



step ONE

First, choose your surface to mosaic. We chose a basic square picture frame. Make sure to use the correct type of glue for each surface. We suggest Weldbond™ for most projects. If working with glass, silicone adhesive is a better choice.



step TWO

Choose your tesserae (mosaic pieces). If you want to cut and nip tesserae for your design, you can use either a tile nipper or wheeled nipper as shown here. Simply put your tesserae in the "mouth" of the tool and squeeze down. Nipping and cutting allows you to cut pieces to specific sizes for your designs. The Wheeled Nippers are the best tool!



step THREE

Now it is time to design your piece. Your only design limitation is your own imagination. You can sketch your design on paper or directly on your piece. We decided to work from the inside out. Apply your adhesive in sections, and avoid using so much that it squishes up between your pieces of tesserae. This leaves no where for the grout to go.



step FOUR

Now that you have your first section of adhesive applied, place your tesserae. Place each piece on top of your adhesive as desired. You need to leave a minimum of about 1/8" between each tile to allow room for grout. You can space your pieces out further if you like. A good rule of thumb is to leave a 1/8" minimum to 1/2" maximum between pieces.



step FIVE

Apply your next section of adhesive. Work in small areas to keep your adhesive from drying out if you are working slowly. It will also give you stopping points if you want to take a break.



step SIX

Start applying the rest of your tesserae to your piece. Grouting may be easier if you make the pieces near the edge of your surface somewhat flush to the sides. Work section by section until your piece is completely covered as illustrated in step seven below.



step SEVEN

After adhering your tesserae, let your adhesive set for 24-48 hours before grouting. It is up to you what color of grout to use. If the main theme of your piece is dark tesserae, then you might want to use a lighter grout to contrast the tesserae and make it stand out. The opposite is true if you use light tesserae. (you can also mosaic the side of your piece)



step EIGHT

On most of our designs, we use our pre-colored, sanded grout which comes with mixing instructions in a convenient disposable tub. If you buy grout elsewhere, follow the instructions on the package. Add 1 tablespoon of water at a time to your grout and stir until it has a thick toothpaste-like consistency.



step NINE

Pictured here is the consistency that your grout should be. If you accidentally add too much water, simply let it sit for a few minutes and it will thicken up, or you can add more grout. Sometimes you can "reactivate" grout after it has set for a few hours by adding a bit of water to it and stirring. Our grout kits make grouting easier!



step TEN

We suggest using gloves when working with grout so your hands do not become too dry. Apply grout with your fingers as pictured. It is similar to icing a cake with your hands. Press it down into the spaces between the tesserae. Sculpt it on the sides to make a nice smooth edge. Generously cover the entire piece. Use Corn Huskers Lotion on dry hand.



step ELEVEN

Once you have covered the entire piece and filled all of the spaces, wipe off as much of the excess as you can with your gloves or hands. After you do this, let it set for 20-30 minutes, or until the grout becomes hazy on the piece.



step TWELVE (do this step twice if necessary)

Now, take a very slightly dampened sponge or cloth and begin wiping the haze off. You can then use a dry cloth or your hands to remove the remaining haze and residual grout. Try to remove as much grout as possible. If you don't get it off now, it will be much harder to do so later. Clean each tile if needed. Use a grout sponge or cloth, not a paper towel.



step THIRTEEN

The grouting is complete; throw it away. Do not wash grout down the sink! Take a dry cloth or sponge and polish your piece. If you did not mosaic the edges of your piece, finish it with an acrylic paint that matches your grout. (You could have also grouted or colorwashed your sides with grout. See "Side by Side" elsewhere in this catalog)



step FOURTEEN

Enjoy your new masterpiece!

If you ever have ANY questions, feel free to contact us. That is what we are here for. *We are only successful if you are!*