

Synopsis

With information gleaned from years of working for and studying with professional mosaic artists from around the world, this comprehensive guide provides essential information for creating beautiful mosaics that survive the elements and stand the test of time. Offering hundreds of valuable design and construction tips, diagrams, simple step-by-step directions, and photographs, the book explains how to create professional, stylish, and technically skilled mosaics. It contains clear instructions for the most commonly used mosaic methods, tips for avoiding potential pitfalls, and an easy-to-navigate technical guide with advice from master mosaicists on selecting the materials, tools, and techniques best suited to any mosaic project. Beginners, hobbyists, and professional artists alike will make the leap from mediocre to majestic mosaics with this understandable, uniquely organized reference.

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review Home in on the last two words of artist-maven Fitzgerald's title: Trade Secrets. That's exactly what you'll get when using this colorful, filled-to-the-brim reference for creating mosaics. The author spares no thought, no idea, no piece of advice, and it is all very well organized in five chapters: Essential Preparation, All about Tesserae, Researching and Planning Your Design, Working Methods, and Practical Applications. Icons helpfully define the type of counsel she offers: try it for substitutions; fix it for solutions (e.g., use olive oil on your hands after handling grout and other cement-based materials); and a jargon buster defines unusual words like

adamento (i.e., the way it flows). Fitzgerald is also very pragmatic: charts show, in a glance, the pros and cons of adhesives, substrates, and tesserae, with a one to three ranking from easy to difficult, cheap to expensive. Ten projects (although usually crammed into two-page layouts) demonstrate different techniques; for instance, a flower shows how to use the direct-working project method, and a swimming fish shows tessellation. --Barbara Jacobs

"Packed with handy time saving tips, technical knowledge, and step-by-step photos, this essential how-to book is perfect for the mosaic enthusiast! Whether you are a beginner or advanced artist, easy preparation, quick fixes, and a variety of techniques will help aid you in your next design."
— "Crafts 'n Things" (April 2013)

I took an intro to mosaic class by this author. I absolutely loved her class so I was thrilled to be able to buy her book. The book is just as informative and easy to understand as her class was. There is so much info to learn, I'm glad I have this book to turn to. Highly recommend it!! Go take her classes too - she's a wonderful teacher, wonderful artist and a wonderful person :)

I love Mosaic artwork. This is a great book and it is beautifully illustrated with step by step projects. There are so many ideas in this book its hard to pick one or two projects. It tells you the tools you need to complete each project. I have not made one thing from this book, but I plan to create several projects something this year. I plan to create my projects out in my yard. I don't have space inside my house to crack glass and work with cement. I don't have this kind of work space in my house. However, can't wait to start my first project.

Arrived quickly, well packaged, and very enjoyable - has a ton of useful information in it. I felt like I'd taken a class or two by the time I was done reading!

Good illustrations and examples of mosiac work.

Wonderful book, filled with beautiful pictures and interesting projects/tips. I've been collecting tile and tools for a few years. Hopefully I'll soon have time for creations of my own!

great ideas that are actually do-able

Very comprehensive and easy to follow, this book explains what type of adhesive, grout, tools and mediums you can use. There are templates you can follow or use the techniques to make your own design. The book is in full color and shows you how to use different shades to create beautiful mosaic patterns.

I love this book! I bring it out quite a bit after a sketch an idea in my journal to review design options and visualize it for that design. The only thing I wished the author spent more time on was the indirect method for mosaics. I learned direct method for un-grouted, grouted, and thin set, but I think that the indirect method might have worked better for some layouts. In the book, the written directions are still confusing and I would need either step-by-step pictures or a demonstration to understand it. I would definitely recommend this book.

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