Make It Match
Colorize Photo Explained – Manual – Photoshop Elements
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In this lesson, we're going to look at a neat little menu from within the Enhance options of Photoshop Elements. It's another recoloring method you can try when the Color Blend Mode method won't work. For this video, we're going to jump on in and look at how it works and then afterwards, we'll discuss what's good and not so good about it.
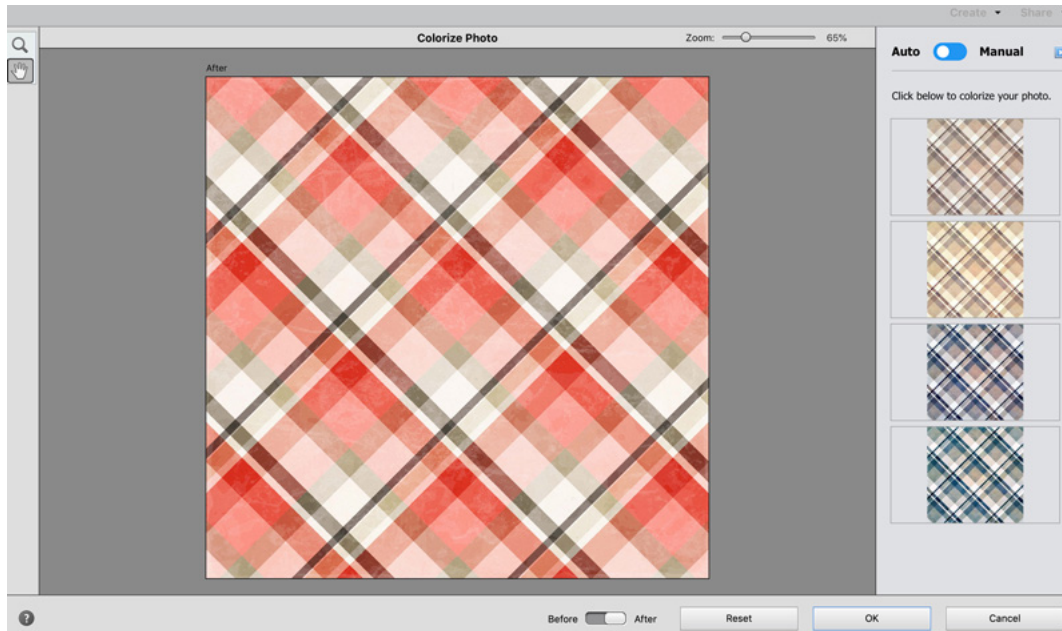
Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- In the downloads for this lesson, there is a paper you will need to download, unzip, and open.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate to create a copy. Click OK.
- Close the original paper file.
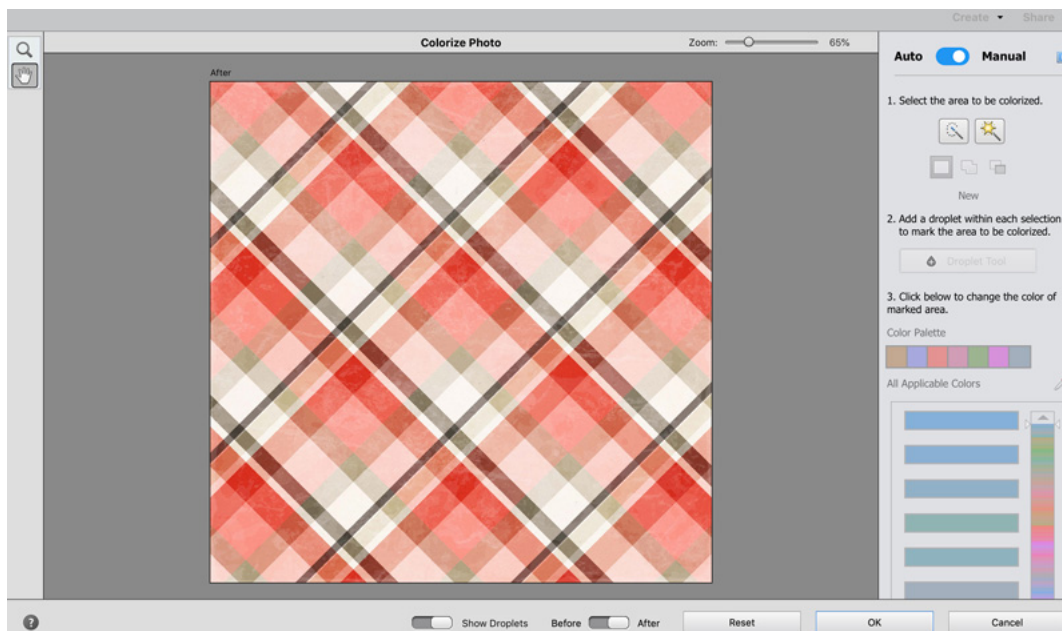- In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Images > Consolidate All to Tabs.

