

Create Your First Mosaic Art Piece Instructions

1. **Choose a base surface** – it should be smooth and non-flexible such as glass, concrete, brick, ceramic tile, wood (better to seal it first and use indoors only), sealed terracotta etc.
2. **Choose a pattern** – the “arty” ones can draw a free hand pattern directly onto the surface. The rest of us can copy a pattern off a coloring book, a magazine or print one from an online coloring pages web site. For the a first project stick to a simple pattern (not too many details).
3. **Copy the pattern onto base** – place a **carbon copy paper** carbon side down on the surface. Place your pattern page on top it. Trace the pattern lines with a pen or **pencil**. They will be copied onto the base surface.
4. **Prepare your tiles** – you can buy pre-made tiles in all sizes, materials and colors, or you can break ceramic **dishes** and use their pieces as tiles. If you choose the second option:

Wear **protective glasses**- You'd be surprised how far chips can fly in the breaking process.

Use a small **hammer** to break the dish into pieces (you can wrap it with a towel first to keep pieces from flying all over). You an also just slam them onto the ground ...both ways are great for relieving tension ☺.

Use a **tile nipper** to cut pieces into smaller ones if needed.

To use nipper easily – place the nipper blades so that they over lap the edge of the tile by only 3-4 mm. Meaning that the rest of the blades will not be in touch with the tile. If you catch the tile with the full blade surface it will be much harder to cut the tile.
5. **Arrange tiles** on the base surface to fill in the pattern – use larger tiles for larger patterns and save the smaller pieces to fill in-between them. Use tile nipper or glass cutter to adjust tile sizes according to your needs.
6. **Glue the tiles** onto the base surface **one by one** using a Mosaic **adhesive**, tile adhesive or construction adhesives (do not use wood glue or hot glue as they will damage your work). How much glue to use? Enough glue so that when you press your tile firmly onto the base surface, you will see a rim of glue around the tile edges.

The gap between the tiles should be anywhere between 1- 10 mm, as you prefer. Try to be consistent through out your work for a neater outcome.
7. **Leave to dry** over night.
8. **Grouting**- clean all dried glue from the surface. Put on a **dust mask** and prepare a small amount **grout** according to instructions. Make sure it is lump free and smooth.

Use a **spatula** or wear **disposable gloves** and rub the grout into the surface, moving from the middle towards the edges. Fill in all the gaps.

When the grout starts to dry clean the access with an **old toothbrush**. Be careful not to remove too much of it.
9. **Leave grout to dry** over night. Do not place it next to a heat source.
10. **Clean** - use tooth brush again followed by a **damp cloth** (add some vinegar to cloth for better results).

Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a unique piece of art made byYOU!