

MIRROR-CHIP CANDLE HOLDERS

When we bought these candle holders, we had a good idea of what we wanted to do with them but weren't too sure how we'd go about it without it taking way too much time. So we decided to experiment and were pretty impressed with the results because we got the look we wanted and it took hardly any time at all. The light that reflects off the mirror once the candles are lit makes the holders look rich and expensive – not bad for something that cost very little to make.

Place the piece of hardboard on a firm surface, lay one of the mirror off-cuts face down on the board and cover with the cloth. Gently, but firmly, hit down on the cloth-covered mirror with the hammer. Keep moving the hammer while hitting down on the cloth to ensure that the mirror breaks into tiny pieces, lifting the cloth every now and again so you can check your progress. Carefully remove the cloth, trying not to disturb the glass pieces.

Squeeze out a blob of silicone and use the side of a toothpick to spread it over a small section of the candle holder. Now roll the holder over the pieces of mirror, adjusting the pieces slightly where necessary. Continue in this manner, breaking the mirror and rolling the holder over it until it is entirely covered. Leave overnight to dry.

Mix the tile grout according to the manufacturer's instructions and apply using the applicator. Once

you have finished grouting, leave it to dry for about an hour. Then take the sponge, dip it in water and squeeze it until it's almost dry. Wipe it gently over the top and edges of your work in order to smooth the grout and also wipe away the excess from the surface of the tiles. Keep cleaning the sponge as you work but ensure that you squeeze out as much water as possible each time you do so. Leave it overnight to dry and then buff with a lint-free cloth.

YOU WILL NEED

- Glass candle holders
- Piece of hardboard
- Mirror off-cuts
- Thick cloth
- Hammer
- Silicone
- Toothpicks
- White grout
- Grout applicator
- Firm sponge
- Lint-free cloth

HANDY HINTS

- Be very careful when clearing away the shards of mirror from the hardboard because they are razor sharp.
- You will have to use your fingers to grout along the top of the candle holder in order to get a neat edge so, once again, be very careful and wear gloves if you can.
- This is a quick and easy project that makes a great gift.

