

# HANDOUT - SPRING CHICKEN MOSAICS #1




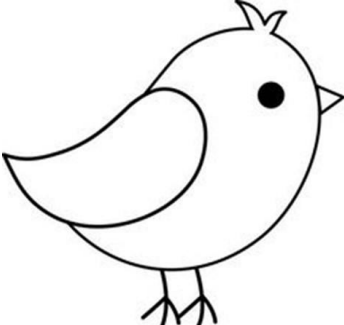


## A STRESS-FREE INTRODUCTION (Paper Mosaic)

### HOW THIS WORKS

1. Watch the entire video first.
2. Gather your materials and prepare your workspace. For SAFETY: Band-Aids
3. Start and stop the video where it says PAUSE so you can work on each step at your own pace.

### WHAT YOU NEED in your WORKSPACE

A clear area, clean water and a rag or paper towels, plus your materials:

<p>Heavy white paper</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p><b>Paper Palette Pad By Artist's Loft®, 9" X 12"</b></p> <p><b>\$6.39</b></p>	<p>Colored (construction) paper</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p><b>Creatology™ Construction Paper Pad</b></p> <p><b>\$3.69</b></p>	<p>White glue, like Elmer's, with a small paintbrush</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p><b>Elmer's® Dual Tip School Glue Pen</b></p> <p><b>\$1.47</b> Reg.\$2.99</p>
<p>A pattern (cartoon)</p> 	<p>Pencil and eraser</p> 	<p>Scissors</p> 

### SUGGESTIONS

- The materials above are from Michaels, but you can buy most of them cheaper at a dollar store.

- Use heavy white paper so it doesn't get warped by the glue. (Later, try using a different color of paper for the background to mimic using a different color of grout!)
- You can use any white glue, like Elmer's or Tacky Glue. I like the glue 'pens' because it's easier to apply the glue to small pieces of paper, especially if you have shaky hands.
- If you don't have construction paper, use any medium weight colored paper (old greeting cards, file folders, etc.) but not magazine clippings – the paper is too thin.
- If you don't have scissors, you can tear the colored paper.
- Trace your pattern onto your heavy white paper OR draw your own pattern, but keep it simple.

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The definitions are from **The Joy of Shards Mosaic Glossary**:

<http://www.thejoyofshards.co.uk/glossary/index.shtml>

- **Mosaic** - a picture or pattern produced by arranging together small colored pieces of hard material, such as stone, tile, or glass.
  - **Substrate** - the base or backing for a mosaic. This is generally what the tesserae are stuck to.
  - **Adhesive** - the substance that sticks tesserae to the backing. The choice of adhesive will depend on the type of materials used in the tesserae and the backing (for example if one or both are porous), and also whether the work has special requirements (for example, needs to be waterproof, frost proof or to set quickly). Common choices are PVA glue (white craft glue), ready-mixed tile adhesive, or cement-based adhesive, like thin set.
  - **Tesserae** - The plural of "tessera," a name given to piece used in a mosaic. Originally, tesserae were the cubes of stone used in ancient classical mosaics, but now the term is used for pieces of any kind of mosaic material, whether they are ceramic, stone, pebbles, glass or some other substance.
- **Grout joint** - the space between your tesserae. The width of the grout joints in a mosaic will affect the appearance of the design, and also the amount of grout needed. Keep spaces to less than ¼ inch. This project is not grouted but it's good to know the terminology.
- **Direct Method** - A mosaic technique where the tesserae are stuck directly to the backing material (substrate) versus the **Indirect Method**, a technique of sticking mosaic tesserae to a temporary surface (like mesh) and then transferring them all together to a mosaic site (like a garden wall).

**SEE the following pages for a choice of PATTERNS (also called CARTOONS in the world of mosaics). These are optional – you can sketch your own image as well.**

# STEPS TO MAKING YOUR PAPER MOSAIC

This is a summary of the steps covered in the video.

## PART 1

1. About this lesson – You will create a paper mosaic while learning basic terminology and about mosaic construction.
2. What you should have ready in your workspace
  - Rag or paper towels and some clean water (for messes or to wash paint brush)
  - *Optional* – palette knives (or plastic knife) and bent nose tweezers
  - Sheet of sturdy white paper (your substrate)
  - Colored paper (construction paper or card stock)
  - White glue like Elmers, with a small paint brush
  - Your pattern (called a cartoon)
  - A pencil with eraser
  - Scissors

## PART 2

3. Prepare your substrate – Trace or draw your pattern/cartoon onto the white paper. Use your pencil lightly so you can erase marks later.
4. Prepare your tesserae – Cut out piles of assorted colors of paper, based on what you want to use in your pattern. You can use any shape, like small squares, triangles, or a variety.

## PART 3

5. Assemble your mosaic – Glue the tesserae into the pattern, keeping spaces (grout lines) less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. Cover the entire paper; maybe do the pattern first and then the background. You need the background in order to make it look like a true mosaic.

## PART 4

6. Finish your mosaic – After the glue has dried, go back and lightly erase the pencil lines. If you can't really see them, leave them alone! Optionally, you could hide the lines with white paint.

NOW, tape the mosaic to the wall and step back. See how great it looks! Share this with your friends. Make small 'mosaic' greeting cards. Teach the technique to others. Start a mosaics group. Watch another video and learn how to make more substantial mosaics. Relax, have fun, and get lost in your creativity.

