

## SEED BEAD MOSAIC BASICS

*These are my tips and tricks for a successful project, this technique will give you a stained glass look.*

*Materials needed:*



***Exacto knife, Metal Ruler and Cutting mat***

***Self-adhesive craft foam (EVA) sheets*** -preferably black (any brand will do but they must be self- adhesive)

***Solid base for image*** – wood, MDF or other solid material (no canvas boards)

***Loose glass seed beads*** – primarily 11/0 size in various colors

***Craft glue*** (or Sabrina Frey pre-mixed glue)

***Additional empty squeeze bottle***

***Primer or Gesso*** for base board (white)

***Carbon paper*** or you can draw your image directly on the canvas

***Pair of sharp tweezers***

***Before starting your mosaic:***

1. Prime the front of the board you are using, make sure it is a fairly solid white when dry.
  - a. If the surface is shiny or pre-treated in any way you should give it a light sanding before priming, this will aid in bead adhesion.
2. Have the picture you want to use drawn on paper. Make sure the image fits on the board with room on the sides to spare for the frame border.
3. Have beads and scoopers ready in separated containers for use.
4. Have a level drying area ready to leave piece for at least 12 hours to dry.
5. In empty squeeze bottle add glue mixture from packaging. Be sure to shake it well, this will make it easier to pour on your project and control.
6. Have knife with fresh blade ready to use with metal ruler and cutting mat.
7. Use carbon paper to copy your drawn image onto your board.
8. If you are using paint under your beads to manipulate the bead color then paint it now before you lay the black lines, it's so much easier.
9. When cutting the foam lines hold metal ruler firmly down on the foam and run the knife along the edge of the ruler, using it as a guide to hold the knife in place. This will prevent you from cutting curvy lines, let the ruler guide you.
  - a. Foam strip width for outside border about ¼", this will contain and protect your mosaic but also be covered up when mounted in a frame.
  - b. Foam Strip width for inner lines under 1/8". These will mimic lead lines and separate the various bead colors. Don't worry about them being exactly the same because different width can be used in different locations.