it changes the outcome of the color pretty drastically. But let me change this back to 63. And next, the saturation slider. When we move that left and right, it either increases or decreases the saturation of the color output. Let's go ahead and put this at about a minus 21. Then last, the lightness slider. This does exactly that. It increases or decreases the lightness of the color output, but the extreme left and right can be pretty crazy, so we want to make sure we avoid those. Let's leave the lightness at about plus 20 so now that we're done recoloring the paper, we can click okay to close the menu and you'll notice that in the layers panel, the changes took place on the same layer as the original paper. This means that the recoloring process is destructive, so that is the replace color menu in a nutshell. Let's go back to some slides for a quick review before we wrap this up.

The replace color menu recoloring method is something to use when the color blend mode method and the color replacement brush method don't work. It can be quirky and difficult to get the desired outcome, but when it does work, it works well and makes recoloring easy. The fuzziness slider allows more or less colors to be included in the selection of the color we're changing. The add to and subtract from droppers can be helpful in fine tuning a color selection. The hue saturation and lightness sliders can help you achieve a more drastic color change, but they can be tricky to get right. The replace color menu method is also destructive, so making a copy of whatever you're recoloring is imperative so you don't overwrite an original file. Now that you have some familiarity with the replace color menu, we're going to do a couple of projects to get more practice with it. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.