Make It Match
How to Recolor to White – Manual – Adobe Photoshop
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In this section of the class, we're going to go over how to easily recolor something white.

One of the greatest things about digital scrapbooking kits is all of the beautiful colors designers use to make the papers and elements they put into their products. For me, I can't say no to a kit that has teal and navy blue in it. That color combination is one of my favorites!

But sometimes, even with all of the gorgeous colors available to us, we don't need color but we need something neutral or something white. Because of that, we're going to look at how to take a paper or element and turn them white.
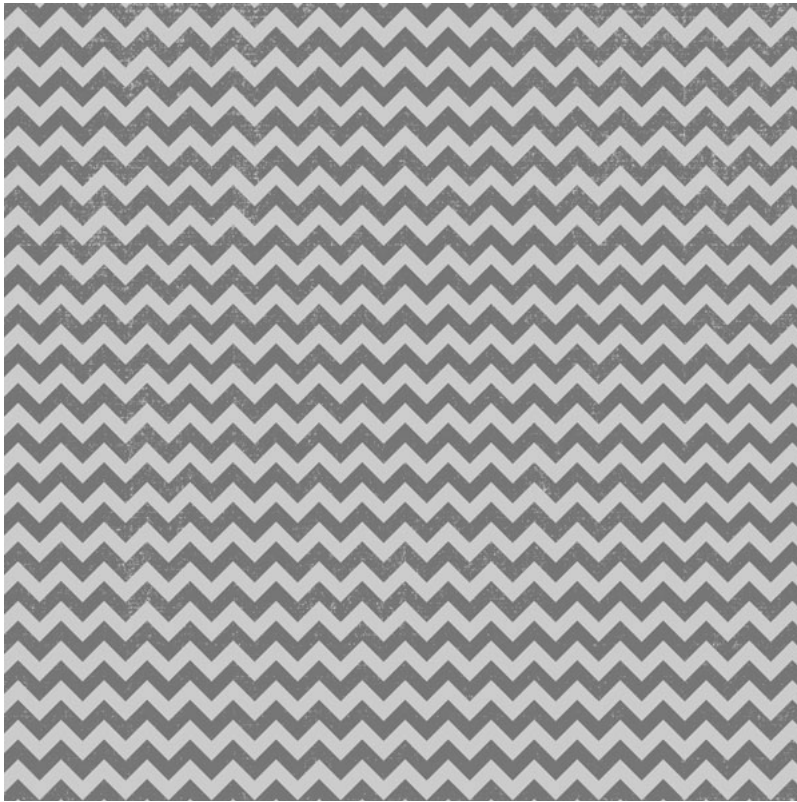
Step One: Prepare the Workspace

- In the downloads for this lesson, I have included a paper and an element that we will practice recoloring to white. Download, unzip, and open the paper file now.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Duplicate to create a copy. Click OK.
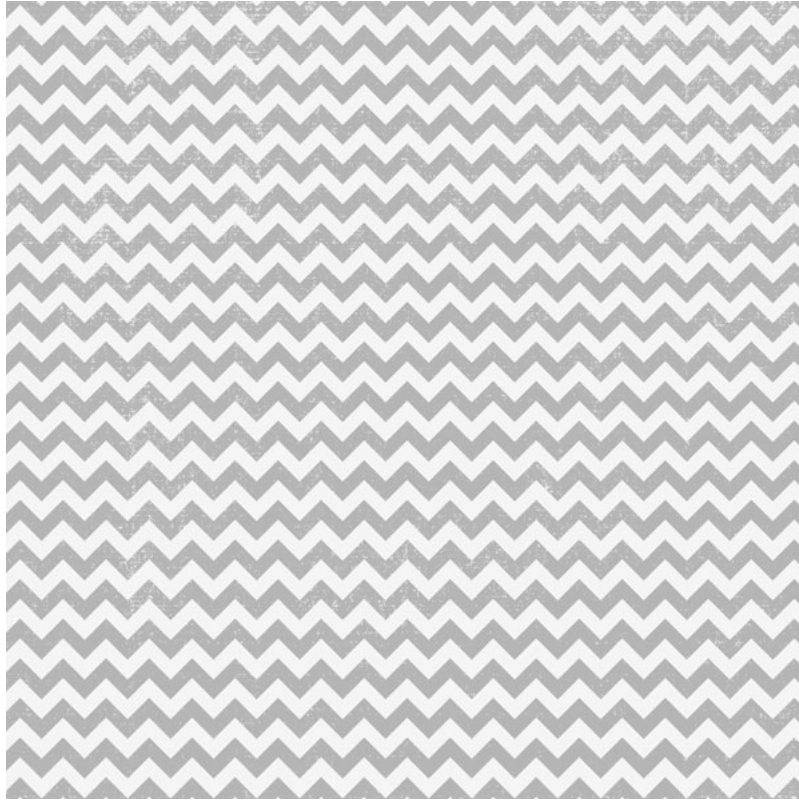- Close the original paper file.

