

# How to...

FREE  
information

## Mosaic

### Introduction

The art of Mosaic dates back many centuries to the Roman era and beyond. It has been used throughout history to decorate buildings and to create works of art. More recently it has become popular with crafts people and designers. This leaflet will give you a brief introduction to the art form and the endless possibilities for decorating your home.

### Equipment needed

- Mosaic tiles – available in assorted colours giving scope for a wide range of designs. 
- Tile cutters / nippers – essential for detailed work. Nippers allow you to cut tiles into halves, quarters, triangles and by nibbling away to create curves etc.
- PVA Glue – a small blob of glue is needed to secure each piece into position. 
- Grout – used to fill and strengthen between the tiles, giving your design a linear flow.
- Item to decorate – start with a simple project such as a coaster or tray. More advanced projects could include vases, mirror frames, table tops etc.

- Spatula – to apply the grout. 
- Sponge – to wipe the mosaics clean while grouting.
- Pencil or chalk – to draw a detailed pattern or template for your design.
- Safety glasses or goggles and face mask – always wear these when cutting and breaking tiles.

### Direct Method

This is the easiest method of working with mosaics.

Select the quantity and colour range of mosaic tiles you need for your project. Draw your pattern onto the item you are decorating indicating colours for each area of the design. Alternatively this can be drawn onto a piece of card and used as a reference. It is easiest to start with geometric designs, advancing to more intricate designs using curves and circles.

Cut the tiles by using nippers or break them randomly by placing tiles into a strong clear plastic bag and hitting them sharply with a small hammer.

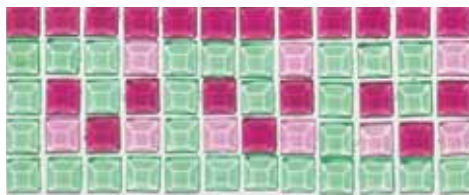
Always wear safety goggles when cutting tiles. Similarly, do not clear your work area by brushing it with your hand as shards of glass can produce a very nasty cut.

Lay the cut tiles in position. It is best to start with the focal point of the design, then complete the border (if there is one) followed

by the background area. Once you are happy with the overall effect start to glue the tiles into place. Always apply the glue to the rippled underside of the tile. Too much glue will make the work become messy and harder to clean at the grouting stage. Continue securing the tiles in place until the design is complete. Allow the glue to set for two hours.

## Grouting

This is identical in principal to grouting a bathroom or kitchen. Make sure that all the crevices are filled – this is easily achieved by using a squeegee. Clean up the grout in the usual manner with a damp sponge and allow to dry. You will then be able to polish and finish the surface.



## Hints & tips

- Prepare your tiles in a clear plastic bag – this way all the dust and shards are safely contained.
- Always work on a tray so you can move your work when you need to and keep all the cut tiles together.
- Simple designs give greater rewards, especially for beginners.
- When applying mosaics to a flat base, place the finished design under a weight until the glue is dry to prevent it warping.
- Add water based paint to the grout to get different coloured grout.
- Mix your grout as stiffly as possible as if it is too watery it will sink and crack.

## Project ideas

Coasters, Tray, Flower pot, Candle holder, Vase, Mirror, Picture frame, Clock face, Table top. And much much more...

## Safety first

ALWAYS wear goggles and a face mask when cutting tiles. Clean up thoroughly using a dustpan and brush or a vacuum cleaner to avoid contact with shards of glass.

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