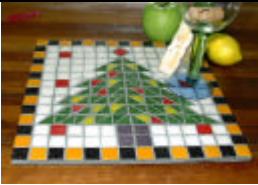


Christmas Tree Platter



Materials/tools required:

- ❖ Glazed ceramic tile platter base – 30 cm x 30 cm
- ❖ Mosaic Cutters Leponitt **\$49.00 plus postage**
Refer Tool Notes
- ❖ Containers glass tile storage
- ❖ Vitreous Glass Tiles **2 cm x 2 cm**
Red (12)/white(100)/mango(26)/green(31)
Purple(4)/black(28)/yellow(7)
Plus extras for special cuts.
- ❖ Tile adhesive **Refer Adhesive Notes**
- ❖ Felt pen/ruler
- ❖ Felt/cork feet
- ❖ Newspaper/plastic to protect the work area
- ❖ Cotton buds
- ❖ Ruler

APPLYING THE MOSAIC

IMPORTANT

- ❖ The smooth, flat surface of the vitreous tile is the top. The bumpy side is set face down into the adhesive.



CUTTING THE VITREOUS TILES:

- ❖ **Leponitt Mosaic Cutters** are required to cut the square glass tiles into triangles.
- ❖ Place the tile between the fixed wheels of the cutter and simply squeeze the cutter handles. This tool cuts glass, china, ceramic tile and mirror very easily. Practise makes perfect!

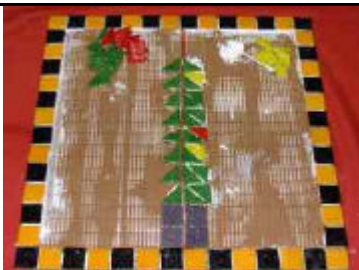
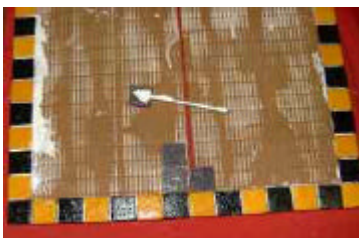
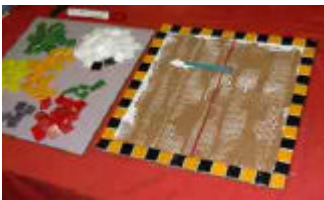




OR

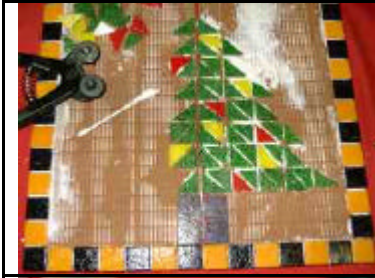
- ❖ **Tile nippers** (straightedge nippers) to cut clean, crisp lines. Not good for glass or china.

APPLYING THE GLASS TILES:



- ❖ Use the unglazed (back) of the ceramic tile for the platter surface. The ceramic finish makes a smooth and attractive finish for underneath the platter.
- ❖ Draw a felt-pen line down the centre of the tile.
- ❖ Place the border tiles first. Spread a thin even line of adhesive and place black and orange tiles as shown, leaving a small gap between each one for the grout line. Tiles should never touch.
- ❖ After bordering one side of the platter, shuffle tiles and space until all gaps are as even as possible. Do not put too much adhesive on or it will ooze high in the grout spacing. Wipe away excess adhesive with a cotton bud or knife edge. Keep tile surfaces free from adhesive. Push a ruler against edge of border tiles to keep tiles even with platter edges.
- ❖ Complete the border tiles.
- ❖ Centre 4 purple tiles as shown for tree base.
- ❖ Cut 30 green tiles to create 60 green triangles, using the Leponitt mosaic cutters or tile nippers.
- ❖ Place 8 rows of green triangles, working from base to top of tree.
- ❖ Cut 5 yellow tiles and 5 red tiles into triangles. Place as shown to represent tree decorations.

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- ❖ Continue “building the tree” by placing rows of green triangles as shown. Place the triangles to keep the grout line running in the same direction.
- ❖ Finish both sides of the Christmas tree.



- ❖ Place white and red tiles as shown, filling in the background of the platter
- ❖ Place a red tile on the diagonal to represent a star.
- ❖ Complete red and white background.
- ❖ Fill in the white tile triangles and small gaps close to the tree - use a pencil to mark the white tiles and cut the shapes using the Leponitt cutters.



