

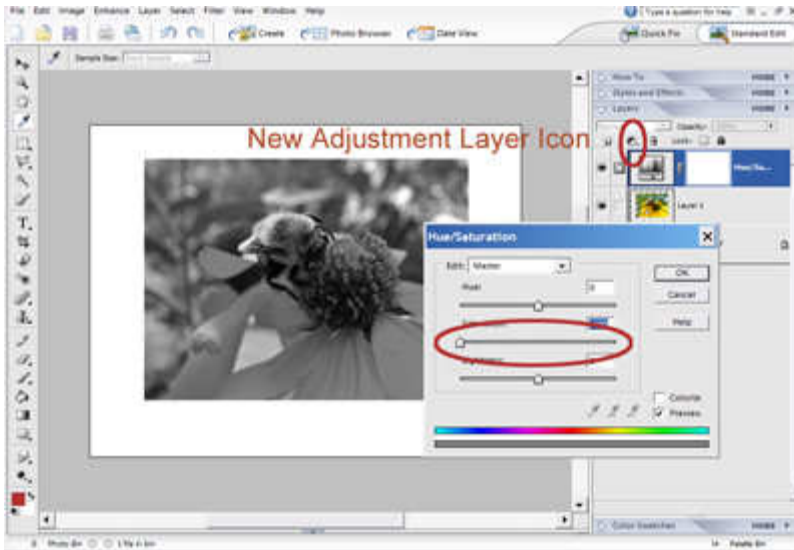
Color Isolation Tutorial

By Hummie

A technique often seen in wedding photos is color isolation, where the flower boutique is in color and the rest of the photo is black and white.

As always, there are many ways to achieve this technique. [Please note that in this tutorial, I did not take the time to isolate the legs and feelers on the bee.]

COLOR ISOLATION WITH HUE/SATURATION ADJUSTMENT LAYER

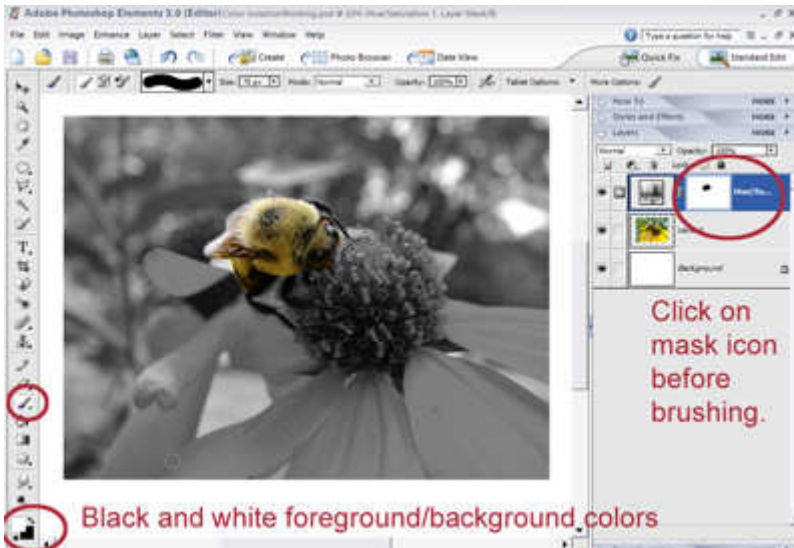


I have a wonderful close-up photo of a bee on a flower. My goal is to have only the bee in color.

This may be one of the quickest methods, but it does not allow for photo tweaks.

Click on the New Adjustment Layer Icon and choose Hue/Saturation. In the

pop up box, move the saturation slider to the left edge.

