

MOSAIC SUPPLIES, Concrete Couch, 2006. www.ConcreteCouch.org

CERAMIC OR STONE MOSAIC MATERIALS:

-Good quality “thin-set” type, grey mortar (something with an acrylic modifier, or the like...these usually run about \$15 for a medium sized bag), plus grout (color to be determined once project is nearly complete).

-Ceramic tiles suitable for the job. Exterior applications require vitreous tiles, which will never absorb water. (These types of tiles are HARD to cut or “nip”...usually an adult job). Interior applications can use a softer, cheaper tile.

-Masonry tools, like a “margin trowel” (square end), various size “diamond” trowels (they look like a diamond or triangle).

-Sponges, and lots of different sized yogurt containers.

-Each mosaic person will need: a palette knife (like you would use for oil painting), a pair of safety goggles, and a pair of tile nippers (these are around \$15, and are used to cut the tiles into specialized sizes...make sure you get the ones that are carbide tipped, and NOT the ones with little wheels in the front).

For “panel construction”, where you build the piece in the workshop on a panel, then attach to the exterior wall later, you will also need:

-3/4” exterior grade plywood

-1/2” “Duroc” cement board, or the similar (for exterior applications), and “Hardibacker Board” for interior uses, or make your own tile-appropriate surface with diamond lathe and mortar...this is lighter than Duroc, but takes more time. Cut with wire cutter, then attach with many staples, then fill space between mesh and panel with mortar, about 1/8” to 1/4” thick.

-Silicone caulk for weatherproofing around edge of panel/wall. (Caulk top and sides...leave bottom open to drain and breathe.)

MIXED MEDIA MOSAICS:

Lots of materials work for mosaics...glass beads, plastic widgets, stainless steel cut-outs, etc. Also, an interior mosaic construction piece can use paper, cloth, beans, grass and leaves and other natural materials. One thing you will most likely need is a gallon of “*acrylic medium*”. Its inexpensive is you buy a gallon of it, much more expensive if you are getting quarts. Go for the “matte” finish, unless you are getting quarts, then get both matte and gloss.