

# HANDOUT - SPRING CHICKEN MOSAICS #2

## AN EASY MOSAIC PROJECT (2-D)

### HOW THIS WORKS

1. Watch the entire video first.
2. Gather your materials and prepare your workspace. For SAFETY: Band-Aids, a dust mask, plastic glove
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>A flat substrate, like a board</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup Not Available to Ship</p> <p><b>9" Heart Wood Plaque By Artminds™</b></p> <p><b>\$2.99</b></p>	<p>Primer paint and paint brush</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p><b>Diy Home Primer By Artminds™</b></p> <p><b>\$10.99</b></p>	<p>White mosaic glue, like Weldbond</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p><b>Weldbond® Universal Adhesive</b></p> <p><b>\$7.99</b></p>
<p>Sanded grout, stir stick</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup Not Available to Ship</p> <p><b>Mosaic Mercantile Sanded Grout, Snow</b></p> <p><b>\$8.49</b></p>	<p>Palette knives (or plastic knife), optional tweezers</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p><b>Plastic Palette Knife Set By Artist's Loft™, 6ct.</b></p> <p><b>\$3.19</b></p>	<p>Pre-cut tesserae-Beach glass <b>OR...</b></p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p><b>Beach Glass Mosaic Tiles By Artminds™</b></p>
<p>Pre-cut tesserae-Ceramic tiles</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup Not Available to Ship</p> <p><b>Assorted Mosaic Ceramic Tiles By Artminds™</b></p>	<p>Pre-cut tesserae-Stained glass</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup Not Available to Ship</p> <p><b>Bright Mosaic Stained Glass Tiles By Artminds™</b></p>	<p>Pre-cut tesserae-Pre-cut glitter glass</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup Not Available to Ship</p> <p><b>Crystal Angles Zanzibar Mosaic Pre-Cut Glass Tiles By...</b></p>

## SUGGESTIONS

- The materials above are from Michaels, but you can buy some of them cheaper at a dollar store.
- Your wood substrate can be square, rectangular, or even heart shaped. You can also get shapes at hardware stores like Lowe's or Home Depot, probably Ace Hardware, too. Michaels are inexpensive.
- You might have primer paint around the house!
- Weldbond glue is higher quality than Elmer's but, in a pinch, Elmer's will work. Both are water-based though, so the finished mosaic should not be placed where it will get wet.
- The sanded grout from Michael's is premixed and in a small container, but you can use any sanded grout from a hardware store. If it's powdered, you'll have to mix it yourself.
- Use plastic palette knives to apply the grout to your mosaic. In a pinch, a plastic knife works, too.
- Remember that if you buy square or rectangular tesserae, they will not work well on curved substrates unless you have the tools to cut glass. I recommend the more natural shapes like beach glass.

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

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** - A substance which fills the gaps (joints or interstices) between tesserae in mosaics. The purpose to strengthen the work, keep water out of the joints, and add to the design appeal. Once grout is mixed, it needs to **slake** (allow for chemical reaction) for 10 minutes before applying it. **NEVER put grout down a drain – it's a cement product that can harm your plumbing.**
- **Grout joint** - The space between your tesserae. The width of the joints in a mosaic will affect the appearance of the design, and also the amount of grout needed.
- **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).

# STEPS TO MAKING YOUR EASY MOSAIC PROJECT

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

## PART 1

1. About this lesson – You will create a two-dimensional mosaic on a wood substrate with glass tesserae. You will finish it by grouting.
2. What you should have ready in your workspace
  - Rag or paper towels and some clean water (for messes, to wash paint brushes, or for grouting)
  - *Optional* – palette knives (or plastic knife) and bent nose tweezers
  - A flat wood cutout (your substrate)
  - A small amount of primer paint and a paintbrush
  - Glass tesserae (pre-cut from a hobby store)
  - White glue like Weldbond, with a small paint brush
  - Sanded grout powder (you'll have to mix it) with a stir stick. Wear a dust mask and glove

## PART 2

3. Prepare your substrate – Paint all sides of your substrate with primer and let it dry.
4. Prepare your tesserae – Sort your tesserae into color groups, based on what you want to use in your pattern. We don't have a pattern for this one; instead, we are practicing FITTING the tesserae onto the substrate like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

## PART 3

5. Assemble your mosaic – Glue the tesserae onto your substrate, keeping spaces between the tesserae (the grout lines) less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. Cover the entire substrate. For the edges, either leave NO space (glue the tesserae right at the edge) OR leave small space ( $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch) so grout can fill the space.

## PART 4

6. Finish your mosaic – After the glue has dried (at least 24 hours), re-glue any loose pieces. Prepare your grout (if not pre-mixed). Spread it onto the mosaic surface, using palette knives to push grout into the gaps between tesserae and at edges. Wipe off the grout as it dries (it gets cloudy). Looks smooth? Let it dry!

NOW, set the mosaic against the wall and step back. See how great it looks! Share this with your friends.

Make small trivets as gifts. Teach the technique to others. Start a mosaics group. Watch another video and learn how to make more mosaics. Relax, have fun, and get lost in your creativity.