

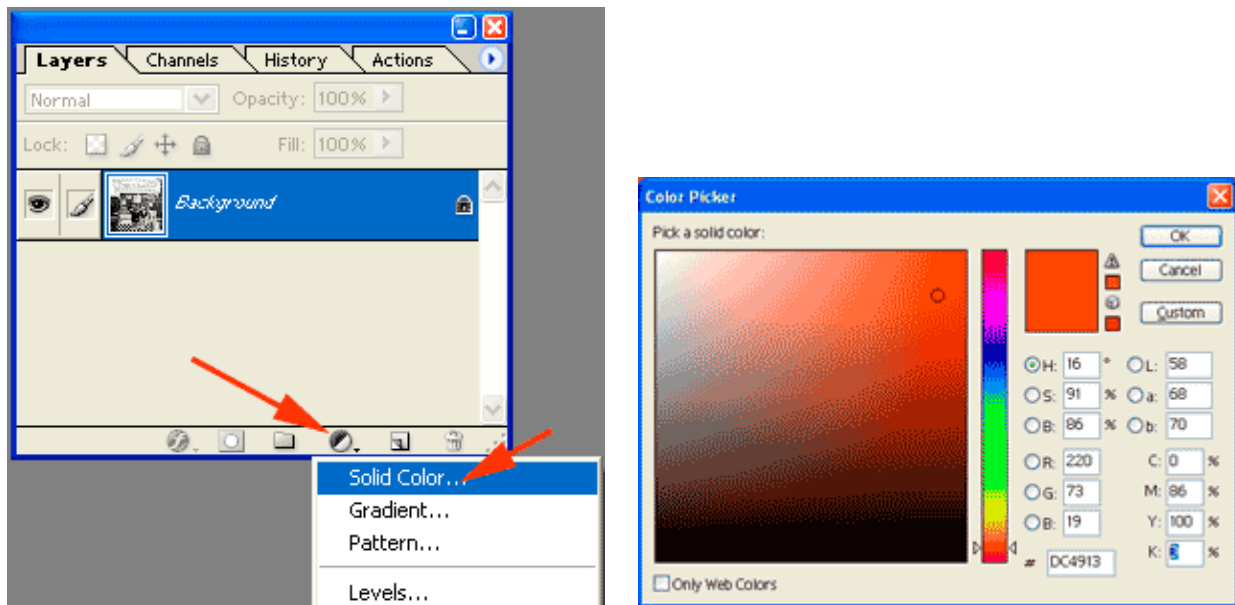
**Hand Coloring in Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Elements** – If you want total control over EVERY color in your image, this tutorial is for you! Every color is put on a separate layer so that you can edit each one individually.

**NOTE:** If you start with a color image, convert it to black and white using your favorite method and then **IMMEDIATELY** save it with a new name. This ensures that your original color version is protected.

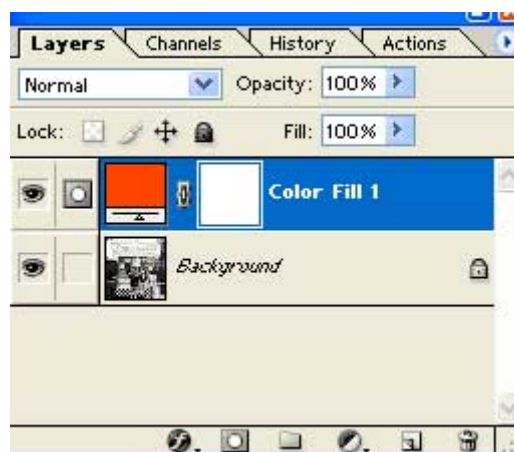
1. Open a black/white image. **OR** start with a Color image and then convert it to B/White. Your image **must** be in RGB mode. To check it out, go to "Image"->"Mode" to check. If it is not RGB, just click on RGB and the mode will change to RGB. Finally, press "D" on your keyboard to set your Tool Palette's colors to Black and White (**important!**)