- ❖ Tiles should all be glued down in this pattern. Well done!
- ❖ Set the completed pattern aside for at least 24 hours for the adhesive to fully dry.

GROUTING



- ❖ **Selleys Grout – Pre-mixed** I used Selley's new pre-mixed grout – grey. It is good for narrow grout joints only! Wonderful colours.
- ❖ **Rags/Paper towel**
- ❖ **Sponge/Water**

- ❖ **Bucket**

- ❖ **Newspaper/Plastic Cover Sheet**
- ❖ **Rubber gloves**
- ❖ **White vinegar**

- ❖ **Tile & Grout Sealer**

- ❖ **Music/Chocolate Hat/Sunscreen**
- ❖ **Cork/gems for platter feet**
- ❖ **Toothpicks**
- ❖ **Gladwrap**

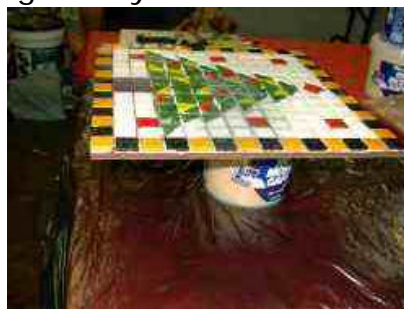


Hint: Some of the vitreous glass tiles have pocks and indents that occur naturally. Sometimes the grout has to be removed with a toothpick or similar instrument. Prior to grouting lightly spray the tiles with cooking spray - this sometimes aids in the removal of ingrained grout.

Premixed unsanded grout was used for this project (to show how it is done), however you may mix up powdered grout as in Project No 1, using grey grout powder.

Premixed grout is only recommended for very narrow joint grout areas. Refer to grout product instructions for grout spacing suitability.

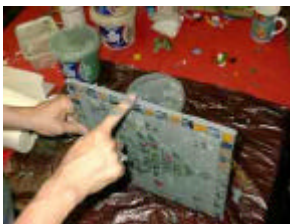
- ❖ Read instructions on the grout package. If unsure, check with tile/hardware shop and ask for assistance. Allow time to relax and work on the grouting without interruption. Put phone on answering service!
- ❖ Spread newspaper or plastic over work area to allow easy cleanup. Fill a bucket $\frac{3}{4}$ full with clean water. Have clean lint-free rags and paper towel handy. Wear rubber gloves.
- ❖ If you have sensitive eyes, wear safety glasses. Wear old clothes and/or an apron. (Extra protection: Large bin bag – cut hole for head and arms and pop on!)
- ❖ Have some Gladwrap handy to put over open grout container, to help prevent the grout drying out, whilst the container is open. When storing grout, press gladwrap down onto grout surface and leave over the grout. Press lid on securely.
- ❖ Fill a bucket with clean water. Have paper towel and lint-free rags handy.



Raise the platter to enable easy access to grout the platter mosaic edge. A lazy-susan turntable is very useful for turning projects (especially tall items and garden pots).

- ❖ Place a handful of grout on the platter. Push the grout down into the grout spaces, making sure the grout reaches to the base of the platter.


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- ❖ Spread excess grout across the project using a slightly damp sponge to help smooth it down into the gaps. Grout the sides of the platter, pushing grout into all gaps. Wipe grout with sponge and fingers to create a smooth grouted edge.
- ❖ After smoothing grout all over the platter, including the sides of the tile, wipe off excess and wait for the grout to start firming up. If working outside, remember to wear a hat and sunscreen and work in the shade where possible. Remember to put lid back on the grout container. After a haze appears on the surface of the tiles, dampen the sponge or paper towel and start wiping off the excess grout until the project is smooth and all tiles have been uncovered. Keep rinsing and wringing out the sponge to remove excess grout. Do not wet the project too much or the grout will wash out and regrouting will be necessary. Patch any holes or grout gaps.
- ❖ The grouting should be smooth and even. Remove excess grout, allow grout to firm and then polish up! Wipe over and polish with old t-shirts or similar lint-free fabric. Once grout has completely dried, excess grout and haze can be removed from the tiles with white vinegar, used sparingly.
- ❖ Remove any specks of grey grout from white tiles using a toothpick or fine-pointed tool.
- ❖ Clean back of tile.
- ❖ If your hands feel harsh, douse them in white vinegar and rinse with water. Apply hand lotion.
- ❖ Leave platter 48 hours to completely dry and seal.
- ❖ Refer notes on **Sealing the Project (page 6)**.