Step Two: Recolor the Paper

This paper is a difficult one to recolor. It has various colors that are hard to select due to the texture of the background. Because of that, using the Color Blend Mode method isn't the best option. So, I'm going to show you a trick you can try in Photoshop Elements.

- In the Menu Bar choose Enhance > Colorize Photo.
- When the colorize photo menu first pulls up, it will always pull up in "Auto" mode. On the right hand side, it will give you four predone recoloring options. If you like the look of one of those, you can always select one and then click ok.
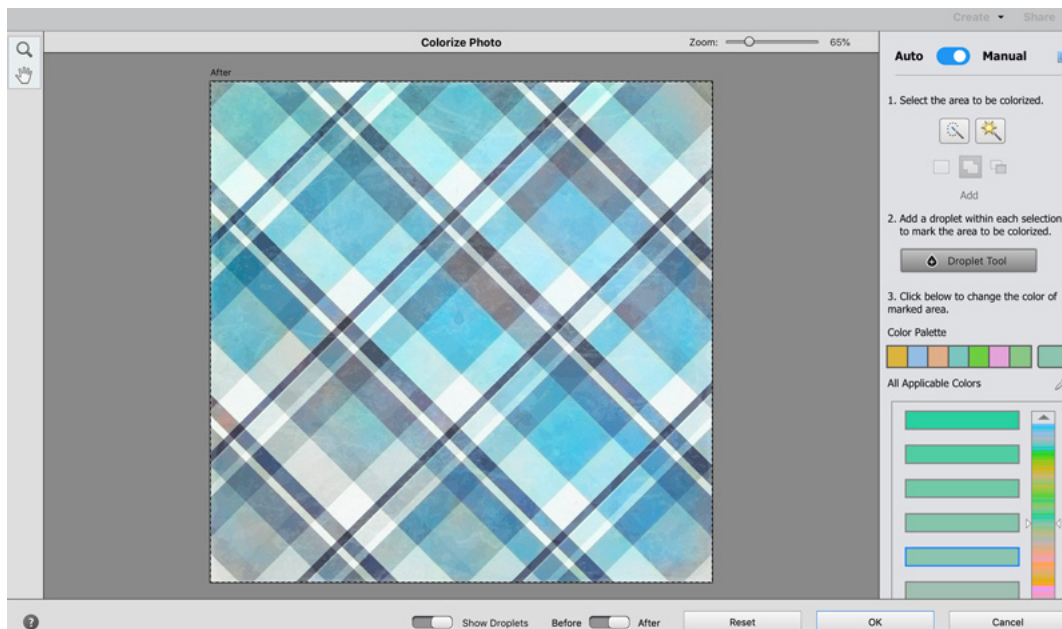
- But in this case, I want more control over how it's recolored so I'm going to click on the Manual side of this slider to get the Manual options.