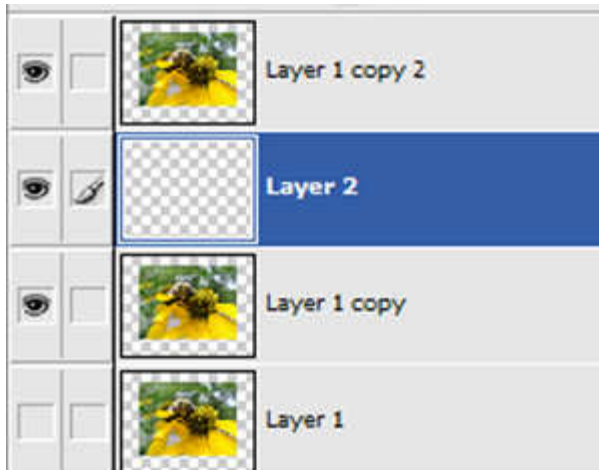


Click "D" on the keyboard to set the foreground and background colors to black and white. Activate the brush tool. Choose a hard brush (sometimes a soft brush is better for blending outer edges).

Click on the mask icon of the adjustment layer.

Use the mouse to draw with black on the desktop on the areas that you want to be in color. To fix a mistake, hit "X" on the keyboard to eXchange the foreground and background to white. Use the mouse to draw on the desktop on the areas that you do not want visible.

COLOR ISOLATION WITH CLIPPING MASK LAYER

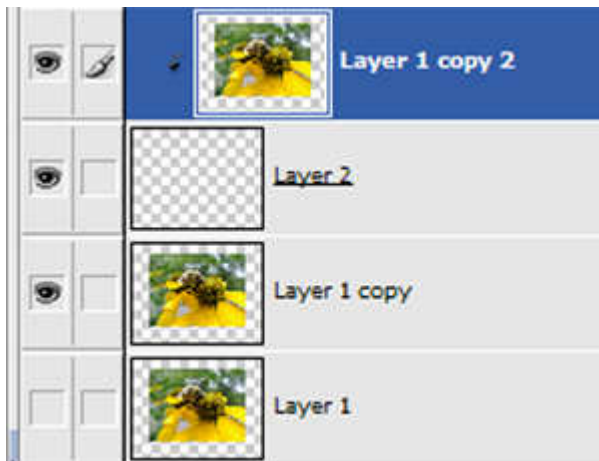


This method is also fairly quick, but allows for photo tweaks.

Duplicate the photo to preserve an original copy. Click on the eye on the original layer to make it invisible.

Duplicate the photo again.

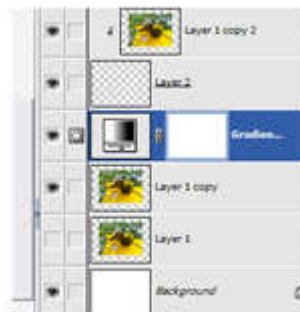
Create a new blank layer between the two photo layers.



Click on the top photo layer to make it active.

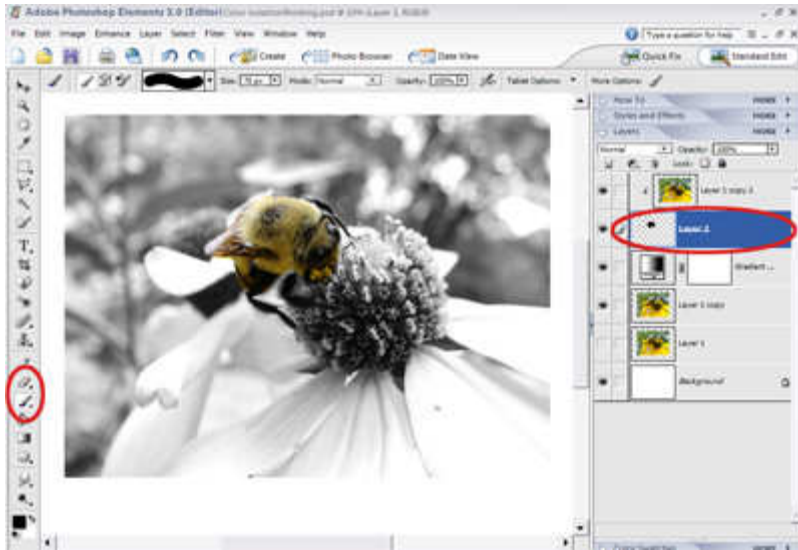
Hit Control and G on the keyboard to group it with the blank layer below. A downward arrow will appear to the left of the top layer icon.

