



Make It Match

Replace Color Menu Explained – Manual – 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. 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.

Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- In the downloads for this lesson, I've included a paper with watercolor lines on it. You need to download, unzip, and open that paper now.
- In the Menu Bar choose File > Duplicate to create a copy. Click OK.
- Then close the original paper.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Images > Consolidate All to Tabs.

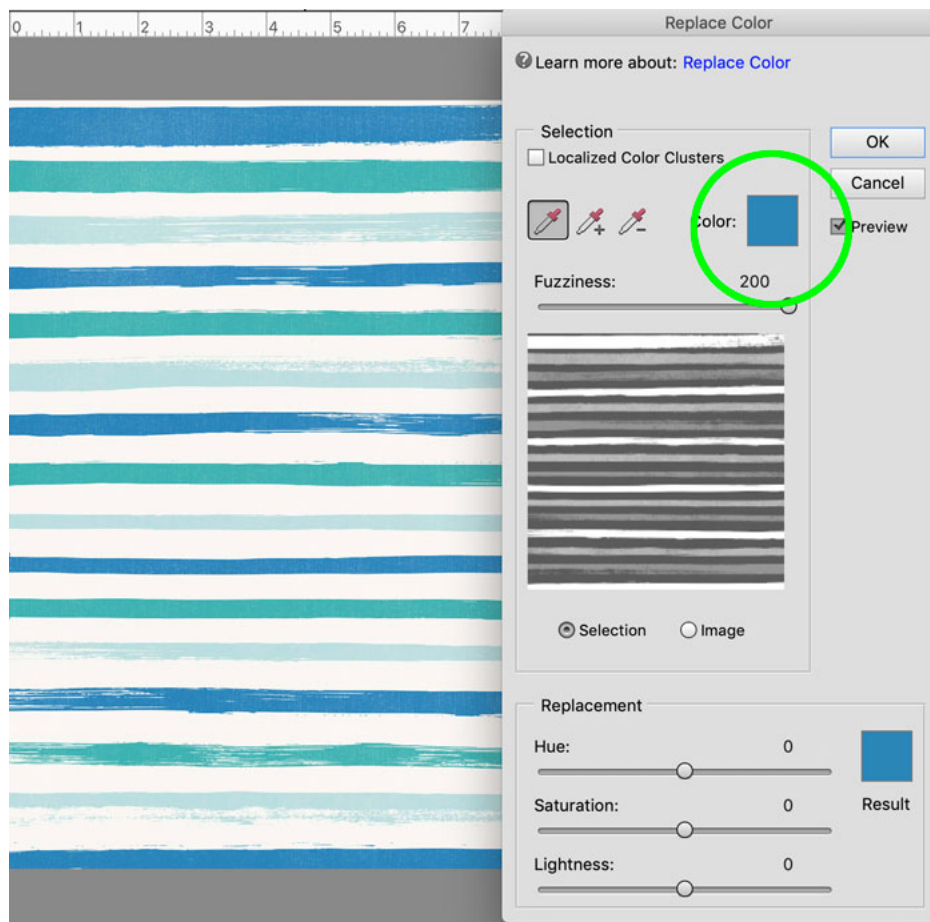


Step Two: Pick a Foreground Color

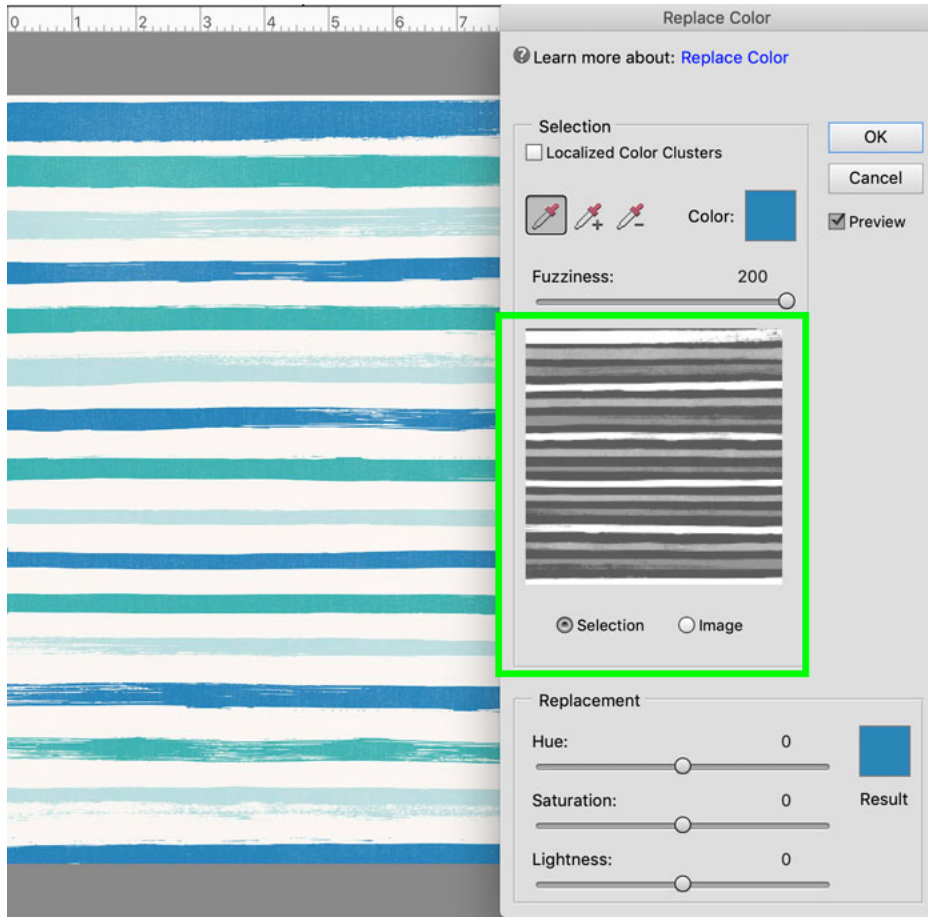
- One of the things you have to do before you access the Replace Color Menu is you have to know what Hex # you want to recolor to.
