



Your design should be based on big shapes, clear outlines and plan areas of contrasting colour so that each element stands out



Slice the tiles into 2cm strips to make smaller cuts easier. This is not totally necessary if you don't have a cutter handy. You could sandwich large pieces of tile between sheets of card and bash with a hammer.



Don't try to use the tile snips like scissors. Place nippers right at the very edge of your tile piece pointing in the direction you want the tile to break.



Then you can make a nice clean cut. If you try to use the nippers like scissors, you will find it very difficult indeed.



These squares are 2cm, and now they can be further cut down into smaller squares or round off the edges for more organic shapes if you prefer.



This is quite a lot of preparation, but it's worth it. To get triangular pieces, simply point the nippers diagonally across the tile piece.



Always build from the edge of your design. Don't stick tile pieces right in the middle, other wise you will create gaps that are hard to fill.



Use a lid or shallow vessel filled with PVA glue. Dip the bottom of the piece in to get it thoroughly covered in glue. You can't really have too much glue. It will all wipe off the tiles shiny surface in the end.



Test each piece in a space before gluing it down. Always place a piece next to some others, building up your area of colour.



Leave small gaps between each piece of tile, about 2/3mm. You can make square pieces look round by gently increasing the angle as you go round.



Finish one colour before starting the next. Build the second colour away from the tiles you have already stuck down.



Be careful not to go over the edge of the backing wood. Triangular pieces work very nicely around this design.



Remember, all the gaps will be filled with grout, but try not to make the gaps too big. Leave it overnight to dry completely.



Fill a container about 1/4 full of water. Now fill with powdered grout until no more powder can be absorbed. Stir it well.



The grout should be a thick creamy custard consistency when you pour it over an area of your mosaic. Let it run into all the gaps and don't worry about the mess.



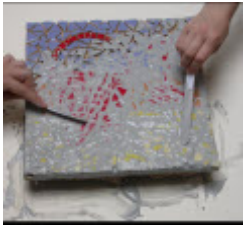
Use a plastic spatula, gardening stick, palette knife, or even a piece of thick card to drag the grout into the spaces between the tiles.



At the edges, let it spill over, like icing on a cake.



Then you can tidy up the edges with your knife or scraper, pushing spare grout into the gaps and spaces.



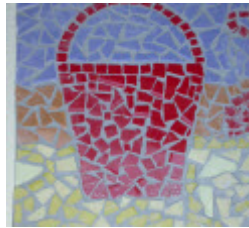
Repeat this all over your piece of work.



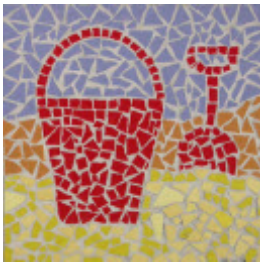
Some air bubbles will appear. You will have to go over these. Scrape some of the grout from the top of the tiles and push it into the spaces.



If you wipe it down too soon, you will bring away some of the grout. You will have to judge when the grout is dry enough to



Lots of wiping with clean, damp cloths, followed by a final polish with a dry cloth will reveal your lovely picture from underneath all the muddy mess.



You will need some spare grout very thick to fill in little holes and air gaps. Then a final polish will bring it up beautifully.

A bit of extra advice

Use cheap wall tiles, not floor tiles to start with. They are easy to cut and break.

Practise cutting with snips for a while. After a few cuts you will develop your technique.

DONT use the snips like scissors, nip the tile from the edge. I know I have already said that, but this is the bit of advice people most often seem to forget! BE WARNED

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