- Ok, so let's start at the top and work our way down the menu options. First, we have to select a portion of the document to recolor. In this case, we want to recolor the entire paper so we're going to select the entire thing. To do that, click on the Quick Selection Tool icon and then set the Size all the way up to 250.
- Inside the paper, click and drag all the way around to select the entire paper.
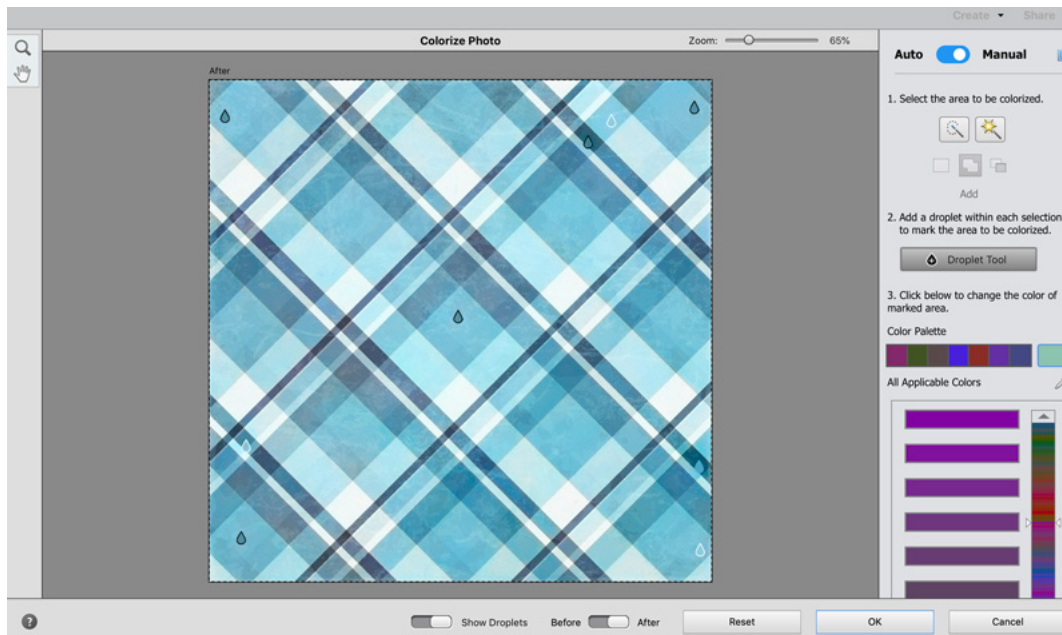
NOTE: This brings up another good point. This recoloring method works as an alternative method for recoloring papers because all we have to do is select the whole thing. While it is possible to use this to recolor things like flowers or things with easy to select parts, it's MUCH better to use the Color Blend Mode method from Section 1 of this class to do that because you have so much more control over the recoloring process. So, while you can try to use this for elements, I have found this to works best with papers that are difficult to recolor.

- The next step is to add a "droplet" to the paper. This tells the program which part of the paper to recolor. So click on the Droplet Tool icon.
- Now, on the paper, click once approximately in the center of the paper.
- Once you do that, the bottom options open up to us. As you can see, the major drawback to this recoloring method is you don't have total control about which color you can recolor this paper to. But it's also not as limited as you think.
- The color chips and the color ranges I'm given are directly related to the color I placed the droplet on. So if I'm wanting a specific color, I want to place the droplet on the part of the paper that most closely has the same level of saturation and lightness or darkness.
- In this case, I want to change this to a subdued teal color so I'm going to drag this right color slide down until I come across a color range that gives me that.
- Once I find it, I'll click on the one I want.
- Now, you can see, the paper has been recolored. It's not a perfect recoloring but it's super close.

- This is actually pretty good but there are some spots that need some help. So to do that, click on the Droplet tool again.
- Then, on the paper, click on one of the problem spots to place a droplet.
- Then, on the right hand side, click on the subdued teal color chip that's right above the eye dropper. This color chip will stay the same so we can keep using this to help recolor the problem areas.

- Continue to place a droplet and then click on the same color chip until the paper recoloring is to your liking. Again, it's not what I would consider perfect, but it's still very good and something you can try when other methods don't work.

Once you're done, click OK to close the menu.

- Now that you can see the Layers panel, you'll see that this process was non-destructive. It created the changes on a new layer so that the original paper is still underneath.

Review:

1. So we saw that the Colorize Photo method is non-destructive.
2. It's not as fast as other recoloring methods.
3. It's lacking total control when it comes to the colors we can recolor to.
4. But, this method is a great option to try when all others fail.

Due to the lack of control you have when using this menu, we're going to skip doing a project for this. It's too difficult to replicate exact results. But I wanted to show PSE users this option because it's something you should know about just in case it's the one thing that works when other methods don't.

Credits:
Paper: A Love Story by Krystal Hartley