

Whimsical Blackboard

to remind you of those all important dates
By Trunell crafts for Show me how, The Home Channel



Requirements

Everything listed below is available from Trunell crafts cc or contact us for your local distributor.

- 380 x 600 x 16mm wooden blank
- 3 blue ceramic tiles for the water - preferably two shades blue
- 1 sand colour ceramic tile
- 2 light blue ceramic tiles for sky
- Selection of Trunell inserts
- 1 or 2 pkts millifiori flowers
- Flexible tile adhesive - to glue inserts
- Cold glue - to glue tiles
- Dove grey grout
- Waterbased blackboard paint
- Tile nippers



Please remember! Your imagination is your limit. These are guidelines for you to follow. You can make your own layout or just follow the example picture

Method

Step 1

Place the various inserts on the blank, shells and fish at the bottom with the boats. Arrange the flowers, leaves and millifiori on each side of the blank, taking care to leave enough space in the middle for the blackboard. Place the houses with some flowers, millifiori and the dove on top.



Glue inserts into place using flexible tile adhesive. The advantage of using the tile adhesive is that when your'e finish flueing, you can stand it up and see if your happy with your composition. If not, you can take them off and move around till you are satisfied before the glue sets.



Using your tile nipper, break the ceramic tiles into small workable pieces.



Starting at the bottom start placing pieces of tiles, mixing the two shades of blue to mosaic the water, keep your straight edges for the sides and do the same with the top using the sand colour tile for the ground and the blue for the sky. Leave the edges of the inserts to form an uneven line on the inside. You can use the tile adhesive to glue the tiles,

I prefer to work with cold glue at this stage, as it takes longer to dry and gives tyou time to move tiles around. When finished, leave to dry.

Tip: When mosaicing with ceramic tiles I like to go slightly over the edge with the tiles and when the glue is dry I sand the tiles smooth and level to the wood with rough sanding paper wrapped around a small piece of wood.



Mix the grout as per manufacturer's instructions until you get the consistency of runny mayonnaise. Ceramic tiles absorb the water in the grout fast and thick dry grout will be difficult to work with. Work the grout in over the tiles with a wooden spature or your hands making sure all the gaps are filled in inbetween the mosaic tile, leaving the middle open for the blackboard paint.



You can also paint the edges of the wood with craft paint to finish it off.

HAVE FUN!!!!



Use a rubber squeegee to remove the excess grout from the surface of the mosaic. Clean the tiles with newspaper or an old cloth.



Clean all the stubborn, excess grout off with a toothpick or ice cream stick. When completely dry polish it up with a soft cloth.



Paint the inside of the wooden blank with black board paint, using a small brush to paint between the inserts edges.

Alternative options using the same technique

