

Stained Glass Mosaics

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Sterling Publishing Co. (August 1998)

\$21.95 (96pp)

978-1-895569-33-9

Hobbyist-turned-professionals, Shannon and the Torlen sisters fully understand the needs of the beginning crafter. Certainly more craft-than art-oriented, Stained Glass Mosaics presents twenty-five simple projects, ranging from interior decorative items—such as floral and abstract wall hangings—to garden accessories like planters and stepping stones.

The section on construction techniques is the major strength of the book. The supply lists presented: Materials (glasses, ceramics, adhesives, tints, wire, etc.), Equipment (drawing aids, cutters, grinders, forms, etc.) and Work Area Materials are comprehensive and useful to the novice crafter. The photographs of tools and equipment are well done as are their layouts, and the “play-by-play” instructions that cover both direct and indirect methods of creating glass mosaics are clear and concise. Although the suggested projects are uneven in merit, if one acknowledges that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, one can see that different projects are pleasing to different groups: art deco fans will find charm in the “Fish Faerie” sink backsplash, while others will enjoy the “Iris Duet” or “Sunflower & Ladybug” garden stones. The project section, however, could have used different items as some, like “Mr. Sunshine,” are not as pleasing as others.

Though the project section has a few difficulties, the high quality of the explanations and instructions about technique—along with the book’s reasonable price—make it a good choice for the novice crafter.

BLAKE KETCHUM-BRAGAGNINI (March / April 1999)

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