- Click on the Foreground Color Chip and open the Color Picker and choose Hex #: a186be. It's a pretty purple color.
- Before you click OK however, select the Hex # and then Press Ctrl C (Mac: Cmd C) to copy the Hex #. 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. Now, click OK.

Step Three: Recolor the Paper

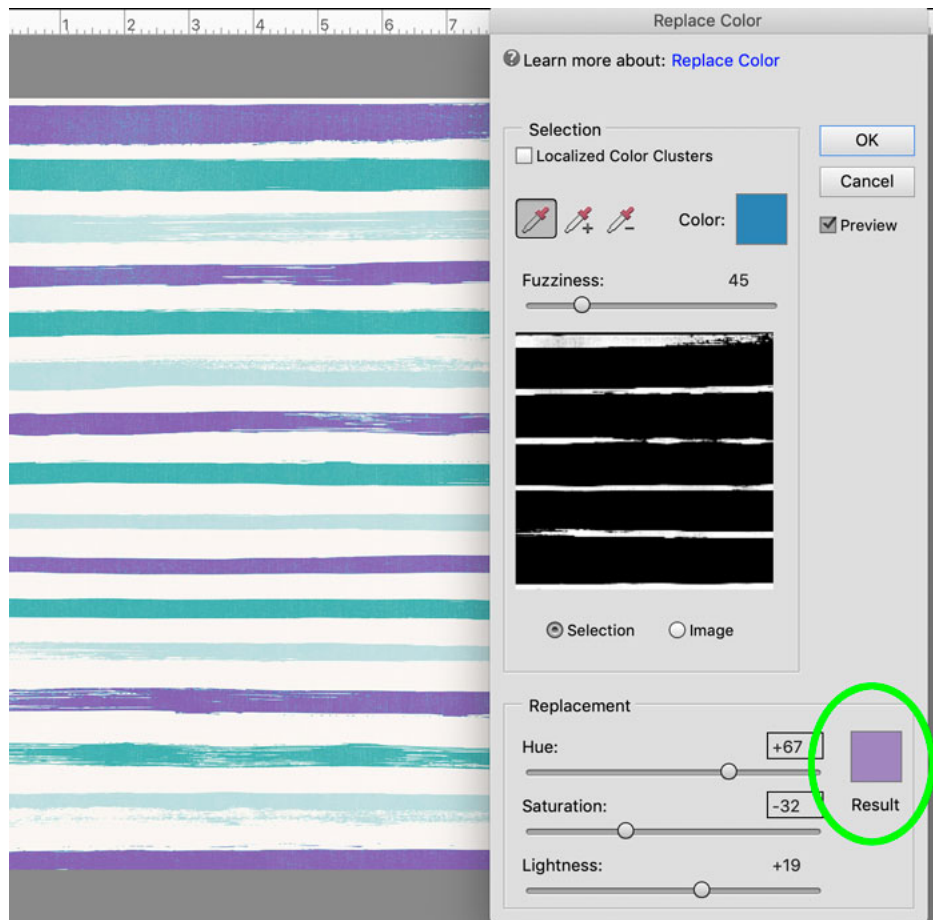
- Now to access the Replace Color Menu, go to the Menu Bar and choose Enhance > Adjust Color > Replace Color.
- This will bring up a dialog box. Let's take a look at all of the things in here.
 - Before we do anything else, we need to change the top Color Chip to the color that we're selecting to change. To do that, click on the top Color Chip, and then on the document, click on one of the blue paint strokes. This tells the Replace Color Menu that that is the color we want to replace.



