

# ONLINE MINI MOSAIC WORKSHOP

## MATERIALS AND RESOURCES LIST

### **You will need to provide your own materials for this course.**

The availability of supplies will vary from country to country. The main tools and materials required are listed below, followed by some more detailed notes.

At the end of the document is a list of suggested resources/places to buy tools and materials.

### **You will need**

- Paper with some 2x2 inch squares drawn on it. These are to develop your designs on. You can either draw your own, or download the template provided and print it out.
- Pencil/coloured pencils (for sketching out your ideas)
- Your choice of mosaic materials. (see note 1)
- Appropriate tools to cut your materials. In most cases this will be a pair of wheeled nippers. (see note 2)
- A board (substrate) to make your mosaic on (see note 3)
- Adhesive (see note 4) and something to mix/spread it with.
- Tweezers (optional)

### **Note 1: Materials**

There are all sorts of materials available to use for making mosaics. Please choose the materials that you like the look of/enjoy working with/have available to you. I like to use slate/stone and combine it with glass, but you can work with whatever materials you wish.

Ideally you will have at least two kinds of materials that contrast with each other. For example, you could have something with a reflective surface (like glass) and something with a matt surface (like slate or stone). Or you could use the same kind of material but in contrasting colours.

Remember that we are making small mosaics (2x2 inches) and that you will only need small pieces of any material you choose to use. Here are some suggestions. Remember, you do not need to use all of these!

- Pieces of slate or stone.
- Small pebbles foraged from the beach/river etc
- Glass tiles
- Smalti (a special type of glass for mosaics)
- Beads
- A broken mug or plate
- Shells
- Glass rods/stringers



## Note 2: Tools

You can use your materials as they are or to cut them to size. If you want to cut your materials, which will give you more control over your design, you will need an appropriate tool for cutting the materials you have chosen. I recommend having a pair of wheeled nippers. These can be used for cutting glass, ceramic and can even be used with slate. However, a pair of tile cutters/sidebiter nippers can be useful for cutting harder materials like stone.

## Note 3: Substrate

The board that you make your mosaic on should be rigid and not flexible. In the course the focus is on making mosaics that are 2x2 inches, but you can work on a different size board if you prefer.

Suggestions for what you can use

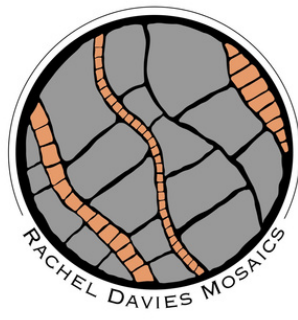
- Pieces of MDF wooden board. I use 3mm MDF that I recycle from the backs of picture frames.
- Tile backer board, e.g. jackoboard, wediboard, marmox. These boards come in different thicknesses. For small mosaics, I prefer the 6mm/0.25 inch thick boards, but you can use whatever size you like.
- Small ceramic tiles - (use the reverse side to stick your pieces onto, not the glazed side)
- Hand made substrates created from 3-4 layers of fibreglass mesh and tile adhesive.

## Note 4: Adhesives

I use tile adhesive/thinset mixed with a black pigment to make my mosaics and will be using this for one of the demonstrations. You only need a small amount (less than 200g) for this project. However, tile adhesive is often sold in large quantities (usually 5kg or 20kg) although some of the mosaic suppliers listed in the resources section sell smaller amounts (1kg). I work with the kind that comes in powdered form and needs to be mixed with water, but if you prefer, you can also use the premixed kind as long as you don't want to put your work outside.

The brand of adhesive I use is called BAL Max Flex Fibre, but other brands are also available. For example, Mapei adesilex P10 (also called Mapei mosaic and glass tile mortar) is another well respected brand.

An alternative to tile adhesive is a two part epoxy putty. These adhesives come in two parts that are mixed together form a pliable adhesive that will set hard. I will also demonstrate the use of this in the course. Common brands are Apoxie Sculpt or Milliput.



## Helpful Resources

Listed below are some places you can source supplies for making mosaics. Please note this list is not exhaustive but consists of places either I have used or have been recommended to me by colleagues or students.

### Mosaic Materials and Tools

#### UK

- Hobby Island Mosaics <https://hobby-island.co.uk>
- The Crafty Glass Box: <https://thecraftyglassbox.com>
- Mosaic Workshop. <https://www.mosaicworkshop.com>

#### Europe

- Tabula Rasa <https://www.tabvlarasa.com/shop/>
- The Craft Kit <https://www.thecraftkit.com/>

#### USA

- Witsend mosaics <https://witsendmosaic.com>
- Di Mosaico <https://www.dimosaico.com>
- Bohemian Element/Mosaic Element <https://www.bohemianelement.com>
- The Smalti Emporium <https://www.smaltiemporium.com>
- Bonin Glass Designs <https://www.boninlassdesigns.com>
- Luna Mosaic Arts <https://lunamosaicarts.com/>

#### Canada

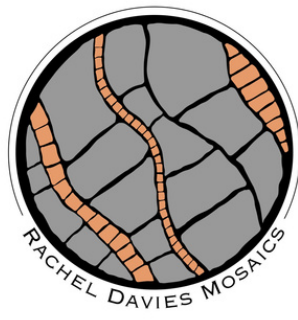
- Artsy Crafts <https://www.artsycrafts.ca>

#### Australia

- Smalti Australia. <https://smaltiaustralia.com>
- Merlin Mosaica. <https://merlinmosaica.com>

### Tile adhesive and board

Some of the online mosaic suppliers listed above sell substrates and adhesives, so you can buy all your supplies in one place. However, you can also buy them from your local tile store. For guidance on choosing tile adhesive you can [download my free guide here](#).



## Helpful Resources continued

### Pigment for tile adhesive

Many of the online mosaic suppliers listed on the previous page sell pigment. Below are some additional sources of pigment.

#### UK

- ToolStation <https://www.toolstation.com/everbuild-208-powder-mortar-tone-1kg/p12419>
- Wickes <https://www.wickes.co.uk/Bostik-Cementone-Cement+Mortar-Dye---Black-1kg/p/154065>
- Harristone [https://www.harristoneuk.com/1\\_4\\_cement-dyes.html](https://www.harristoneuk.com/1_4_cement-dyes.html)

#### USA

- Conspec <https://conspecmaterials.com/product-category/concrete-products/concrete-colors/>
- Sherri Warner Hunter <https://swhartstudioinc.wpcomstaging.com/products-tools/>
- Mosaic Mentoring <https://mosaicmentoring.com/product-category/mosaic-tools/>

#### Canda

- Good Tile <https://goodtile.ca/collections/organic-pigments>

### Rocks

#### UK

- Geology Superstore <https://www.geologysuperstore.com>

Slate chippings and other stones can also be purchased from garden centres and DIY stores.

#### USA

- Slate - The Clean Slate Company <https://thecleanslatecompany.org>
- Shale and other stone - Sager Mosaics <https://shop.sagermosaics.com/shop/rock/6>



## About your Instructor



Rachel Davies is a professional mosaic artist based in Dunblane, Scotland. She combines slate, stone and glass to create highly textural pieces of mosaic art.

Rachel's work has been exhibited in shows and galleries across the UK and is in the home of many private collectors.

She is a professional member and former Chair of the British Association for Modern Mosaic

Rachel is a sought after mosaic instructor and teaches regular classes, both online and in-person.

For more information on her work or classes, please visit her website or follow her on social media.



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