



How to Lay a Mosaic Path

Below are step-by-step instructions for laying a pathway like this.

If you have any questions please call Val on 07956 169690 or Catherine on 07984 427977 or email us at info@mosaicsbypost.com



01

Find the centre of the length of the path and mark a line top to bottom down the middle. Find the centre of the width of the path and mark a line left to right across the middle. Where the lines cross is the centre. Dry lay the first sheeted panel of mosaic (diagonally) on the centre point making sure the corner tips of the tiles are on the lines.



02

The edge of the chequer is made by cutting whole sheeted panels of mosaic with a sharp blade to form half or part sheets. Dry lay a few other panels next to the first to find out where the chequer should finish to allow enough space to the outer edge for the border.

Make sure the black and white chequer finishes on the correct colour tile (black or white) depending on which border you have chosen. For example with a black diamond border (as we have here) you know that it starts with a black line so the inner triangle of the chequer should be white and therefore the chequer will finish on a whole black tile.

Check that you have allowed enough space where the chequer finishes for the border to fit to the edge of the path. You will probably need to move the centre panel around until you have found the right configuration.



03

Put some tile adhesive onto the screed...



04

Spread it out with a notched trowel. Make the adhesive as even as possible.



05

Lay your first sheet of mosaics onto the trowelled adhesive bed and lightly apply pressure all over to make sure the tiles have made contact with the adhesive.

With our system the back of the mosaic makes full contact with the adhesive because the sheeting is on the front face - with other types of sheeted mosaic the sheeting or mesh is on the rear face of the tiles being held in place with a water based adhesive meaning that:

a) the mosaics do not make full contact with the adhesive because there is mesh backing on the tiles

b) the mesh is only held in place with a weak glue which will break down in time.

Make sure your first panel is still accurately centred on it's marks because errors at this stage will compound to bigger errors as you continue.



06

Keep measuring to check spacing to the edges. Make sure your centre line panels stay on the centre line as you progress - this is your main marker.



07

Finish the chequer pattern with triangles. Supplied with your order will be pre-cut triangles on sheets.



08

Take the triangles off the sheeting and lay them into the spaces at the edge of the chequer to create a straight edge.



09

As you put them in make sure the triangles make good contact with the adhesive and match the level of the surrounding mosaics.



10

Scrape away the excess adhesive and lay your level alongside the triangles. Some of the triangles will need to be pushed in or out to meet the edge of the level to form a straight line. Look up and down the edge of the path top to bottom to check that a neat straight line has been formed.



11

Four quarter triangles are also supplied for the corners of the chequer.



12

Continue around the perimeter of the chequer fitting all the triangles and using your level to check for straightness - also use your tape to measure the space/distance to the edge of the path from the newly created straight edge of the triangles and make sure the measurement remains roughly constant - a few mm difference is alright.



13

This is how the finished chequer should look with triangles in place.



14

You are now ready to move onto the border - in this case a black line. The border rectangles are supplied sheeted (like the triangles) and you will need to separate them with a sharp blade into strips of 6 x 1 rectangles (still attached to their film facing) - as above.



15

Be sure to remove all old adhesive from the edge of the triangles to form a clean edge to lay the border next to. Either trowel the cement onto the back of the border strip or directly onto the cement screed - whichever you find easiest. Notice that the clear film facing is still in place on the surface of the mosaics protecting the tiles whilst they are being laid.



16

Lay in the first line of your border around the whole perimeter of the path. You will probably need to cut one or two rectangles to size with a tile cutter.



