

# Mosaic Tile Bottle

Show off all those mad tile cutting and grouting skills by creating this beautiful mosaic bottle. Laurel Skye will help you to do just that, with a set of easy-to-follow steps.

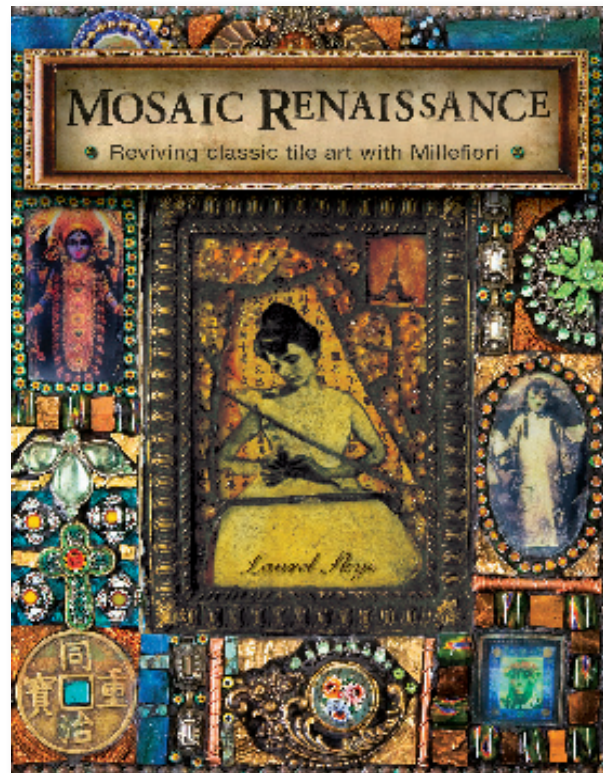
Laurel Skye, author of *Mosaic Renaissance*, will have you soldering, creating and applying patterns and working with photos, paper and rhinestones—all in this great project. You'll use techniques basic mosaic techniques and add new ones to your list of skills. Find a bottle, pull together or supplies and create a beautiful object you'll be proud to display!

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To learn more about or purchase *Mosaic Renaissance* by Laurel Skye, [click here](#).

[www.CreateMixedMedia.com](http://www.CreateMixedMedia.com)

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*Mosaic Renaissance* is published by North Light Books, an imprint of F+W Media, Inc.



## *Bottiglia Bottle*

A cherished moment you have shared with someone over a bottle of wine can now live on with some mosaic intervention. In this project, an ordinary wine bottle is transformed into a piece of art with costume jewelry, soldering, ball chain, rhinestone, clear glass and, of course, millefiori. Bottles have to be one of the greatest mosaic surfaces you can use. After all, they are abundant, free and can be found in every imaginable shape and size. So pop off the cork on that bottle of merlot and follow me!

**Honorable Mention:** Jackie Iskander is a pioneer in creating mosaic bottles.

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

### Tesserae

cut tiles: thin rectangles (1 color), small rectangles (2 colors), very small squares (1 color), enough tiles for two simple patterns

millefiori (whole slices)

amber glass cut into ½" (1cm) squares

rhinestone chain (8" [20cm] long)

### Tools and Materials

wheeled glass cutters and/or tile nippers

wine bottle

masking tape

copper tape (½" [1cm])

scissors

flux paste and liquid flux

flux brush

100-watt soldering iron

solder (50/50)

brass ball chain

liver of sulfur

tweezers

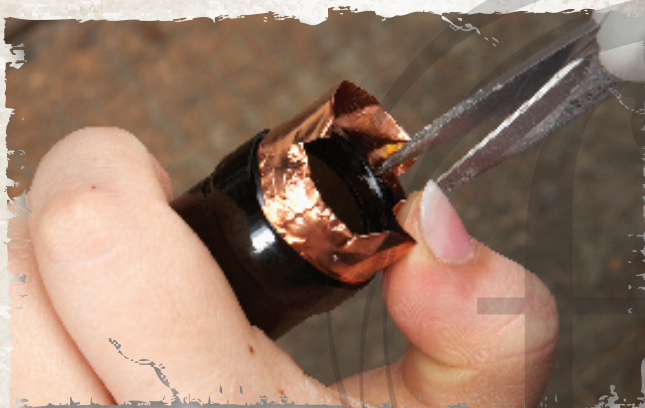
paintbrush (for liver of sulfur)

