



Photoshop Tutorial

How to Change the Colors in Templates

March 25, 2010

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Changing a Solid Background Color	3
Change Color Fill Layer.....	4
New Fill Layer	4
Fill Background Layer.....	4
Paint Bucket Tool	4
3. Changing a Border Color	4
Stroke Layer Effect.....	5
“Rectangle” Shape	5
Painted Border Layer	6
Specialty Borders	6
4. Changing an Embellishment Color	7
Color Overlay	7
5. Changing a Gradient Color	8
6. Changing a Pattern Color.....	10
Color Overlay	10
Hue/Saturation	10
Solid Color Fill Layer	11
Reverse Solid Color Fill Layer	11

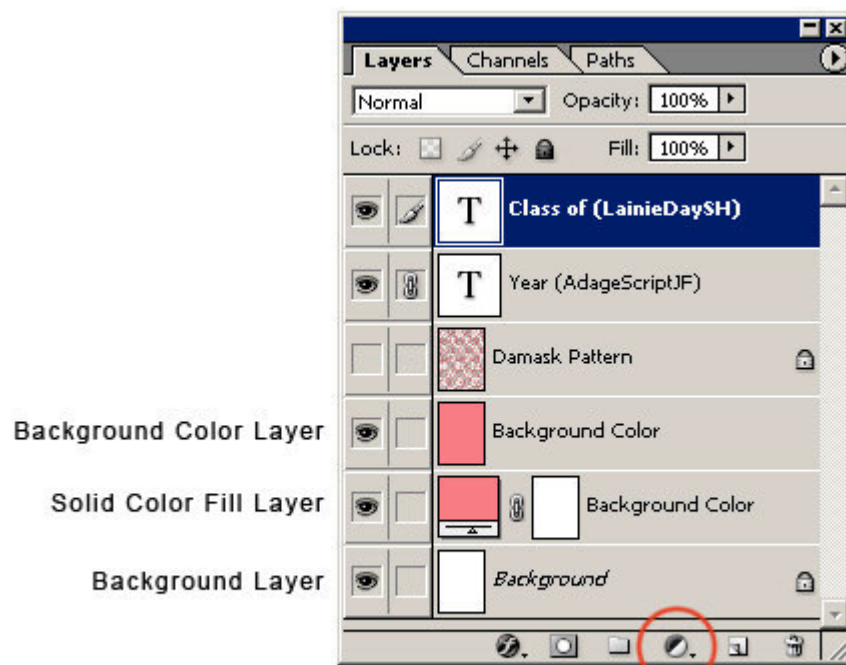
1. Introduction

This document describes how to change the color of various objects within a Photoshop template, specifically for object types included in templates created by Designs By Amie. This tutorial was created using Photoshop CS, so directions may vary from version to version.

Always make sure that you have backup copies of your original template files, just in case you make changes and you accidentally save over a template file. If you find that you use a specific color on a specific template a lot, you may want to save a new copy with the new colors for easy access.

2. Changing a Solid Background Color

My latest templates have a Solid Color Fill Layer whenever a solid color background is used. This allows for very easy and convenient color changes, by allowing you to double click on the “layer thumbnail” and select a color. I have included 4 different methods to change the background color of a template in order to try to cover all scenarios and potential limitations in different Photoshop versions.



Create new fill or adjustment layer icon

Change Color Fill Layer

1. If a Solid Color Fill Layer exists, simply double click on the “Layer Thumbnail”, select a color and click on the “OK button.

New Fill Layer

1. In the “Layers” palette, select the very bottom layer, the “Background” layer. Or if there’s a “Background Color” layer above the “Background” layer, click on that layer.
2. At the bottom of the “Layers” palette, click on the “Create new fill or adjustment layer” icon and select “solid color...” at the top of the menu. Select the color that you want and click on the “OK” button.

Fill Background Layer

1. In the “Layers” palette, select the very bottom layer, the “Background” layer. Or if there’s a “Background Color” layer above the “Background” layer, click on that layer.
2. Set the color of the foreground color to the color that you want the background to be.
3. Click on the “Select” pull-down menu and select “All” (Ctrl+A) to select the entire area of the document.
4. Click on the “Edit” pull-down menu and select “Fill...” to bring up the Fill dialog box. Select “Foreground Color” from the list in the “Use” field and click on the “OK” button.

