

# Colorizing Monochrome Images

By Jerry Koons

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*The following tutorial outlines several methods for colorizing monochrome images, which can be very effective for creating a monochrome image with colored areas,*

*Colorized images can create a very different and stunning effect.*

*With this technique, you will use layer modes to create the desired effect.*

*PLEASE NOTE that colorizing images have numerous variables and obtaining the exact color range may not be easy or possible in some cases.*

*Pure white or nearly white areas can not be colorized unless the luminosity is reduced.*

## Step One

Open the desired image in the Adobe Elements 4 program. We will assume that this image is a monochrome image, but if it needs to be converted to monochrome, refer to the Converting Colored Images to Monochrome tutorial.

## Step Two

Click on the *Create New Layer icon* to create a new blank layer on top of the Background Layer. This layer will automatically be highlighted indicating it is the active layer.

## Step Three

Select the desired color and paint the areas you wish to colorize. Note that the detail in the painted areas will be diminished at this point.

## Step Four

Repeat with other colors in different areas if required.

## Step Five

Near the top of the Layers Palette is the Layer Mode with the default setting of Normal. Click on the down arrow and change the Mode to *Color* and notice the detail of the underlying is now visible.

## Step Six

If the image has the desired color and intensity, simply save or prepare to print the image.

If the image color is darker than desired, click on the *Opacity* down arrow and reduce the opacity to the desired intensity level and save or prepare to print the image.

If the image color is lighter than desired, proceed to the next steps.

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## Step Seven

With the colorized layer active, press the *Ctrl and J* keys on the keyboard to create a new duplicate layer via copy.

## Step Eight

Change the Layer Mode to *Multiply*. Note that the color is probably brighter but may appear washed out also.

## Step Nine (Optional)

Click, hold and drag the layer between the other two to change the order of the layers. Note that the color is still brighter, but it has more detail than before.

Please Note that many variables affect the results of colorizing and the effects you desire may not be easily achieved.

## Step Ten

Make sure that the top layer is active (highlighted) and press and hold the *Ctrl* key and tap the *U* key to open the *Hue/Saturation* dialog box.

Move the *Hue* slider to the approximate desired color and fine tune with the *Saturation* and *Lightness* sliders.

For another effect, try checking the *Colorize* box before moving the Hue slider. Generally, this technique will produce more subtle or soft pastel colors.

Continue to experiment until the desired effect is achieved. Remember that changing layer opacities can also be a valuable tool for reducing saturation and color.

A second method for colorizing that affects the entire image rather than specific portions is outlined below. This method can also produce very effective images.

## Step One

With a monochrome image open, press and hold the *Ctrl* key and tap the *U* key to open the *Hue/Saturation* dialog box.

## Step Two

Check the *Colorize* box and adjust the *Hue*, *Saturation* and *Lightness* adjustment sliders as needed to achieve the desired effect.