**Note:** There is no need to make a background copy. You will **NOT** be putting color on your image.

2. Click on the Adjustment Layer Icon and choose "Solid Color". The "Color Picker" will come up. Choose ANY color you want. The exact color is not important because you can change it at any time after you've done your painting. Click OK



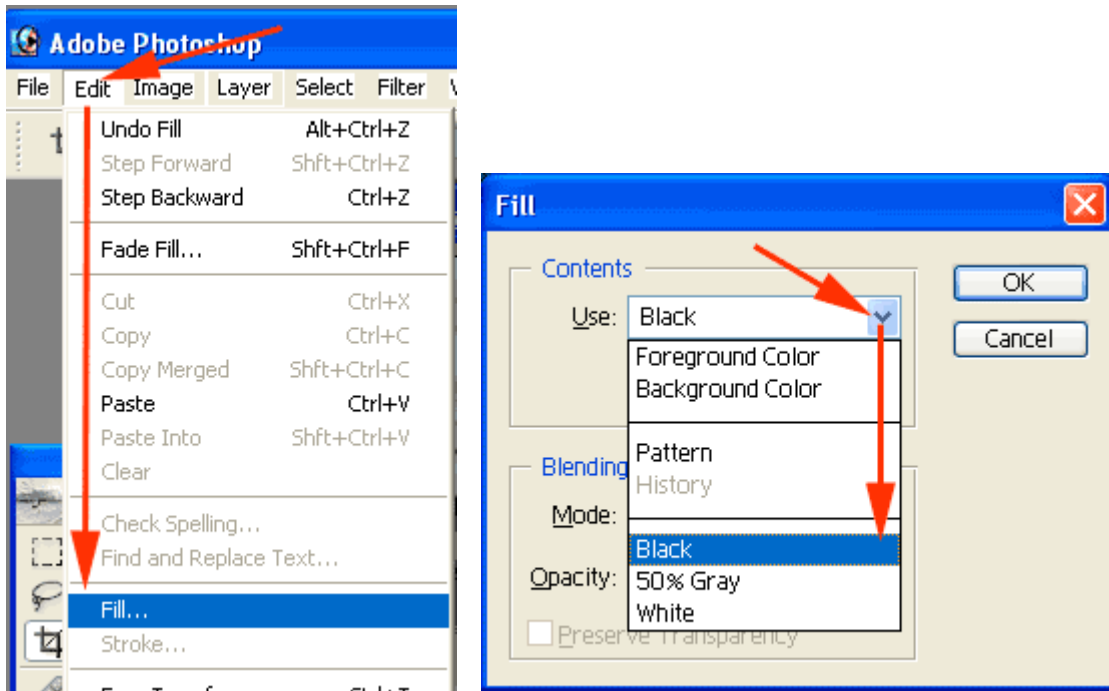
3. Look at your Layers palette (below) and note that you now have a new layer above your background. It is the color I chose with a mask attached to the right. Notice, also, that your image has turned Red (or whichever color you chose).



Also notice that there is a White Mask attached to the color. Remember that the function of a Layer Mask is to show or hide the layer it is attached to.

As I've mentioned in previous tutorials, when you are dealing with Layer Masks, think of White and Black as "On/Off" switches. White is On (or reveals) and Black is Off (or hides). Since we want our image to show we want to "turn off" the layer (the color). We can do that by changing the Mask color to Black.

4. There are some shortcuts to "fill" but I will show the long way first. Go to "Edit" "Fill". A dialog box comes up.



For the **contents**, click on the arrow and **choose Black** from the list.

**Shortcut:** Press Ctrl/Cmd and the letter i. It instantly changes the color from white to black. Learn this shortcut!

5. Note that the mask is now black and your image reappears. At this time, NAME your layer!  
It will prove to be a real time saver when editing your layers in the future since you could conceivably end up with dozens of layers! To name your layer in most versions, just double click on the "LETTERS" on the layer and type a new name. In previous versions, you can "right/click" on the layer and choose "Layer Properties" and then name the layer.