Paint Bucket Tool

1. If the background is solid, you can also use the paint bucket tool to change the color. I don’t recommend using the Paint Bucket tool for any other color changes. Select the “Paint Bucket” tool from the “Tools” palette. If you don’t see the paint bucket, it shares space with the “Gradient” tool. If that’s the case, then click and hold down on the gradient tool until the pop-up menu appears and select the “Paint Bucket” tool.
2. In the “Layers” palette, select the very bottom layer, the “Background” layer. Or if there’s a “Background Color” layer above the “Background” layer, click on that layer.
3. Click anywhere on the background to change the background layer to the color of the foreground color.

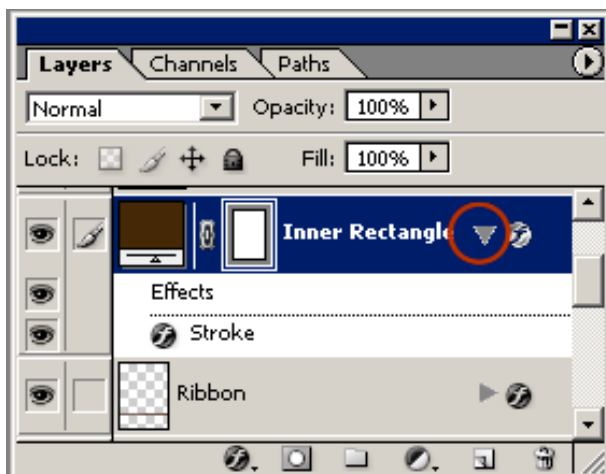
3. Changing a Border Color

There are several different types of borders. There are stroke layer effects which are sometimes used on the clipping mask shapes to create a border around a photo. The stroke layer effects are also used around wider borders to create thinner outer borders. There are “rectangle” shape borders that are created with the rectangle shape tool that are sometimes used around photos and are used to create decorative ribbon borders.

There are borders that are just painted on a layer of their own without a shape tool. Color overlays are used to change these types of borders. Then there are specialty borders like the metallic borders, the grosgrain ribbons and patterned borders, etc. These have limited color changes. I have included all of the border types that I use across all of my templates.

Stroke Layer Effect

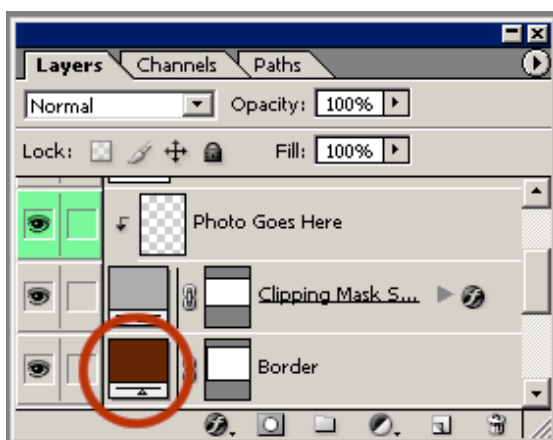
1. In the Layers palette, click on the arrow of the object layer to expand the layer effects. If the arrow does not exist, then double click on the little “f” icon and look for stroke.



2. Double click on the “Stroke” layer effect.
3. Click on the color block, select a color and click on the “OK” button, then click on the “OK” button again.
4. If you have more then one stroke to change to the same color, you can click on the stroke layer effect of the one you just changed and drag and drop it on top of the layer that you want to have the same stroke color. Don't forget Ctrl+Z is undo in case you drop it on the wrong layer.

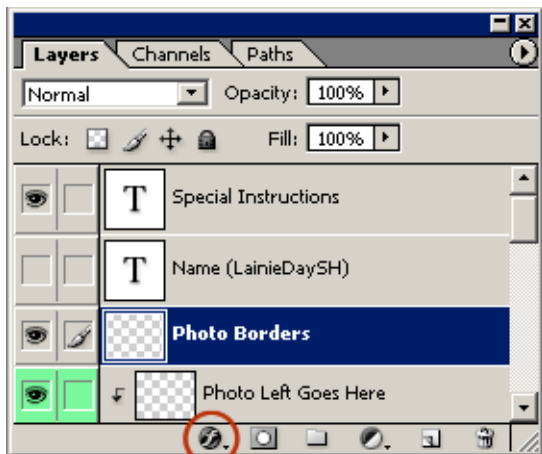
“Rectangle” Shape

1. Double click on the “Layer Thumbnail” of the border layer, select a color and click on the “OK” button.



Painted Border Layer

1. Select the border layer that you want to change.
2. At the bottom of the “Layers” palette, click on the “Add a layer style” icon and select “Color Overlay” toward the bottom of the menu.



