



Make It Match

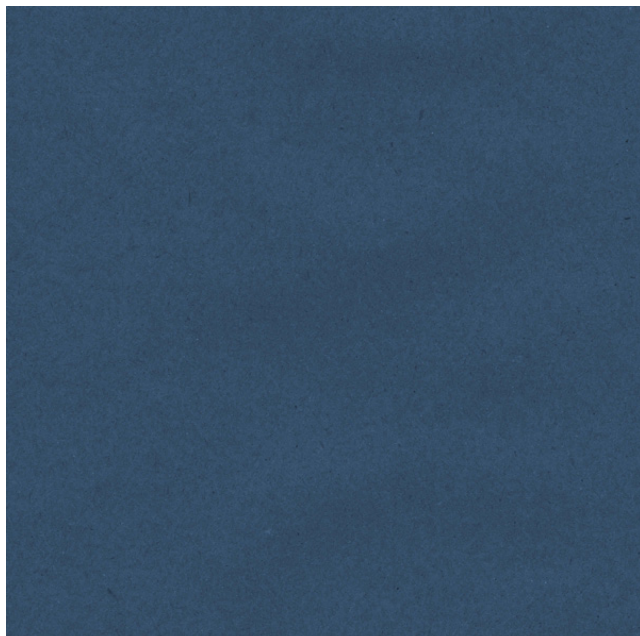
Recoloring to White: Extra Step – Manual – Photoshop Elements

©2020 Jenifer Juris

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.

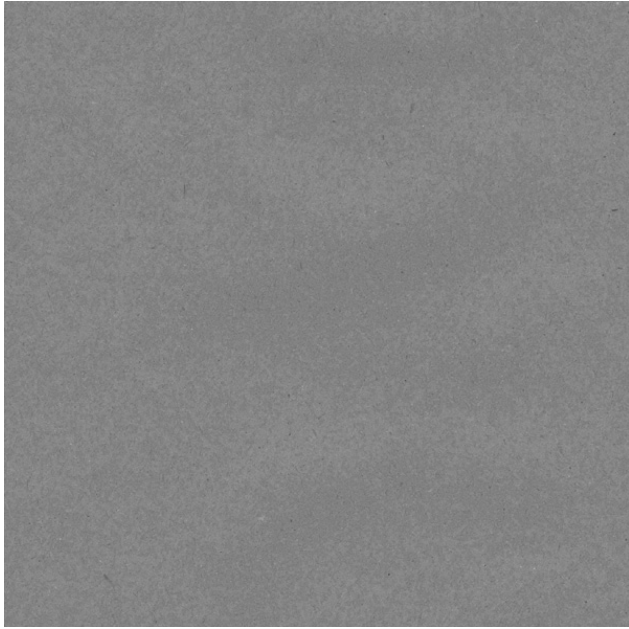
Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- In the downloads for this lesson you will find a solid paper and a flower. Download, unzip, and open the paper document now.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate to create a copy. Click OK.
- Close the original Solid Paper document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Images > Consolidate All to Tabs.

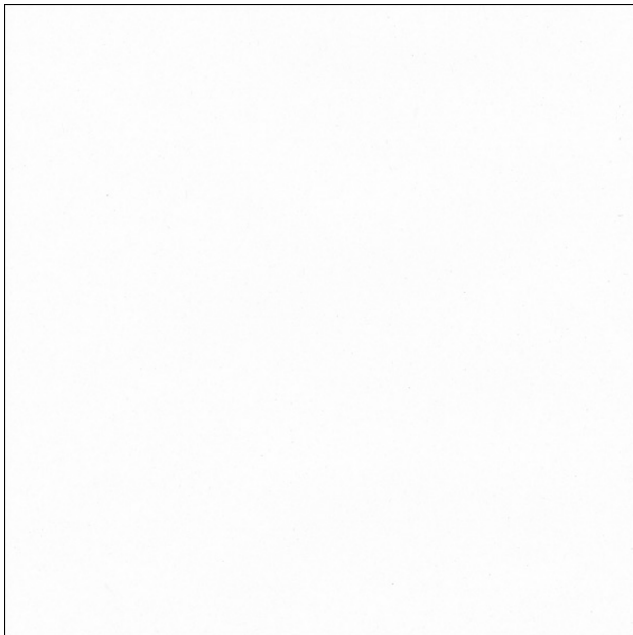


Step Two: Recolor the Paper White

- Press Shift Ctrl U (Mac: Shift Cmd U) to desaturate the paper.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the paper.
- In the Layers panel, change the Blend Mode of the layer to Screen.



