



Make It Match

Color Blend Mode Method: Extra Steps Part 2 – Photoshop Elements – Transcript

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In the last lesson we looked at using levels to lighten the color of a flower using the color blend mode recoloring method. In this lesson we're going to use the exact same technique to make the same flower darker.

So here we are in Photoshop elements and we are going to pick up from where we left off in the last lesson. So I hope you have the flower document still open and ready to use. You also need to download, unzip, and open the layered cluster file that is in the downloads for this lesson. Once it's open, in the menu bar, choose window, images, consolidate all to tabs.

Then go to the flower document and at this point click on the visibility icon of the lighten levels layer to hide it. So now let's recolor the flower. Let's go to the layered cluster document and we're going to sample one of these dark paint colors because I want to show you just how dark you can make this flower. So click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and sample one of the black paint splotches and then click okay. Now we can go back to the flower document. In the layers panel, double click on the thumbnail of the solid color fill layer to bring up the color picker and then sample the foreground color chip. Click okay. And as you can see, the flower is more gray than black, so we need to darken it.

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, drag the upper black slider to the right until it's at about 32. And then drag the upper gray slider to the right until it's at about 0.77 or so. Now drag the lower white slider to the left until it's at about 204 the reason I use these numbers is because if I went any higher or smaller, we start to lose the detail in the flower and we don't want that. So now go ahead and close the level's dialog box and then in the layers panel, double click on the name of this layer and change it to darken and then press enter to commit the name change.

So now our flower is ready for the layered cluster. So press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then press shift control C in windows or shift command C on a Mac to create a merged copy. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select. Now let's go to the layered cluster document and then 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 if you don't have the move tool activated, get the move tool and then on the document click and drag the flower into place using the flower placeholder as your guide for position and size. So if you need to, click and drag from a corner handle to make it smaller, move it into place. 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 choose copy layer style. And then right click in windows or control click on a Mac on the name of the black flower layer and choose paste layer style. Then you can drag the flower placeholder layer to the trash.

At this point, you can save this layered cluster file. I think using this to make a postcard or scrapbook page would be wonderful. Now let's go back to the flower document and we can save this document as the layered PSD file called light medium dark flower nine stories 365 Kristin Cronin Barrow dot PSD in the recoloring templates folder. When you open this file later to recolor it for a different project, you can either hide both of the levels adjustment layers when you need a medium color or you can unhide the lighten or darken layer depending on the new color you need. Just keep in mind that you may have to make adjustments to the lighten or darken levels. In order to get the right new color, you just have to double click on the thumbnail of the levels adjustment layer you want to change and that will bring up the levels dialog box. So now that you've seen what the color blend mode recoloring method can do, in the next lesson, we're going to discuss how to recognize when it's not the greatest method to use for trying to recolor an item. This is Jenifer Juris with make it match.