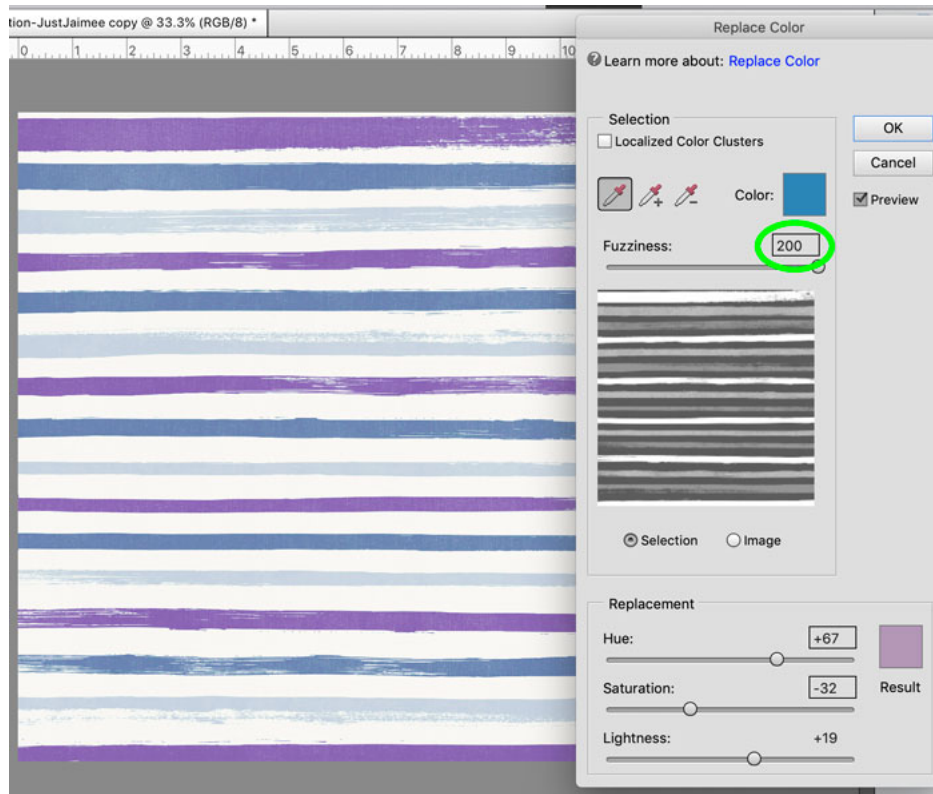
- The first thing to notice is that there is a preview area. You want to make sure this is marked to show the Selection and not the Image. The reason is that the Selection will show you what areas are going to be changed by showing what is in white and shades of gray. Anything in black is going to stay the same. Right now we just see white and gray but let me show you what happens when you move the Fuzziness slider lower.



