



## Make It Match

### Recoloring to White: Extra Step – Transcript – Photoshop Elements

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In this lesson we're going to look at what extra step we can take in order to do our best to preserve the detail or texture of something when we want to recolor it to white.

In the downloads for this lesson, you will find a solid paper and a flower. Download, unzip, and open the paper document 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. The first thing to do is to desaturate the paper, so 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. And 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 10 times to duplicate this layer 10 more times so we can make it white. Now that we've made the paper white, you can see that the texture or the detail of the paper has been lost. So let's try to get that back. To do that, in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose levels.

In the dialog box, do the following. Click on this upper gray or mid-tone slider and drag it far over to the right. I'm going to drag it over until it says about 0.19. As you can see, that brought the texture back very nicely. But if you feel like it's too gray, you can always go to the layers panel and then click on the layer below it and then press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate this screen layer one more time. This is such a simple trick that really allows us to keep the texture and the detail so that it looks normal instead of washed out or totally white. So now if you want to, you can save a flat JPEG of this paper with a unique name. Just make sure to include the original file name information so that you know who to credit in the future.

In order to get some extra practice using that extra step, open the flower document found in the downloads for this lesson. Then in the menu bar, choose file, duplicate to create a copy. Click okay and then close the original flower file. Then in the menu bar, choose window, images, consolidate all two tabs.

So we're going to do the exact same thing with this flower that we did with the paper. So you use the keyboard shortcut to desaturate the flower. 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 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 a few more times until the flower looks white. Then in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose levels. We need to bring the detail back. So click on this gray upper gray slider and drag it to the right until the detail for the flower is back. That looks pretty good. So then we can close the levels layer.

In order to make this look more like a real white flower, we need to add some kind of a tint to it. Right now the flower looks very sterile, but adding a tint will make it look much more lifelike. To do that, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. Then in the dialog box, select a very light cream color or use a specific hex number. I'm using hex number FFEF7 and then click okay to close the color picker. Then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask, and then in the layers panel, change the blend mode of this layer to color. At this point, the flower is ready for saving. Save this file as a flat PNG with a unique name. Just make sure to include the original file name so you know who to credit in the future.

So just like with the color blend mode recoloring method, using a levels adjustment layer is very helpful when recoloring items to white. The only difference is that you only need to focus on moving the upper gray slider to the right until the right amount of detail is brought back in. In the next two lessons, we're going to do two projects to help us get more practice with recoloring items white. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.