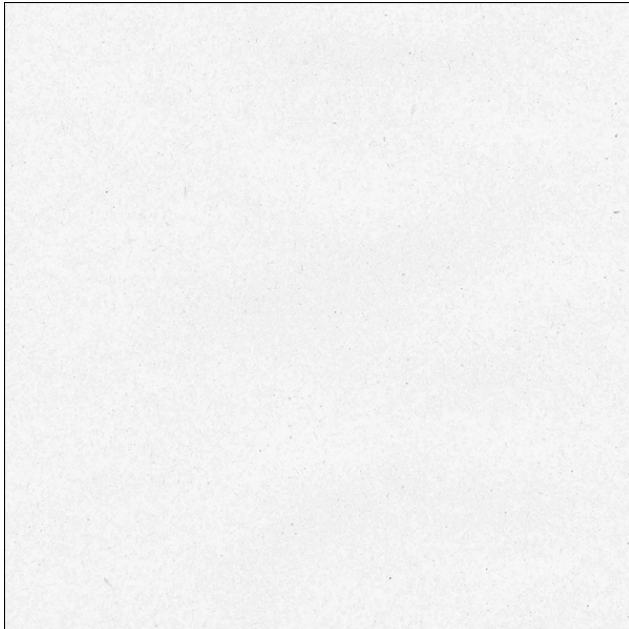
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) 10 times to duplicate the layer 10 times.



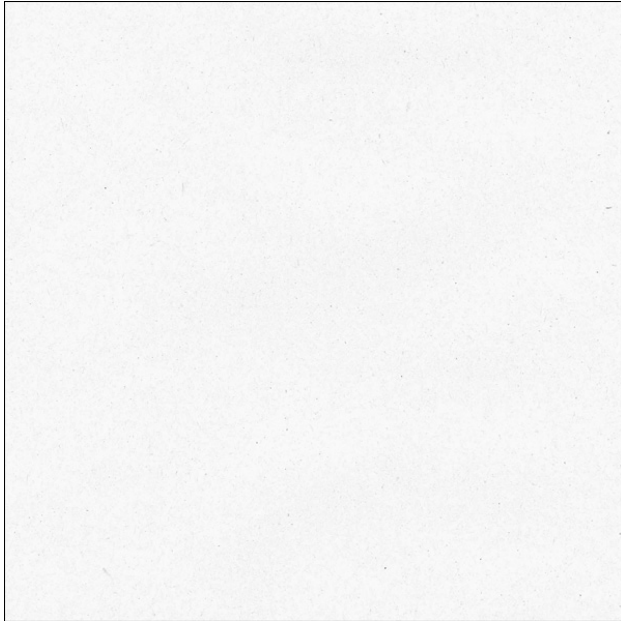
Step Three: Bring Back the Detail

Now that we've made the paper white, you can see that the texture or the detail of the paper has been lost. 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 the upper gray or midtones slider and drag it far over to the right. I'm dragging it over until it says about 0.19.



- That brought the texture back very nicely. If you feel like it's now too gray, you can always go to the Layers panel, click on the layer below the Levels layer and Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate it one more time.



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.

Step Four: Save As

- So now, if you want to, you can save a flat JPEG of this paper with a unique name if you think you might use it in the future. Make sure the file name keeps the original information but has white or recolored-white added to the name.

Step Five: Recolor the Flower White

- Now open the flower document found in the downloads for this lesson.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Duplicate to create a copy. Click OK.
- Close the original flower file.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Images > Consolidate All to Tabs.
- We're going to do the exact same thing with the flower so at this point, use the keyboard shortcut to desaturate the flower, duplicate it once, change the Blend Mode to Screen, and then keep duplicating the flower until it's white.



- Once you get to that point, in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Levels.
- In the dialog box, click and drag the upper gray/midtones slider to the right until it's at 0.25.



Step Six: Add a Tint

- In order to make this look more like a real white flower, we need to add some kind of tint to it. Right now, the flower looks very sterile but adding a tint will make it look much more life like. To do that, click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- In the dialog box, select a very light cream color or use a specific Hex #. I'm using Hex #: `fffef7`. Click OK.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- In the Layers panel, change the Blend Mode of the solid color fill layer to Color.



Step Seven: Save As

- At this point, the flower is ready for saving. Save this file as a flat PNG with a unique name. Again, I recommend keeping the original file name but make sure to add recolored-white to the file name so you know exactly what it is.

Review:

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.

Credits:

Paper: Natures Playground by Kim B Designs

Flower: Time Teller by Etc by Danyale