Note: If any tiles become loose during grouting due to incorrect adhesive application, reglue the tile down (Liquid Nails or quick setting glue is handy for this!). Grout other sections and return to the area, gently applying grout.

General Information

<p>About ADHESIVES:</p>	
<p>Mastic – used in both projects.</p>	<p>Pre-mixed tile adhesive. (AbaMastic used in these projects). Fantastic product, non-slip, allows pillowing, long shelf-life, great for vertical projects. Always read product information. Ask your Hardware Store or Tile Shop for assistance with products.</p>
<p>Liquid Nails or similar.</p>	<p>Handy to adhere tiles that may pop off during grouting. May be used for whole project. Wonderful for 3-D or large, unusual items. Very strong. Fast setting...Allows thinner tiles to be pillowed up to height of the thickest tile (if different thickness of tile have been selected for the project). Work in a well ventilated area. Can be messy.</p>
<p>Weldbond</p> 	<p>Very strong non-toxic glue. Dries clear. Ideal for glass mosaics. Does not allow pillowing of tiles for even surfaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent product. • Not good for vertical work as it slips. • Makes a wonderful pre-sealer for porous projects, such as wood and pottery. Mix 5 part water to 1 part Weldbond for a pre-sealer. • Not to be used as the final top sealer of a project! • Visit http://www.franktross.com for product information. • Purchase at Hardware Stores or contact Sandy.
<p>Thinset Tile Adhesive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Usually grey. Purchased as a powder to mix with water. Very strong, reasonable price, allows pillowing for even surfaces - many uses, especially good for push-in mosaic method. Also may be used for grouting. Ask for advice/information at tile/hardware stores.
<p>Silicone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dries clear, good for vertical mosaics, allows pillowing of uneven tesserae. ❖ Work in a well-ventilated area. ❖ Refer instructions and information on packaging.
<p>About GROUT:</p>	<p>Project No 1 – sanded grout Project No 2 – pre-mixed unsanded grout This is a very brief overview. Refer mosaic books/classes/internet or Sandy for detailed information..</p>

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<p>Pre-mixed grouts Selley's have released a wonderful colour range, but check products/brands at your Hardware/Tile store.</p> <p>Good when fine grouting required for smooth, very small grout lines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Wide variety of colours available. ❖ Only suitable for very narrow grout joints, similar to standard bathroom tiling. Do not use pre-mixed unsanded grout for projects with large grout gaps and spacing as the grout will "sink" and possibly have crack lines when fully dry. ❖ Suitable for regrouting projects if another colour is required or to patch fine cracks in grout surface.
<p>Sanded, wide-jointed Grout Recommended for all projects!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bagged, sanded grout is a powder form - mix with water and latex additives, if necessary. (Weldbond may be added for extra strength.) Read instructions carefully on Weldbond and grout packaging. ❖ Buy basic white/grey/charcoal grout. Add acrylic paints to mix desired colour or grout colourants. ❖ I recommend sanded grout for mosaic projects, however, try both and work out your preference. Contact Sandy for more information if necessary.
<p>Unsanded, narrow joint grout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bagged, unsanded grout is a powder form. – mix with water and latex additives. (Weldbond may be added for extra strength.) ❖ Only use for very narrow grout joints similar to bathroom tile grout lines. ❖ Non-sanded grout gives a very smooth finish, but is messier as the grout is similar to toothpaste in texture. Mix the grout well and allow it to slake and keep mixture firm.
<p>Talking TOOLS:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hammer - great for smashing random, irregular tesserae. ❖ Tile Nippers – purchase from hardware/tile stores. Good for straight tile cuts. Not recommended for china. ❖ Leponitt Mosaic Cutters (best investment)! ❖ Electric tile cutter – very smooth, easily controlled cuts. Blades need regular replacement. ❖ Manual Tile Cutter – long strips of tile/straight cuts – purchase from Hardware/Tile Shops. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>

For further information please contact Sandy Robertson from OzMosaics www.ozmosaics.com