6. Remember that the Black Mask is now simply hiding the color. To reveal the red color, I need to change the area of the Mask back to White. I start by making sure my Tool Palette color swatches are Black and White. I choose a hard edged brush and I start "revealing" the red by going over that area with White. If I make a mistake, I just switch your color back to Black and go over the area again.

**TIP:** Leave the **opacity of the brush at 100%**! This is **very** important as it will give you more control later. I will now "paint" the letters in the image first. Remember, I am not actually "painting". I am just turning the color "on" in that area.



7. Beautiful, isn't it?! NO? Of course not. It's too bright, harsh, flat and uninteresting! What we need to do now is "blend" this color with the original layer below. Click on the down arrow in the box just below the Layers Tab. (see Fig 8 below) This will reveal all the blend modes that are available now that you have a layer. There are a few that will give you a good result but just start with "color" which is toward the bottom of the list.

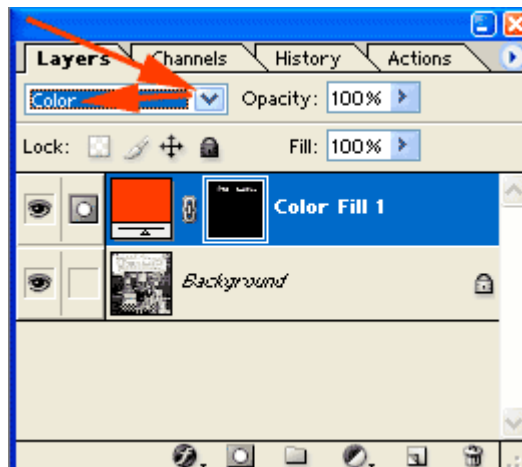
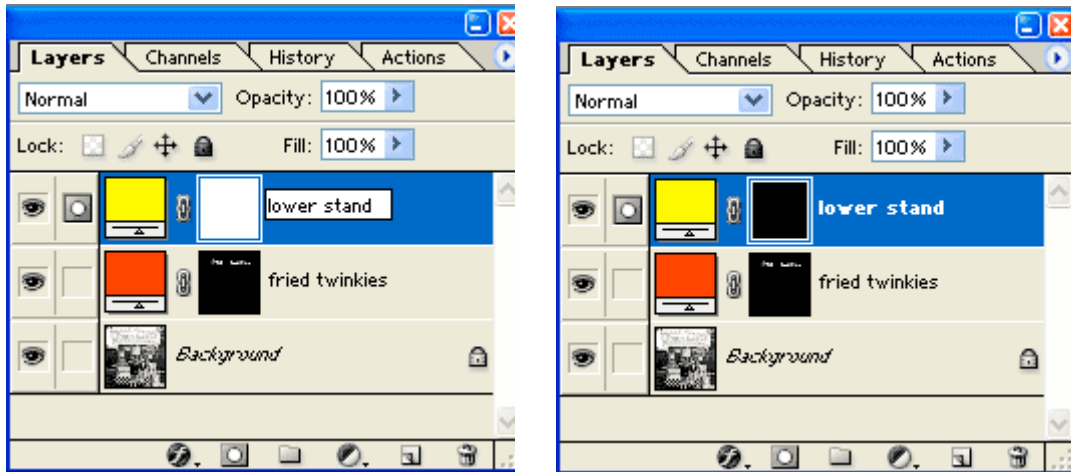


Fig 8

Notice the difference in your image. What has happened is that the "texture" of the original is now showing!

8. Next, I am next going to put yellow on lower part of the food stand. I start with a "solid color" Adjustment Layer and then name the layer. I then fill the Mask with Black as in Step 4. Remember the Shortcut!



9. I then use a paint brush and White to reveal the color in the area that I want. Again, don't worry about being precise with your colors. They are completely editable!!!

10. I repeat steps 2-6 for every area that I would like a different color. I name the layers as I go along for quick reference. Tedious but you're going to have complete control! (the example below reflects layer order changes)



OK....you've got the hang of it but what if you make a mistake?

