

HANDOUT - SPRING CHICKEN MOSAICS #3

PERSONAL PROJECT (3-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 3-dimensional substrate, like a FLAT-sided vase or ceramic flowerpot</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p>Ashland™ Cube Glass Vase</p> <p>\$6.39</p>	<p>Primer paint, (if using a wood substrate), plus a paint brush</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p>Diy Home Primer By Artminds™</p> <p>\$10.99</p>	<p>Clear indoor-outdoor glue</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p>Gorilla® Clear Gorilla Glue® Contact Adhesive</p> <p>\$7.99</p>
<p>Sanded grout, stir stick</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup Not Available to Ship</p> <p>Mosaic Mercantile Sanded Grout, Snow</p> <p>\$8.49</p>	<p>Palette knives (or plastic knife), optional tweezers</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p>Plastic Palette Knife Set By Artist's Loft™, 6ct.</p> <p>\$3.19</p>	<p>Pre-cut tesserae-Beach glass OR...</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup</p> <p>Beach Glass Mosaic Tiles By Artminds™</p>
<p>Pre-cut tesserae-Ceramic tiles</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup Not Available to Ship</p> <p>Assorted Mosaic Ceramic Tiles By Artminds™</p>	<p>Pre-cut tesserae-Stained glass</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup Not Available to Ship</p> <p>Bright Mosaic Stained Glass Tiles By Artminds™</p>	<p>Pre-cut tesserae-Glitter glass</p>  <p>Free Store Pickup Not Available to Ship</p> <p>Crystal Angles Zanzibar Mosaic Pre-Cut Glass Tiles By...</p>

SUGGESTIONS

- You likely have a vase or pot at home you could use. I recommend one with flat sides, though, because round/curved mosaics are difficult. It's like putting mosaic on corn-on-the-cob!
- Most of the materials are from Michaels, but you can buy some of them cheaper at a dollar store.
- Your substrate can be glass, wood, or pottery. Wood and pottery should still be primed.
- You might have primer paint around the house!
- You should use a thicker, clear adhesive for this project, especially if your substrate is glass. Also, use indoor/outdoor quality glue. Another brand is GE Silicone glue or Lixel from the hardware stores.
- 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 fine.
- Remember that if you buy square, rectangular, or large tesserae, they will not work well on curved substrates because they won't 'bend' around the curve. I recommend smaller tesserae for this project.

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 two 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 PERSONAL PROJECT

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

PART 1

1. About this lesson – You will create a three-dimensional mosaic on a glass or pottery substrate with glass or ceramic 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 glass vase or ceramic pot (your substrate)
 - *Optional* – Primer paint and a paintbrush IF you happen to use a wood substrate
 - Glass tesserae (small, pre-cut from a hobby store)
 - Clear, thick glue designed for glass, like Gorilla Clear Grip or GE Silicone Glue and 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 – Remove dust, clean in hot soapy water or with Windex. (IF WOOD, 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. Create your own pattern for this one; account for edges or curves!

PART 3

5. Assemble your mosaic – Glue the tesserae onto your substrate one section or side at a time, 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. You may need to let one side or section dry before you do the next one.

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 on a windowsill and step back. See how great it looks! Share this with your friends.

Make more 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.