Make It Match

Color Blend Mode Recoloring Method: Solid Paper – Photoshop Elements – 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 elements now and get started.

So here we are in Photoshop elements. There are two files you need to have open and ready to use. The first is a layered cluster file. The second is a solid paper file. Download, unzip and open both of those files now. Then go to the solid paper document. In the menu bar, choose file duplicate to create a copy and then click okay and then you can close the original paper file. The reason we do this is that we do not want to accidentally overwrite the original paper file. Then in the menu bar, choose window images, consolidate all to tabs.

And 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, let's go to the layered cluster document now.

Then click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker. On the document, click to sample the yellow color from one of the yellow dots. So I'll click here and then once you've done that, click okay.

Now you 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 this should pre-fill with the color we just sampled. So 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 ready, we can use it in the layered cluster. 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 and then go to the layered cluster document. Now in the layers panel, click on the clipping mask layer to activate it. Then press control V in windows or command V on a Mac to paste the recolored paper. Then in the menu bar, choose Layer, create clipping mask.

Now 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 to make the paper smaller. I'm going to bring the paper up until the bounding box is right about at the right edge of the document. And then once that's done, click the check mark to commit. Then you can 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 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 more things to help you better understand the color blend mode recoloring method. So we've seen that changing a light pink paper to yellow was pretty 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. So double click on the layer thumbnail of the solid color fill layer to open the color picker. Choose a dark blue color. I'm just going to type in a hex number: 1D364F.

Now before I click okay, as you can see, the color of the paper on the document is much lighter than the color of the blue color chip in the color picker. This happens because the color blend mode keeps the hue of the color you chose, but it also keeps the tint or 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 also has 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'll just work on getting more comfortable with this method before we add any extra steps in. So let's click cancel to prevent the blue color change from taking place and 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.