This action makes the blank layer a "clipping mask."



Convert the bottom photo layer to black and white. See [this tutorial](#) on three methods to achieve this. In my sample I used the Gradient Map Adjustment Layer technique and

tweaked the photo to be crisper and artistic.

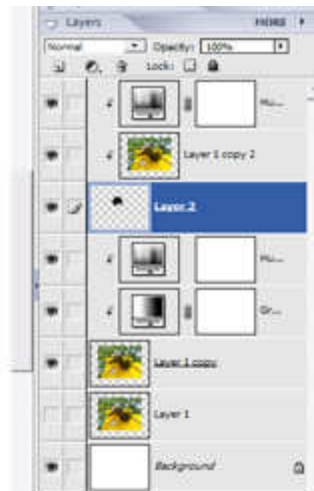


Make the “clipping mask” (blank) layer the active layer by clicking on it.

The foreground/background colors do not matter in this technique.

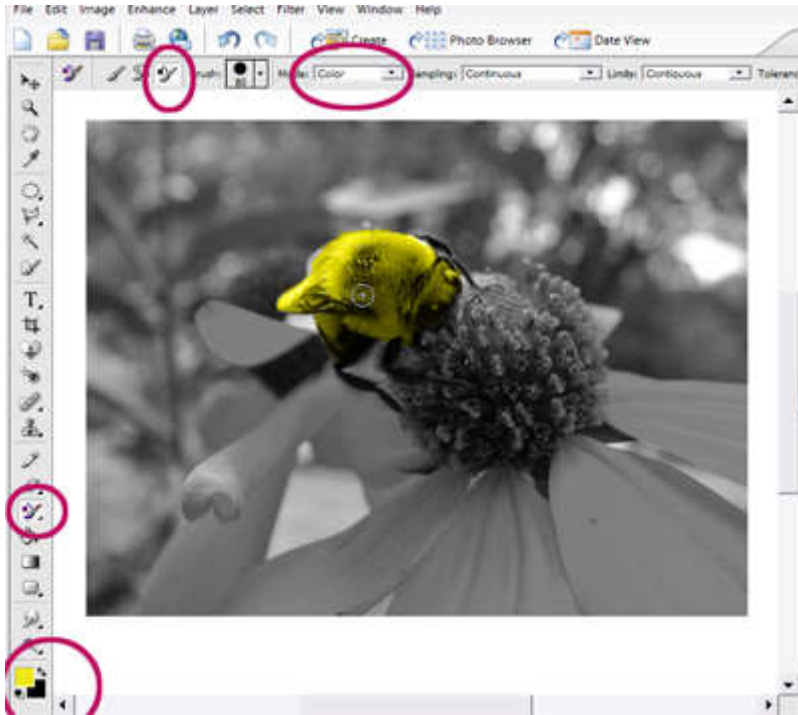
Use the brush tool to draw with the mouse on the desktop on the areas that you want color to be revealed. In the case of an error, use

the erasure tool to draw on the areas on the desktop that you want unrevealed.



On this sample, I tinted the bottom photo and raised the saturation on the upper photo.

COLOR ISOLATION WITH THE COLOR REPLACEMENT BRUSH



This technique does not utilize the colors from the photo itself, but rather a color from the Color Picker.

This technique is similar to coloring in a coloring book.

Convert the photo to black and white.

Activate the brush tool. Click on the Color Replacement brush on the options bar at the top of the desktop. Choose either the color

or hue mode (it defaults to color). Of course, playing with the other modes can be fun too.

Make the foreground color the color you would like to “color” with. Draw with the mouse on the desktop on the areas that you desire to “color.” If you make an error, fix it using black.

COLOR ISOLATION WITH SELECTION TOOLS



Use the selection tools to select the area that you want to remain in a solid color.

Hit Control and J on the keyboard to put the selection on a new layer.

Use the erasure tool to erase any areas on the new layer that do not belong.



Utilize various techniques to each of the layers.

On the bottom layer, I converted it to black and white with the gradient map adjustment layer.

On the top layer, I duplicated it four times, applying a different blending mode to each layer, and added a drop shadow.