

## WORKSHOP: "TILE, GLASS AND STONE COLLAGE"



**Summary:** Participants learn to create a scene or setting on wood using scrap tile, glass, tiny stones, wire, cork, shells, driftwood and found objects. Collage items are arranged to look like items on shelves in a house, sailboats on a sea or a scene of the participants choosing. Items are adhered using 3-4 types of transparent adhesive and fine pliers for careful placement.

### Materials and Equipment:

wood cutting board or ceramic tile  
scrap pieces of colourful tiles  
tile nippers  
scrap pieces of colourful glass and sea glass  
beads  
8-10" cord  
shells  
thin pieces of driftwood  
pebbles  
pencil, eraser, sharpener  
scrap paper for sketching  
coarse sandpaper or abrasive stone  
glass drops – plant and flower colours  
newsprint to work on with glass  
wood skewers  
extension cord  
reeds – green/brown  
optional: colourful paper  
instructions/ideas sheet

silicone adhesive  
glue gun  
glue sticks for glue gun  
cardboard for under glue gun and to work on  
heat protective leather gloves  
crazy glue  
found objects / scrap metal pieces  
wood glue  
scrap thin wire - black, copper, colours  
pliers/wire cutters  
safety glasses  
ruler  
x-acto knife  
self healing cutting mat  
glass scoring tool and glass pliers  
cork scraps  
optional: varnish  
optional: matte gel medium  
artwork samples

### Class Plan:

1. Choose what you would like to work on. This project works well on wood surfaces. We are working on a wood cutting board here but wood boxes, plaques and similar items would also work well.

2. If you'd like to plan your design on paper, trace your working surface on a piece of paper and plan your design on paper. We found it easier to work directly on our surface.



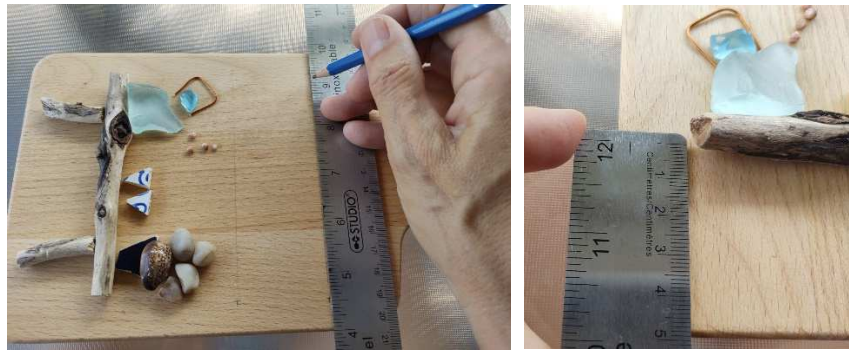
3. Plan the location of your pieces on your work surface if you prefer. This makes it easier to accurately place them one-by-one when gluing.



4. Look for design/shape ideas in pieces of glass, stone, shells and other items. Let your objects inspire you if you don't have an initial idea.
  - a. This piece of glass looks like the body of a kettle to us. Adding another small irregular piece on top, plus a wire suddenly makes it look like a kettle. Shells can add steam.



5. If you don't have just the right shape of tile, use tile nippers to create it. This can also be done with sheet glass scraps, using a glass scoring tool and glass pliers. Always wear safety glasses when doing this, because piece can fly off when cut.
6. Measure and mark lines that will be covered and check they are aligned straight if needed.



7. Cut your driftwood pieces to the length needed with a hacksaw. Clamp your driftwood to your work surface for safety.



8. Found objects and unconventional materials can be used.
  - a. We used the paper core handles from a paper bag as shelves in a design.



9. Once you have a rough idea of your design, start attaching it to your surface one piece at a time. Shift other pieces over if needed as you work.



10. Roughen the back surface of any objects that are very smooth. This scratches the surface and helps the glue grip onto the object. This can be done with coarse sandpaper or an abrasive stone.