Step Two: Recolor the Paper White

- The first thing we need to do is desaturate or remove all of the color from this paper. To do that, press Shift Ctrl U (Mac: Shift Cmd U).
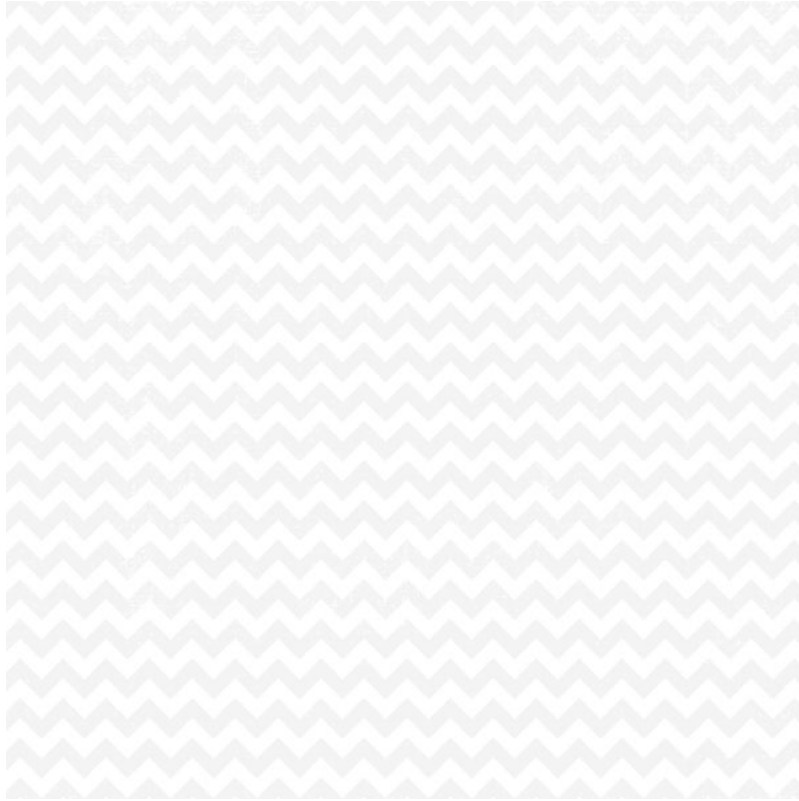

- Now press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the paper layer.
- In the Layers panel, change the Blend Mode of the duplicated layer to Screen.

- Now press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) as many times as necessary to get it to look white. I ended up duplicating it 3 more times to get the paper to be very light.
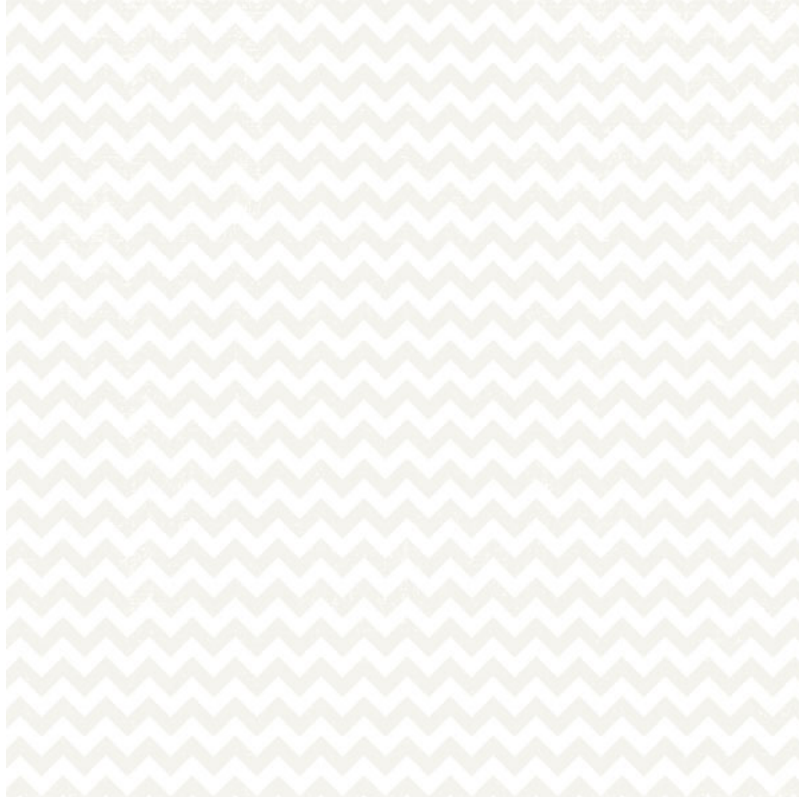
At this point, The paper looks good. It's very light without losing the detail of the chevrons.

Step Three: Add a Warm Tint

- You can easily use the paper as it is right now. But I often find that the desaturated white often looks flat so let's quickly add a very light tint of color. To do that, click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose a very light cream color. I'm using Hex #: fffef8. Click OK.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Solid Color.
- In the dialog box, click OK.
- In the Layers panel, change the Blend Mode of the solid color fill layer to Color.

- If you want to, you could save this paper as a flat jpeg with a unique name. Just remember to save it with the original file name still there so you know who to credit later.

Step Four: Prepare the Workspace

Now that we've seen how the process works, let's use this method to recolor a bow white.

- Open the bow from the downloads for this lesson.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Image > Duplicate to create a copy. Click OK.
- Close the original bow file.

Step Five: Recolor the Bow White

- Press Shift Ctrl U (Mac: Shift Cmd U) to desaturate the bow.

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the bow layer.
- In the Layers panel, change the Blend Mode of this layer to Screen.

- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) two more times to make the bow white without losing the detail.

At this point, the bow is done. You can add a color tint if you wish but it looks great just like as well so I'm going to leave like this.

Step Six: Save As

- Save this bow as a flat PNG file with a unique name. Make sure to save it as something like Recolored-White-bow2-HelloSummertime-Digilicious.PNG. This way, you know how to credit the item if you use it later.

Review:

1. Start by desaturating the item you want to make white. The keyboard shortcut for this is Shift Ctrl U or Shift Cmd U for a Mac.
2. Duplicate the item and change the blend mode to Screen.
3. Keep duplicating the item until it's white enough to be white without losing the detail.
4. The last tip, making something white without losing the detail is the key to making this work. Keeping the detail intact is what will make it look like a realistic paper or element.

Credits:
Bow: Hellow Summertime by Digilicious
Paper: New Years Celebration by Just Jaimee