Make It Match
Color Blend Mode Method: Solid Paper – Manual – Photoshop Elements

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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 get started.
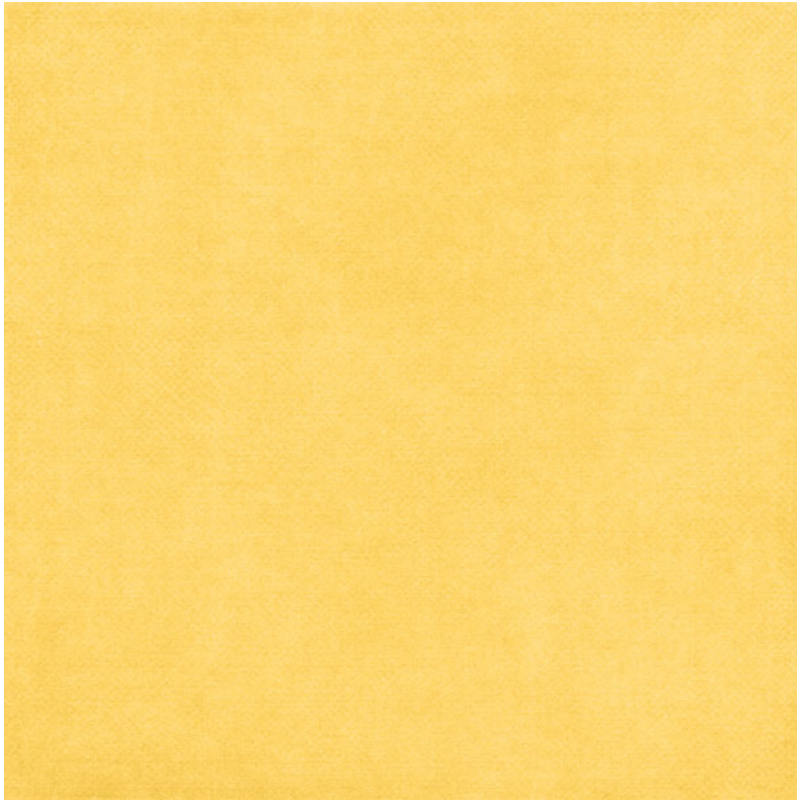
Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- 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.
- Go to the Solid Paper document.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate to create a copy. Click OK.
- Close the original solid paper document. The reason we do this is that we do not want to accidentally overwrite the original paper file.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Images > Consolidate all to Tabs.

Step Two: Recolor the Paper

- 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. To do that, go to the layered cluster document now.
- 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. The exact Hex # is fecd4f. Click OK.
- Now, go back to the solid paper copy document.

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, change the Blend Mode of the Solid Color Fill layer to Color.

NOTE: 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 it's texture and it's so easy it's almost like magic.

Step Three: Move the Recolored Paper to the Cluster Document

- Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to Select All.
- Press Shift Ctrl C (Mac: Shift Cmd C) to create a merged copy.
- Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.
- Go to the Layered Cluster Document.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Clipping Mask layer to activate it.
- Press Ctrl V (Mac: Cmd V) to Paste the recolored paper.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.
- Press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to resize the document to fit the paper's bounding box to our screen.
- Click and drag from the bottom right corner handle and make the paper smaller. I'm bring the corner up and in until it's a little outside of the right document edge.
- Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) once or twice to bring your document back up to size.
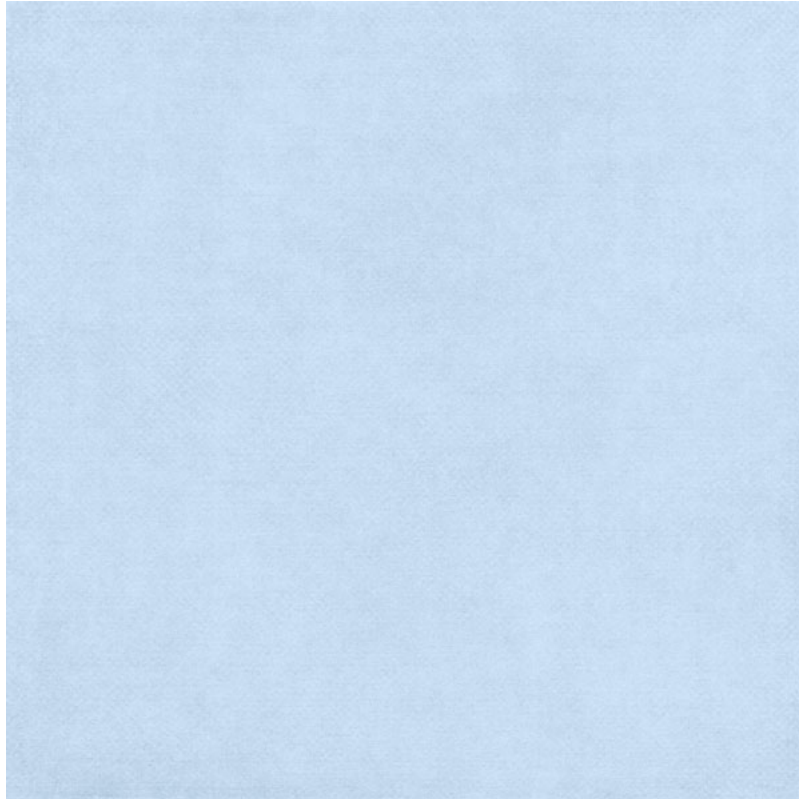
Step Four: Save As

- At this point, 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 post card 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.

Step Five: Try Another Color

- Ok, so we've seen that changing a light pink paper to yellow is easy. But what happens if you want to make this light pink paper a dark blue? To do that, go to the solid paper copy document.
- Double click on the layer thumbnail of the Solid Color Fill Layer to open the Color Picker.
- Choose a dark blue color. I'm using Hex #: 1d364f.
- Before I click OK, 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 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 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 click cancel to prevent the blue color change from taking place.
- Now we can save this solid paper document as a layered PSD file. See below for 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-Paper24-MakeAWish-KimBroedelet.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 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.

1. The Color Blend Mode method keeps the texture but changes the color.

2. The Color Blend Mode method works best when you use a similar tint or shade of the new color you need.
3. 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. 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.

Cluster Credits:
Layered Cluster: Jenifer Juris
Kit: Spring Has Sprung by Mommyish
Solid Paper: Make A Wish by Kim B Designs