

# Mosaic Snowflake Vase

*Design, Fabrication, and Text by Melanie Churchill*

## **Kokomo Opalescent Glass**

4CLL, Cobalt Blue/Clear Streaky for Background, 1 Sq. Ft.

## **Additional Glass**

Mirrored Glass for Snowflakes, Scrap

## **Other Materials Required**

Glass Vase Black Grout Glass Cutter

Clear Silicone Adhesive Running Pliers

Mosaic Wheeled Nippers Latex Gloves

Particle Mask Grout Sealant

## **Step 1**

*Using mosaic wheeled nippers, create shards of mirror for the snowflakes.*



Align the nipper's wheels slightly in from the edge of the glass and apply pressure to the handle, causing the glass to break. After creating several pieces, you can begin to design your snowflakes. Select similarly shaped pieces and lay out the glass shards on the table in a snowflake pattern. Since no two snowflakes are alike, you can arrange the shards into many different patterns; large or small, simple or complex. Just make sure that the pieces are small enough that when glued onto the circumference of the vase, the glass pieces won't protrude causing sharp edges. (Safety Tip: Make sure to always wear safety glasses when cutting glass.)

## **Step 2**

*Adhere the snowflakes onto the glass vase.*



Since silicone adhesive has a short working time, spread a thin layer of the adhesive only to the area where you would like to place your first snowflake. Reassemble the snowflake on top of the glue and gently press the pieces into place. Repeat until all of the snowflakes are in position.

## **Step 3**

*Using a glass cutter, cut the blue background glass into 1/2" strips.*



Then run the score with running pliers.



#### Step 4

*Create the shapes for the background.*



The background consists of two different basic shapes—rectangles and triangles. Using mosaic wheeled nippers, you can easily cut the glass strips into these shapes. To create the thin rectangular shape used to create the swirl pattern, hold the wheeled nippers straight up and down. To create the triangles, align the wheels of the nipper at an angle and squeeze the handles. Continue to cut the glass until you have created a variety of different sized pieces from which to choose.

#### Step 5

*Glue down the background pieces.*



Start by gluing down the swirl and then fill in the remaining area with the triangles. I like to paint the glue onto a workable section—about a 2" circle—and then press the pre-nipped pieces into place, leaving about 1/16"–1/8" in between pieces and around the edge of your design. You may need to nip off some additional small parts of the glass pieces along the way for a better fit. When using cathedral glass, it is important to make sure that the adhesive completely covers the back of the piece. If there are any places where the back of the glass is not covered, there will be empty spaces that the grout will seep into and will then be visible in your finished project.

#### Step 6

*Mix the grout.*



Because the grout contains Portland cement, you should always wear a respirator when mixing the grout. Also avoid prolonged skin contact by wearing latex gloves and be sure to wear eye protection.

Mix 2 or 3 tablespoons of water to each 1/2 cup of dry grout and mix to the consistency of brownie batter. The grout should have enough body that it doesn't ooze, but it should not be so dry that it is crumbly or hard to press into spaces between glass pieces. Add

more water for a thinner consistency or more dry grout to thicken the mixture. Mix in smaller batches, since unused mixed grout cannot be saved.

#### Step 7

*Apply the grout to the vase.*



Wearing latex gloves during this step, place the mixed grout in the middle of the area to be grouted and spread to cover, working it in to fill the space between the glass pieces. You can remove excess grout from the top of the glass with a rubber spatula or folded paper towel. Be sure not to dip into the grout line. Then use a paper towel to buff off the thin layer of dried-up grout that is left on the glass. To loosen any remaining grout, use a damp paper towel or sponge.

#### Step 8

*Seal your project.*



To protect the grout lines, apply a grout sealant following the manufacturer's directions.

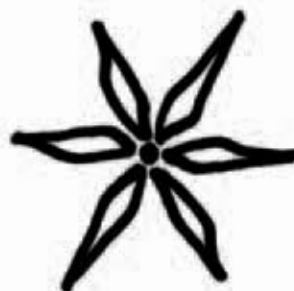
**GPO**

*Michigan native, Melanie Churchill, is an accomplished stained glass, fusing, and metal clay artist, but her true passion is mosaics. It's a discipline that fits well into this busy working mom's lifestyle.*

*As an instructor, Melanie has been introducing people to the world of mosaics for close to a decade. Her work has been featured in the book, Mosaic Art Home Décor for Beginners, as well as extensively throughout the Delphi Glass catalog. In addition, she has served as a guest instructor for the Michigan Art Educators annual conference.*

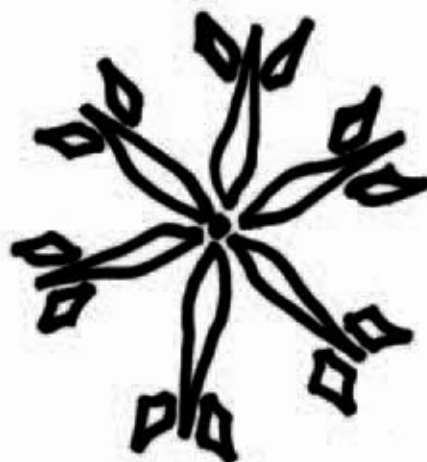
*Melanie's skilled use of color turns even the most simple design into a beautiful piece of artwork. You can see more of Melanie's work or sign up for one of her classes at [www.Delphiglass.com](http://www.Delphiglass.com).*





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