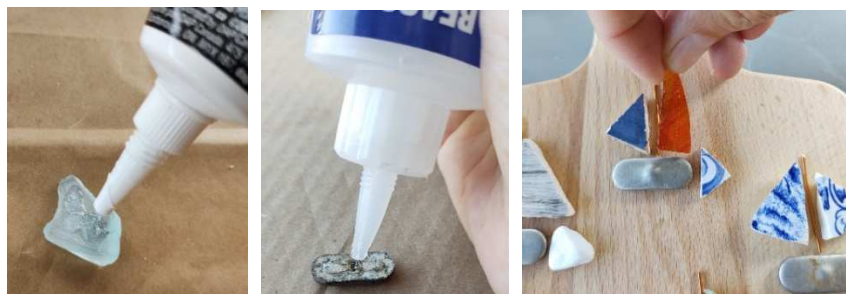
- a. The abrasive stone (below left) is particularly good for smoothing rough edges and removing fragments of unwanted glass. Wear safety glasses and protective gloves while doing this, particularly during cleanup. Fragments of glass of any size can be sharp.



11. Apply adhesive to the back of each item and glue them on one at a time. We used DAP all-purpose 100% silicone adhesive sealant, fabri-tac, crazy glue and hot glue. Use in a well-ventilated area for safety.

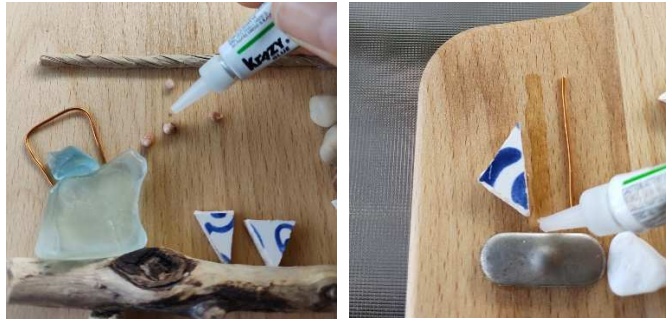


- a. We used silicone and fabri-tac on tile, metal, glass, stone and larger shells, which don't dry as quickly so you have more time to place your object. For larger objects, apply glue to the object, then place it.





- b. We used crazy glue on the tiny elements like wire, tiny shells and cork. For the tiny objects, place a dot or line where you want your object and then place the object onto the glue to avoid gluing it to your fingers.



- c. We used hot glue on driftwood and paper core. It also worked on objects like roughened glass. Here we glued the surface we were working on and placed the object in the glue wearing protective gloves.



12. Use a skewer to fine tune positioning of objects being glued.



13. Tiny pieces of cork can be added for fine details in your design. Bottle corks are a great way to salvage cork and can be cut easily with a kitchen paring knife or an x-acto knife. Cut onto a cutting mat or thick cardboard.



14. Erase any pencil lines that still show when you are finished attaching objects. Use an eraser with a square edge to get right up close to glued objects if needed. Wait until all the glue has dried to do this step, to avoid shifting any items.



15. If you feel your design isn't quite complete, add more elements. Here we added wires for lines to define our sailboats.



16. If you are working on something you want to hang on the wall, attach a rope hanger that is strong enough to take the weight of your artwork. Loop it through an existing hole at the top if there is one, and tie a knot.



17. Happy creating, and please send us photos of your creations if you feel comfortable sharing.

**Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:**

- Try out the project working on a ceramic tile instead of a wood surface. Second hand stores sometimes have a half dozen tiles donated from home renovation projects.

### Trouble Shooting:

- Krazy glue can look shiny on a wood surface. If you have more glue showing than you like, try varnishing your whole surface so there is even shine or add more elements to cover the extra glue.



- If you get glue in the wrong place or it dries before you can place your item, peel the glue off of your work surface and try again. Pliers can help with the peeling, just be careful not to scratch your surface where it might show.



- Use a cord or string that is strong enough to hold the weight of your artwork. Lighter ones like shown below might eventually slip down or break.

