

Take & Make Mosaic Coaster

1. Your kit will come with wooden squares, smooth glass shards, a small sponge, a tub of glue, two strips of cork per square coaster, and a tub of ready-to-use grout. All edges of your wood are sanded, but there is a side that has rougher-looking edges. This is the top (the glass and grout will cover the rough edges). The clean edged side is your bottom (the clean wood stays visible).



2. OPTIONAL: Something that may help you get organized is to sort your glass into piles by size. Sometimes this helps you plan and place pieces appropriately. Some people are just as happy to leave the glass in a pile and put pieces wherever they fit! Do what suits you.



3. First, lay out where your glass will go. It helps to start with the edges to frame the abstract arrangement and work your way into the middle. It also helps to start with larger pieces of glass and fill in the gaps with smaller pieces. You can also place pieces randomly on the boards!



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4. At this point you are playing with layout and lines to see what fits and what looks good to you. Move pieces around and play with color, lining up straight pieces, and matching curves. Fill as much of the space as you can to minimize grout and maximize glass coverage! Don't throw out any extra glass. Adorn a planter (like you would use stones), or find another creative use! Return them if you really can't think of anything better to do with them!



5. Next, add the glue. Starting on an edge (so the pieces are easier to pick up), apply glue to the full face of the back of the glass. Put it down in place and move on to the next piece. This glue does not set immediately, so you have a few minutes to slide pieces around if your arrangement was bumped. You can use a finger tip, or a Q-tip if you don't want to get dirty. Glue down every piece.

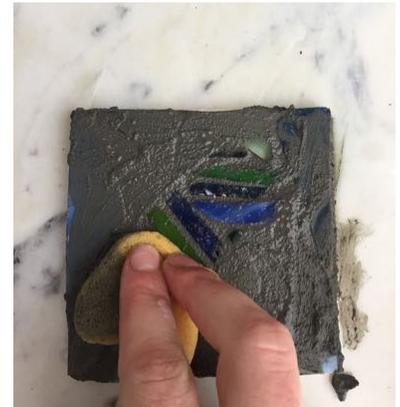


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6. Let the glue dry. How long depends on the humidity. Let it sit until the pieces no longer slide.
7. Add the grout! Scoop the grout out and push it in the crevices between the glass pieces. You can use a finger or the toothpick on it's long edge to scrape the grout across the whole surface. Cover and thoroughly fill all gaps!



8. Get a bucket of rinse water. Use a damp sponge to gently remove the grout off of the surface. Rinse the sponge often. Don't press too hard or you will remove the grout from the grooves. Try to keep the grout flush or only slightly lower than the glass. Do not dump your grout water down the sink, as it may lead to clogging (in extreme cases). The grass is a good spot to dump the rinse water. If not available, then allow the grout to settle, pour off the water and scrape any sediment on the bottom into the garbage.



9. Add the cork to the bottom of the coasters. Two strips per coaster. For better balance, have them run along the outside edges of the coaster. Apply glue liberally to one side of the cork and gently apply pressure. Allow to dry before using. After it is dry, you can remove any remaining haze with another damp sponge wipe, or windex.



10. Enjoy your coasters! Share pictures with us of what you make!