

Mosaics

There are two types of mosaic methods— both are very fun and rewarding. The direct method of mosaics is where you apply glass to an object and fill in the gaps with different topping or grout. An example of the direct method is to decorate a flower pot.

The indirect method of mosaics is also simple. It is done by applying glass first into a mold and then adding different mixes and colorants to achieve the look and texture your after. An example of the indirect method is a stepping stone.

Direct Method

- Cures slowly
- Costs much less
- Projects like garden pot

The direct method of mosaics is where you apply glass to an object and fill in the gaps with different topping or grout. There are four parts to a direct method mosaic project; 1.) glass, 2.) object to be glued to, 3.) adhesive, 4.) topping/grout.

For example, making a mosaic garden pot:

1.) You will affix the glass pieces into place on the outside of the pot with glue (critical to dry 24 hours before grouting).

2.) Then finish by filling in the areas between the glass using Pre-mixed Grout or Moondust Topping Mix.

3.) Wipe the grout/topping mix off the surface of the glass. Repeat this step until all spaces are filled. Between applications, wait until the grout becomes chalky. The grout layers need to be reapplied immediately and NOT left for any length of time (hours). For rounded surfaces such as a pot, you will need to grout, at the most, one half at a time so that gravity can help keep the grout/topper mix in place, then flip to do the other side. In other words, the flatter the surface, the easier it is to apply the mix, allowing it to sink into the crevices.

Indirect Methods

- Cures quickly
- Costs more
- Projects like stepping stone

The indirect method of mosaics is also simple. It is done by applying glass first into a mold and then adding different mixes and colorants to achieve the look and texture your after.

The indirect topping (initial layer) makes up no more than 1/4" thickness. You use the mosaic grout that is precolored to achieve colored grout lines. The remainder of the mold is typically filled with a mixture of cement, sand, and peagravel. This combination takes a minimum of two weeks to cure in the mold. The benefit of these materials is that it costs less than Stone Mix or DiamondCrete.

Stone Mix or DiamondCrete is used to fill the entire mold. It fills in between the glass and forms the rest of the stone as one solid piece.

One may achieve the look of colored grout lines by adding colorant. Diamond Crete comes in many colors. It also comes in white and may be combined with mosaic colorant to achieve any color. Stone Mix comes in white only so mosaic colorant is essential for any color other than white.

The advantage of both of these materials is that they cure in just a few hours!

<http://www.Alpineglass.com>
Copyright © 2004 Alpine Stained Glass & Door