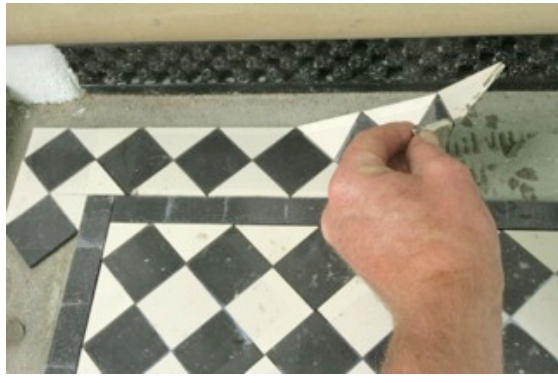
17

Clean away all cement from the edges of the first border line and again use your level to adjust the straightness of the border. Now you are ready to start on the main part of the border - in this instance a black diamond with white triangles. The border is supplied sheeted in 36cm lengths for easy handling. Start with the sheeted corner pieces (included) and lay these first, working away from the corners. It's probably worth dry laying the border pieces to see how they meet - you might need to cut some of the sections and space out the tiles to make the pattern work - alternatively individual tiles may need to be cut to make a decorative meeting point.



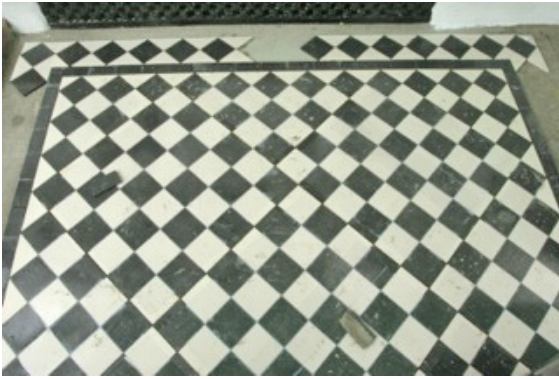
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Trowel the screed with adhesive and lay in the sheeted border sections.



19

Work from the corners inwards towards the middle of each side.



20

With some borders, such as this black diamond border, the pattern will not fit exactly around the perimeter so it is necessary to create a decorative overlap in the design.



21

Dry lay the tiles into position....



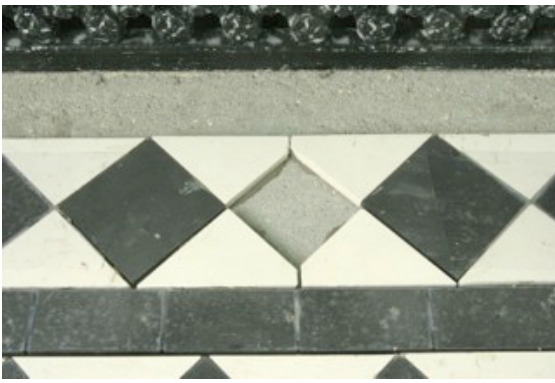
22

Mark them with a pencil.



23

Cut your tiles on your cutter and fit.



24

Here you can see the shape/size of the tile needed to complete the pattern.



25

Measure and cut to size.



26

The black diamond border is now fitted and just the outer black line remains to be laid - see the adjoining mosaic path.



27

This type of anomaly in the pattern is also common with original Victorian floors. Sometimes the geometry works out and sometimes not. It's possible in certain cases to cut the sheeted border and stretch the design by spacing apart the mosaics a little or pushing them together slightly to make an exact fit around the perimeter with no overlaps in the pattern.



28

The outer black line to the edge is supplied sheeted as whole 5cm x 5cm tiles. If the remaining space to the edge of the path allows then the black tiles can be cut in strips from the sheets and laid as whole tiles. If however the space is a half tile or an uneven division of a tile - say 3.7cm or 4cm etc. Then the tiles will need to be taken off the sheets and cut accordingly. The inner border lines are supplied as half tiles, 2.5cm x 5cm and the outline as whole tiles 5cm x 5cm.

The clear film facing is peeled off the mosaics and this is made easier by using the tip of a blade to lift the corners of the film. Use good quality tile adhesive with a notched trowel and finish with waterproof grout as normal. The tile adhesive should be mixed to the right consistency so that you get good coverage to the back of the tile, i.e. bread dough consistency would be too dry but a runny batter would be too wet - go for something that will just fall off your trowel when you hold it up. The grout should be mixed to a medium thick batter consistency and applied with a squeegee. Once the path is grouted mop off the residue and finish with a sponge or a soft cloth.