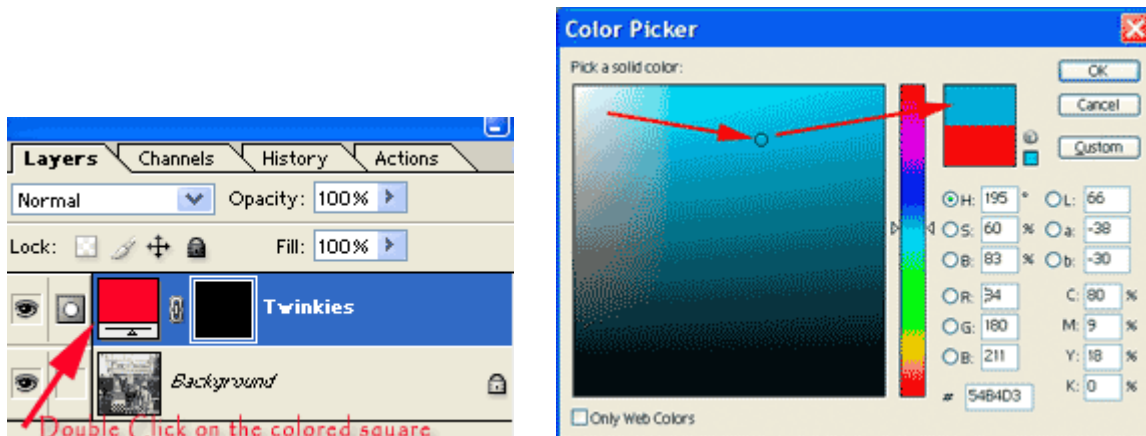
12. I didn't mean to "paint" in the lower area of the stand so how can I turn the color off? Remember....Black will turn the color off. So, choose a hard brush and then hide the color by going over the desired area with your brush. If you go too far, just switch to White and go over the area again. You can switch back and forth between Black and White to switch the color off and on. Magic!

SHORTCUT: To quickly switch between Black and White, just press the X Key. Another very useful one to learn!



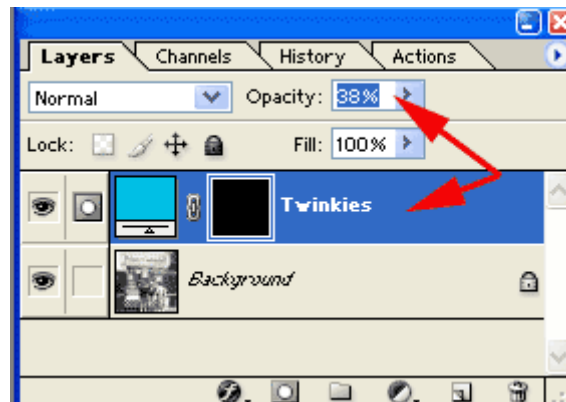
13. OK....how do you change a color? It's so easy and the best part about using Color Fill Layers! Here's how:

Double click on the colored square portion of the layer you want to change. That will bring up the "Color "Picker" .



Choose any color you'd like by dragging the slider. Then click in the large box to the left of the slider. The new color will appear to the right above the color that you started with. As you are clicking and trying to decide which color you'd like, look at your image. The color changes instantly as fast as you can click! I love this part 😊

14. Finally, to change the intensity of each color, just click on the layer desired and lower the opacity of that color layer. Because you used 100% as your brush setting, you have a large range of intensity to play with.



Final Result



**TIPS:** Once you have learned the basic steps, you can develop your own routine. For instance:

- A. You could make a selection of an area to be colored FIRST. If you do this, you will not have to fill your mask with Black. It will be done for you.
- B. Change the Blend Mode to Color BEFORE you begin.
- C. Reduce the Opacity of each layer as you go along. ALWAYS remember to use 100% opacity on your brush, though, so you have as much control over the intensity as possible.
- D. Experiment with the Blend Modes. Some are very interesting!
- E. Use any color image for reference. You could keep the color version open beside the one you're working on and actually sample the colors from this image. Here's how: When you have the color picker open, all you have to do is bring your cursor over to the color image and click anywhere. What you click on will appear in the color picker!

Personally, I find this method of Coloring very relaxing and fun. I like to see how many color layers I can create 😊