Make It Match

Color Blend Mode Method: Basic Flower – Photoshop Elements – Transcript

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Most everything we do in this class is going to build on the previous lessons. Because of this you'll see some repetition, but that's a good thing because it helps us to remember what we learn. You'll see in this lesson that using the color blend mode to recolor a basic element is almost the exact same as for recoloring a solid paper.

So here we are in Photoshop elements. I've already opened the two files you'll need to follow along. The first is the layered cluster file for this lesson, and the second is this basic flower file. So make sure you have downloaded, unzipped, and opened the extra files for this lesson. The first thing we always need to do is create a copy of the item we are recoloring so that we don't accidentally overwrite the original file. To do that in the menu bar, choose file duplicate and then click okay and then go ahead and close the original flower file. And then in the menu bar, choose window, images, Consolidate all to tabs. Now I want to use this flower for the layered cluster, but the color won't work. So let's go to the layered cluster document to see what color we'll want to recolor the flower to.

Now click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker. And we're going to sample this purple color from one of these dots. So I'll click here and then once you've done that, click okay.

Now let's go back to the flower copy document. And then in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color and then click okay. Now, because this isn't a paper that covers the entire document, we need to clip this solid color fill layer to the flower layer. So to do that in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask. And then in the layers panel, change the blend mode of this layer to color.

So now that we've recolored the flower, we can use it in the layered cluster because now it matches. So to do that, let's press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then you'll need to press shift control C in windows or shift command C on a Mac to create a merged copy. And then we'll press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select.

And then let's go to the layered cluster document. In the layers panel. Click on the flower placeholder layer to activate it. Then press control V in windows or command V on a Mac to paste. Now get the move tool. Now we're going to use the flower placeholder layer as our guide. So let's move this flower

into position and then we need to make it smaller. So we're going to click and drag from a corner handle to reduce the size a little bit that looks about right. And then once you're done, click the check mark to commit. Now in the layers panel, right click in windows or control click on a Mac on the name of the flower placeholder layer and we're going to choose copy layer style. Then in the layers panel, right click in windows or control click on a Mac on the name of the purple flower layer and choose paste layer style. Now at this point you can drag the flower placeholder layer to the trash. So now that our cluster is finished, we can save it as a layered PSD file with a unique name.

Now let's go to the flower document and we can also save this as a layered PSD file and you'll want to save it in the recoloring templates folder. Use the name, basic flower, flower one stories 365 Kristin Cronin Barrow dot PSD. Like we talked about in the last video, it's important to keep the file's full name in there so that you know who to credit when you use it. And also saving this flower as a recoloring template will allow you to use it repeatedly whenever you have recoloring needs.

But before we finish this lesson, I want to show you a neat tip when using this recoloring method. You see in the last lesson, we learned that the color blend mode recoloring method works best when you're changing it to a color of a similar shade or tint. Because of that, let me show you a quick time-saver. In the layers panel, double click on the solid color fill thumbnail and we're going to do that to pull up the color picker. Then instead of clicking anywhere in this large box, go to the right of it where you see this column of rainbow colors. Do you see these two white arrows on each side of the column? The trick here is that you can click and drag these white arrows up and down to change the color of the flower while still keeping the same amount of tint or shade or saturation. And while you aren't limited to using only the colors in this column, these colors are the ones that will work best with the color blend mode unless extra steps are taken. And as I've already mentioned, we'll cover those extra steps in a later lesson. So for now, I'm just going to click cancel to get out of this.

So now let's do a quick review. In the last video we learned that the color blend mode keeps the texture but changes the color. And we also learned that this method works best when starting with an element that is already the same tint shade or saturation of the new color you will need. In this video, we learned that we have to clip the solid color fill layer to the layer below when we are recoloring elements, and we also learned to use the small column from within the solid color fill color picker to find the best colors for recoloring.

Up next, we're going to recolor a patterned paper using the color blend mode method. I'll see you there. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.