Make It Match
How To Recolor to White – Transcript – Photoshop Elements

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In this section of the class, we're going to go over how to easily recolor something white. One of the greatest things about digital scrapbooking kits is all of the beautiful colors designers use to make the papers and elements they put into their products. For me, I can't say no to a kit that has teal and Navy blue in it. That color combination is one of my favorites, but sometimes even with all of the gorgeous colors available to us, we don't need color, but we need something neutral or something white. Because of that, we're going to look at how to take a paper or element and turn them white. It's not as complicated as you might think. So let's jump on over to Photoshop elements and get started.

In the downloads for this lesson, I have included a paper and an element that we will practice recoloring to white. Download, unzip, and then open the paper file now. Then 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. So the first thing we need to do to make this white is to desaturation or remove all of the color from this paper. To do that, press 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 paper layer. Then in the layers panel change the blend mode of the duplicated layer to screen. Now press control J in windows or command J on a Mac as many times as necessary to get it to look white. I ended up duplicating it three more times to get the paper to be very light. At this point, the paper looks good. It's very light without losing the detail of the chevrons. You can easily use the paper as it is right now, but I often find that the desaturation white often looks flat, so let's quickly add a very light tint of color. To do that, click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a very light cream color. I'm using hex number FFFEF8 and then click okay. Then in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. Click okay to close the color picker. And then in the layers panel, change the blend mode of the solid color fill layer to color. And that's it. That didn't take very long at all. So if you want to, you can save this paper as a flat JPEG with a unique name. Just remember to save it with the original file name still there so that you know who to credit later.

Now that you've seen how the process works, let's use this method to recolor a bow white. So open the bow from the downloads for this lesson. Then in the menu bar, choose file, duplicate to create a copy.

Click okay and then close the original bow file. Then in the menu bar, choose window, images, consolidate all to tabs. So again, the first thing we need to do is desaturate the bow. 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 bow layer. 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 two more times to make the bow white without losing the detail. At this point, the bow is done. You can add a color tint if you wish, but it looks great just as it is. So I'm going to leave it like this. Feel free to save this bow as a flat PNG file with a unique name. Just make sure to include the original file name in there so that you know who to credit later.

Now that you've seen how easy it is, let's go over a few tips and review what we've just learned. Number one, start by de saturating the item you want to make white. The keyboard shortcut for this is shift control U or shift command U for a Mac. Number two, duplicate the item and change the blend mode to screen. Number three, keep duplicating the item until it's white enough to be white without losing the detail. Number four, the last tip, making something white without losing the detail is the key to making this work. Keeping the detail intact is what will make it look like a realistic paper or element.

But what happens when you have an item that isn't white enough until after you lose all of the detail? In the next video, I'll show you one extra step you can add to help recover some of the detail that will get lost when trying to make something white. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.