3. Click on the color box, select a color, click on the “OK” button, then click on the “OK” button again.

Specialty Borders

Specialty borders are limited in color changes. You can change the color(s) by changing the hue on the Hue/Saturation dialog box. Click on the “Image” pull-down menu, then “Adjustments”, then “Hue/Saturation” menu option. Drag the “Hue” slider to the left or right to change the color. You can also adjust the Saturation and Lightness.

You can also try selecting the border in the “Layers” palette, then selecting it on the template by holding down the “Ctrl” key and clicking on the border layer in the “Layers” palette. You should now see the marching ants surrounding the border. Select a simple round brush with a hard edge, set the “Mode” on the top toolbar to “Color” then paint over the border. Put the brush “Mode” back to “Normal” when you’re done or you will forget later.

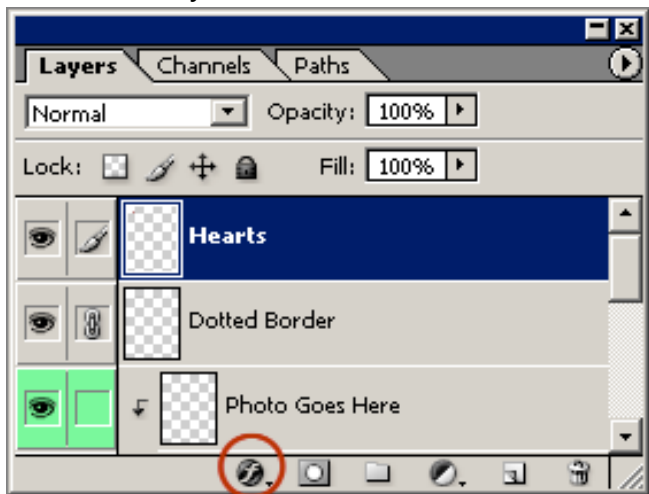
If the border was created using a combination of layer styles, you can turn off all of the layer styles and put a color overlay on it to change the color to a simple solid border. You can also turn off the border completely and create your own border.

4. Changing an Embellishment Color

Most all embellishments within Designs By Amie templates are on a separate layer and if they contain more than one color will be on many layers, one for each color. To change the color of an embellishment, just put a color overlay on each layer as described below.

Color Overlay

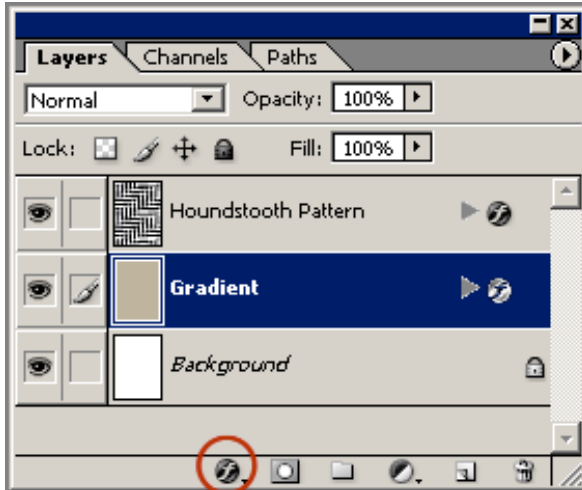
1. Click on the embellishment layer in the “Layers” palette.
2. Click on the “Add a Layer Style” button on the “Layers” palette toolbar, then select “Color Overlay...”.



