

GARDEN MOSAICS

25 step-by-step outdoor projects

- 25 foolproof mosaic projects for your garden, including planters, furniture, and ornaments
- Projects range from simple decorative panels to a sparkling water feature and mosaic garden tabletop
- Extensive techniques section includes full instructions, templates, and a range of beginner's tiling tips for a professional finish

208 x 276 mm • 128 pp
Paperback with flaps
July 2017 • RRP: R225.00
ISBN 978-1-928376-29-3

Beskikbaar in Afrikaans:
Mosaïek vir jou tuin
ISBN 978-1-928376-30-9

 **METZ PRESS**
www.metzpress.co.za

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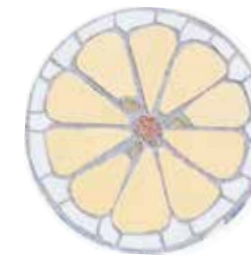
sparkling fish

This sparkling fish started life many years ago as a simple papier-mâché structure made out of chicken wire. Over the years, as his color began to fade, he began to look less and less attractive, so I decided to bejewel him in glassy mosaic tiles, mirror pieces and imitation gemstones. Now he has been given new life that will stand the test of time, and he now withstands all the elements can throw at him. Place the fish next to a pond to allow the water to reflect over his body to create even greater shine and radiance.



- you will need:**
- 2 sections of aluminum mesh, or chicken wire, 24 x 24in. (61 x 61 cm)
 - 9oz. (250g) of 4 different colored glass mosaic tiles
 - 35oz. (1000g) of assorted mirror tiles
 - Assortment of foil-backed cabochons, or imitation gemstones
 - 2 glass nuggets
 - Fuse wire
 - 2 rolls of plaster bandage
 - cement-based adhesive
 - Sandpaper
 - P.V.A. and paintbrush
 - Marker pen
 - 2 x 1in. (2.5 cm) washers
 - Epoxy glue
 - Tile nippers
 - Palette knife
 - Waterproof grout

gingham table top



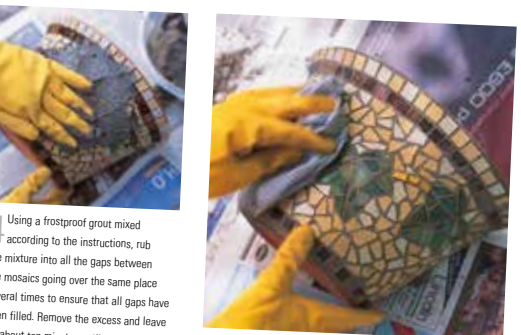
This brightly colored gingham-effect table top is perfect if you want to revamp an existing piece of garden furniture. With a simple blue-and-white pattern of checkered tiles, this project is ideal for beginners; even the trompe l'oeil details of a summer dragonfly and a lemon slice are simple to create. Although very fresh and contemporary, the inspiration for this piece was a type of Ancient Roman mosaic known as "unswept floor mosaics." The Romans thought food looked so attractive in the aftermath of a great feast that they commissioned mosaics that incorporated scattered food; with trompe l'oeil "fruit" and even the odd "chicken leg" strewn over the tiles.



- you will need**
- Table for outdoor use
 - Ceramic and glass tiles:
 - 60 mottled brown ceramic;
 - 240 light blue ceramic;
 - 120 off-white ceramic;
 - 120 dark blue ceramic;
 - 5 yellow ceramic;
 - 2 white ceramic;
 - 1 light yellow glass;
 - 2 green glass;
 - 8 pale gray ceramic;
 - 1 black ceramic;
 - 2 off-white glass; 2 black beads
 - Permanent marker and pencil
 - P.V.A. glue
 - Tile nippers
 - Exterior wood glue
 - Waterproof grout



- Transfer your design using the template on page 123 onto the pot with the pencil. Go over the outline with the water-resistant pen.
- Seal the pot inside and out with a mixture of 1 part P.V.A. to 3 parts water, and allow to dry. This forms a protective layer between the pot and the adhesive, adding further strength and protection from the elements.
- Use the tile nippers to shape the tiles and then stick them down with a cement-based adhesive. As well as being an incredibly strong exterior adhesive, this also holds your tiles in place when working on a curved structure. Allow the adhesive to dry thoroughly before you begin the grouting.



- Using a frostproof grout mixed according to the instructions, rub the mixture into all the gaps between the mosaics going over the same place several times to ensure that all gaps have been filled. Remove the excess and leave for about ten minutes until you can see it start to dry. I would advise wearing rubber gloves at this point because grout dries out the skin.
- Remove the grout by cleaning off the excess with a dry cloth. Leave to dry for around ten minutes, then polish the pot with a clean dry cloth to remove any dust.

ALTERNATIVES

Mosaic pots are a great way to add a season-round splash of color to small corners of the garden that may need extra interest. Just by adding one or two vibrantly-colored mosaic pots to an ordinary collection of pots you can add instant chic to a planting arrangement. Above, I used a very simple grid pattern which required no tile cutting. The daisy motif pot (right) was slightly more complicated but very effective.



fern plate



The base for this project is a large unglazed terracotta dish, designed to be placed under a plant pot. I've chosen to use it as an interesting alternative to a garden tray, though it would be equally successful as a shallow birdbath, or simply as a decorative plate placed strategically in the garden. My design was influenced by my neighbor's fern and I wanted to demonstrate that even when using just two colors, a mosaic can be eye-catching.



- Draw your design onto the plate with a pencil. When you are completely happy, go over it with a permanent marker.
- Prepare the plate for mosaic tiling by covering it in a mixture of 1 part P.V.A. to 3 parts water. Allow to dry.
- Cut the green tiles into quarters and then cut them in half again. Round the edges to create small oblongs that can be glued into place on the bottom leaves and lower stalk. As you work further up the fern, the pattern will get smaller. Cut all of the off-white tiles into quarters and then quarters again. Start by placing them around the fern, cutting any angles that may appear near the tips of each leaf—a method used by the Romans to lift the subject out from the background color. When that is complete, lay the rest of the tiles down in rings, starting from the outer edge, and bring as far into the middle as the design allows, trimming down any tiles that meet the central design.
- When the base has been completed, glue whole green tiles to the vertical rim of the dish, taking care to space them equally. Allow the glue to dry before grouting in the usual way.

- you will need:**
- Terracotta dish, 16in. (41cm) in diameter
 - 125 green ceramic tiles
 - 140 off-white ceramic tiles
 - Pencil
 - Permanent marker
 - P.V.A.
 - Tile nippers
 - Exterior-grade glue
 - Waterproof grout