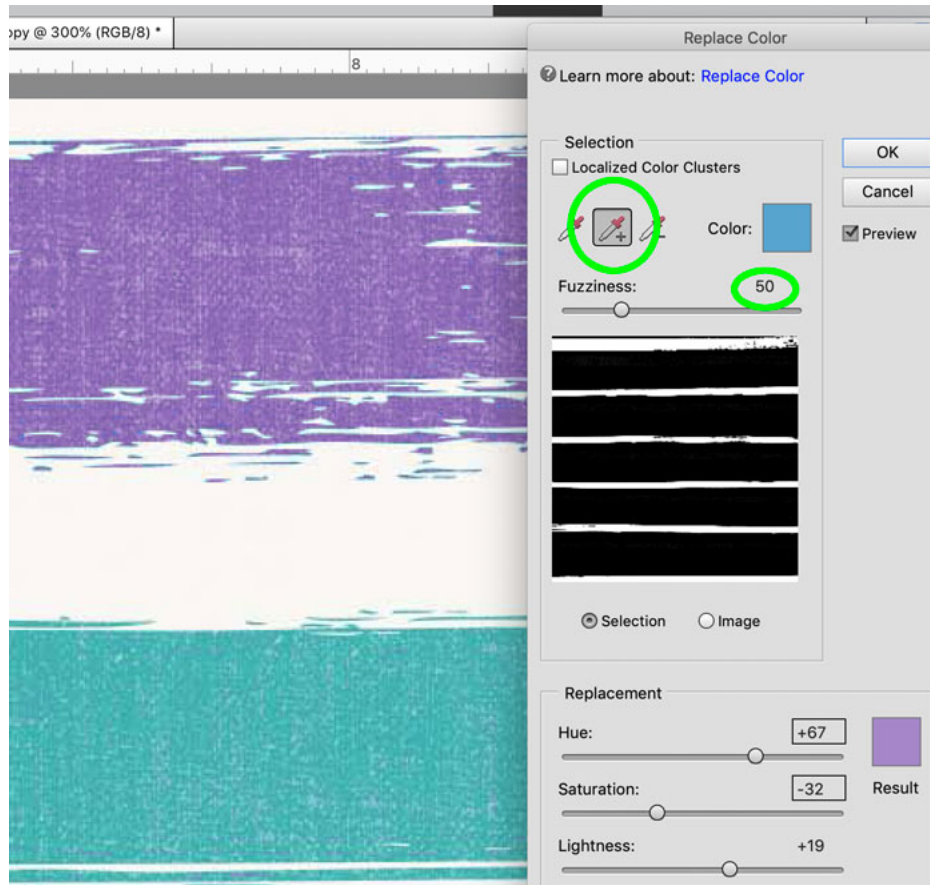
- If I lower the Fuzziness to 45, it will only select the blue paint strokes. But, nothing has changed yet. And that's because we need to now tell the Replace Color Menu what we want to change those blue paint strokes to.
- To do that, click on the bottom Color Chip. At this point, you can select any color in the Color Chip area. But it's always very hard to find the right color without being able to sample it. So now is when you press Ctrl V (Mac: Cmd V) to Paste the Hex # we copied earlier. Click OK.



- 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. Because of this, the other paint stripes on the page begin to change because they are in the blue color family.



- Let's take this back down to 50 and let me show you another thing you can try.
- First, click on the Add to Sample dropper.
- Then, in order to select the blue pixels still showing, I'm going to have to Zoom WAY in. So I'll hit Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) a bunch of times until I can select the pixels I want to change to purple.
- Let me click once on the light teal pixels that are showing from within the purple.



- There's still some blue pixels but let's zoom out to check it before we do anything else. So press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to resize to fit. This looks 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 just going to move it left and right and you'll see, it changes the outcome of the color.
 - I don't like this change so take the number back to +67.
 - Next, the Saturation slider. When we move that left and right, it either increases or decreases the saturation of the color output. Let's put this at -21.
 - Last, the Lightness slider. This does exactly that. It increases or decreases the lightness of the color output. But the extreme left and right completely change the look of the paper so we always want to avoid that. Let's leave the Lightness at +20.
- Now that we're done, we can click OK.



You'll notice that, in the Layers panel, the changes took place on the same layer as the original paper. This means the process is destructive.

Review:

1. The Replace Color Menu Recoloring Method is something to use when the Color Blend Mode recoloring method won't work.
2. It can be quirky, and difficult to get the desired outcome. But when it does work, it works well and makes recoloring easy.
3. The Fuzziness slider allows more or less colors to be included in the Selection of the color we're changing.
4. The Add to and Subtract from droppers can be helpful in fine tuning a selection.
5. The Hue, Saturation, and Lightness sliders can help you achieve a more drastic color change but they can be tricky to get right.
6. 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.

Credits:

Paper: New Years Celebrations by Just Jaimee