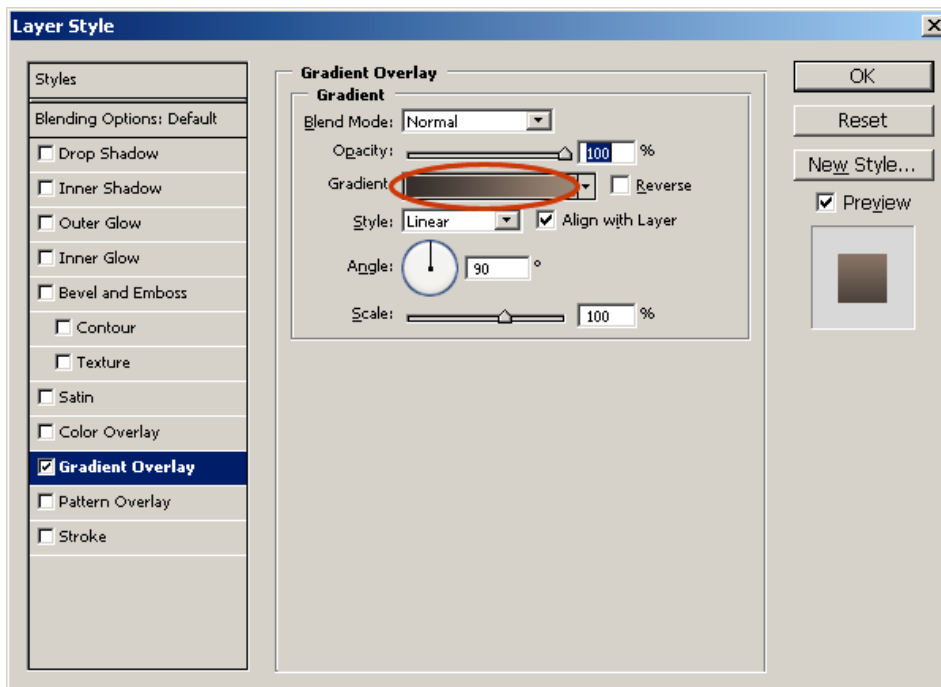
3. Click on the color block, select a color and click on the “OK” button, then click on the “OK” button again.

5. Changing a Gradient Color

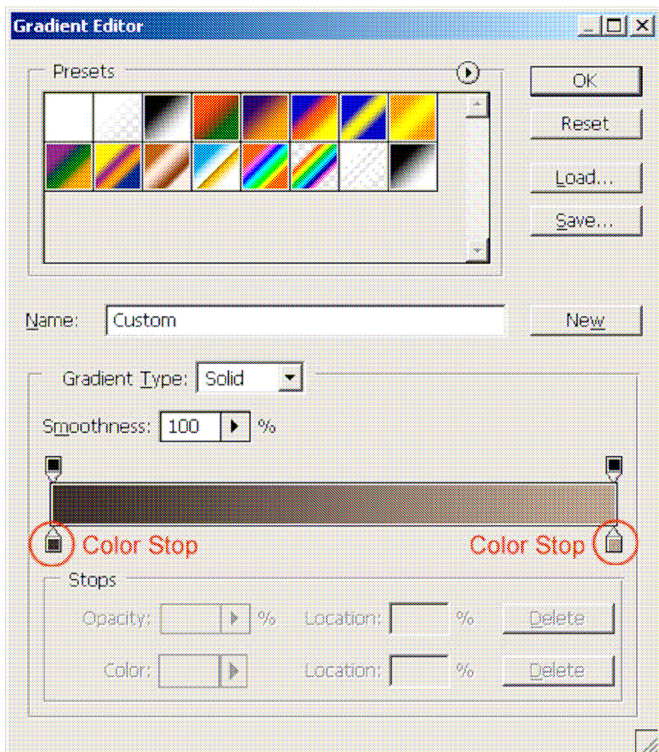
1. Click on the gradient layer to select it.
2. Click on the “Add a Layer Style” button on the “Layers” palette toolbar, then select “Gradient Overlay” from the menu.



3. Click on the gradient in the “Layer Style” dialog box. Be sure to click on the actual gradient and not the arrow button attached to the gradient.



4. Double click on each “Color Stop” square and select a new color, then click on the “OK” button to close the dialog box. The color stops are the little squares below the gradient. The little squares above the gradient are opacity stops.



