

Online project: French Cottage Birdhouse

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A perfect birdhouse project for an intermediate mosaics crafter. Turn a wooden flea market treasure into *a stunning shabby chic conversation piece.*

Materials

- Birdhouse*
 - *Diamond Tech* Jennifer's Mosaics Vintage Black Toile, three pkgs.
White Sanded Grout, 2 lbs.
 - Broken pottery, including tea spout and handle
 - Embellishments of choice
 - Drill*
 - 3/4" diamond drill bit**
 - 9" china plates**
 - 2 1/2" wood screw, one**
 - 3/4" wood screws, four**
 - 3 x 4" piece of wood**
 - Silicone or mosaic adhesive, fine-grit sandpaper, latex gloves, paper, safety glasses, soft cloths, painter's tape, pencil, primer, wheeled glass nippers
- *Available at local craft store or flea market
**Optional for birdhouse base

Instructions

1. Start with a base for your house. If it has been painted, lightly sand it to roughen the surface and remove any gloss or shine. Wipe off all debris with a clean, dry cloth and paint with primer. Allow to dry.

2. Create templates for each side of birdhouse using paper and pencil.

3. Working on one side at a time, place the template on a flat surface. Wearing safety glasses, randomly nip Vintage Black Toile, broken pottery pieces, and miscellaneous glass tile to completely cover the surface of the template. Leave at least 1/8" between the tile and glass pieces for grout. **Tip:** Random placement is the key to mosaics; you can either create your own random design or use the image for suggested tile placement.

4. When you achieve desired effect, it is time to transfer the tile to the surface of the birdhouse.

5. Apply adhesive approximately 1/8" thick. (It is also a good idea to spread adhesive on the back of the larger areas for better contact and adhesion.) Spread adhesive evenly using a plastic disposable knife.

6. Move one piece at a time from the template to the surface of the house, pressing tile gently into adhesive. Once all tiles have been applied, allow adhesive to dry before moving to the next side.

7. The charm of this French Country Birdhouse is created by incorporating glass roses found on an old garage sale vase. The vase was broken and then the roses were nipped.

8. If using a spout and handle of an old teapot, make sure that you mark the location on the side templates in which you plan to incorporate these items. This will ensure that you will leave this space void of tile.

9. Continue to nip and position tile until all sides of the birdhouse have been covered. If you are having a difficult time keeping large pieces in place, use painter's tape to hold them into position until the glue has dried.



10. When design is complete, mix one cup of white grout, following the manufacturer's instructions. Wearing latex gloves, spread grout onto the surface of the birdhouse, making sure that grout is pressed into all the spaces between the glass pieces. Wait about 15 minutes for grout to set.

11. Gently wipe away excess grout using soft cloth, taking care not to pull away grout from between glass pieces. It is very important to remove any grout on tile surfaces before grout is completely dry.

12. Use another soft cloth to buff glass to a clean shine. Allow 24 hours for mosaic piece to dry thoroughly.

Optional Finishing: For additional charm, affix the birdhouse atop two coordinating china plates, as shown in the photo. Fill the center of the plate with water, and, using a 3/4" diamond core drill bit, drill a hole into the center of each plate. Remove plates from water and dry. Apply glue to the bottom of each plate and place plates so that their bottoms face each other with holes lining up.

To affix birdhouse to the plates, cut a 3" x 4" piece of wood. Drill a hole in the center of the wood and thread a 2 1/2" wood screw completely through until it is flush against the wood. Next, drill four more holes on all four corners 1/4" in from the edge of the wood. Center the wooden block at the bottom of the birdhouse so that the treads of the large screw are facing out, towards you. Insert a 3/4" wood screw into each of the remaining four holes and fasten them into the birdhouse.

To install the birdhouse onto a post, drill a hole into the desired post. Place the plates on top of the hole and screw the birdhouse down through the plate and into the post.

*This project submitted courtesy of Diamond Tech.
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