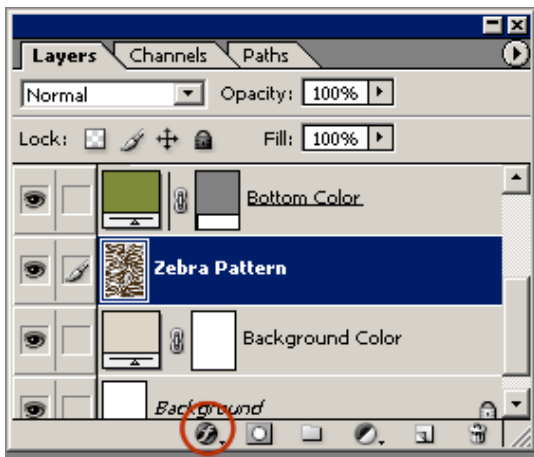
5. You can also change the balance of color between the two colors by first single clicking on one of the Color Stops to display the Color Midpoint (small diamond shape between the two Color Stops). Now, click and drag the Color Midpoint to the left or right.
6. If you would like to add a 3rd color, click below the gradient, somewhere between the other two Color Stops. You can then double click on the new Color Stop square to change the color. You can also balance out the colors by clicking/dragging the Color Stop left or right and the Color Midpoints as well. Play and have fun, but I gotta warn you, it could be addictive.

6. Changing a Pattern Color

If the pattern is a solid color, like most of the damask patterns that are used, a zebra print, or a simple polka-dot, you simply put a color overlay on the corresponding pattern layer then change the background color layer as well. If the pattern is more than one color, you will have limited color changes, but you can try using the Hue/Saturation Method, Solid Color Fill Layer method or Reverse Solid Color Fill Layer method as described below.

Color Overlay

4. Click on the pattern layer in the “Layers” palette.
5. Click on the “Add a Layer Style” button on the “Layers” palette toolbar, then select “Color Overlay...”.



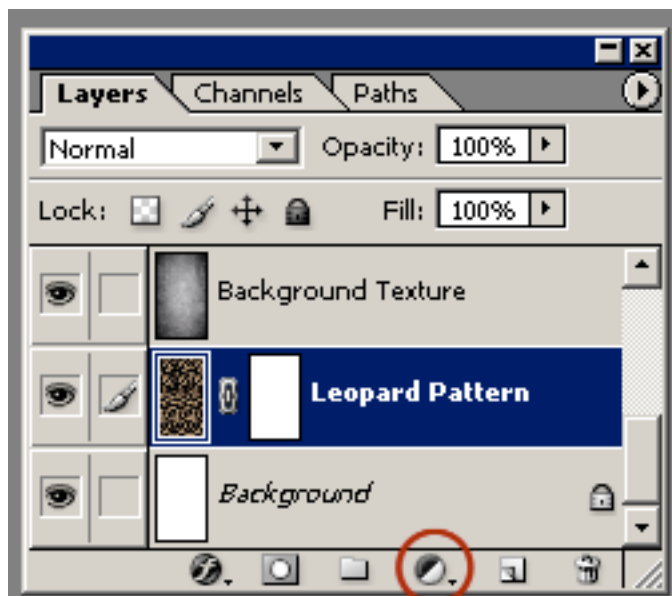
6. Click on the color block, select a color and click on the “OK” button, then click on the “OK” button again.

Hue/Saturation

1. Click on the pattern layer in the “Layers” palette.
2. Click on the “Image” pull-down menu, then “adjustments”, then “Hue/Saturation...”. Or you can type in the shortcut keys Ctrl+U.
3. Adjust the Hue, Saturation, and Lightness to your liking. Be careful with the lightness as it can start to look fake if you go to far.

Solid Color Fill Layer

1. Click on the pattern layer in the “Layers” palette.
2. Click on the “Create new fill or adjustment layer” button on the bottom of the “Layers” pallet, then select “Solid Color...”.



3. Select a color then click on the “OK” button.
4. Change the blend mode of the new solid color layer to “Soft Light” or “Overlay.” Feel free to try other blend modes as well, but be careful, could be addicting.

Reverse Solid Color Fill Layer

1. Click on the layer below the pattern layer in the “Layers” palette.
2. Click on the “Create new fill or adjustment layer” button on the bottom of the “Layers” pallet, then select “Solid Color...”.
3. Select a color then click on the “OK” button.
4. Change the blend mode of the pattern layer to “Soft Light” or “overlay.” Feel free to try other blend modes as well, but like I said this can be addicting.