silicone adhesive

vintage photo  
(about 2" × 3" [5cm × 8cm])

patterned paper (about 2¼" × 3¼")

Grouting Kit



### 1. ADHERE COPPER TAPE

Adhere copper foil tape around the lip of the bottle. Notch the tape at intervals and fold the edges of the tape into the bottle neck. Brush flux paste on the copper tape using a flux brush. Heat the soldering iron. Then pull the solder along the copper tape using the iron to melt it.



### 2. SOLDER TAPE AND BALL CHAIN

Coat the ball chain with liquid flux. Brush the soldered copper tape with more flux paste. Using tweezers to lay the chain on top of the bottle, touch the hot tip to the solder and the chain simultaneously, coating the entire length of chain to a smooth finish. Wash the flux off completely using hot soapy water. Then brush liver of sulfur over the soldered metal to age it.



### 3. TILE BOTTOM OF BOTTLE

Tile the bottom of the bottle. Set two rows of very small squares about 1" (3cm) apart. In between the rows, alternate thin rectangles and a vertical row of millefiori. Spread the silicone adhesive over a small area at a time (silicone dries quickly). Be careful that it doesn't ooze over the tiles—it is hard to clean after it dries.



### 4. TILE FRONT WITH TWO PATTERNS

Working vertically, set your design on the front bottom half of the bottle (above what you tiled in step 3). Start by placing a row of rectangles. Then place a simple pattern such as this blue-and-gold double tessellation.



### 5. FINISH BOTTOM FRONT OF BOTTLE

Place another row of rectangles. Then place a second simple pattern like this diamond tessellation. (I used four very small squares in two colors to act as my "diamonds.") Set a row of rectangles, then repeat the first pattern, then set a final row of rectangles. Now you should have the following vertical rows wrapping around the bottle: rectangles, first pattern, rectangles, second pattern, rectangles, first pattern, rectangles. Above these, set a horizontal row of very small squares.



### 6. TILE BACK OF BOTTLE

To tile the back of the bottle, repeat the vertical designs you started in steps 4 and 5, but this time tile all the way up, stopping just before the bottle starts to curve at the neck. Start by completing the two outer rows of rectangles (from steps 4 and 5) by tiling them all the way up. Then continue tiling: first pattern, rectangles, second pattern, rectangles, first pattern, and so on until the design wraps around the bottle. Fill in any empty spaces with tiles cut small to fit.



### 7. CUT AND ADHERE PHOTO AND PAPER

Adhere the vintage photo to the patterned paper; cut the final size to fit on the top front of the bottle. There should be enough room on either side to set two rows between the paper and the pattern on the back of the bottle. Affix the paper to the bottle using the silicone adhesive.



### 8. ATTACH AMBER GLASS TO PHOTO

Starting in one corner, cover the entire photo with the amber glass, placing the squares very close together (so that grout will not obscure the photo). To attach, put silicone adhesive on the back of each square and then press it to the photo.

### 9. TILE PHOTO BORDER

Set a row of very small squares around the sides and top of the photo. Next to that, place a border alternating rectangles and millefiori.





### 10. ADD ROWS OF TILE AT TOP

Above the design on the back of the bottle, set a row of small rectangles. Next place two rows of very small squares, making angled cuts where necessary to follow the curve of the bottle.



### 11. ATTACH RHINESTONE CHAIN

Nothing says luxury like a little glitz! Add a thin line of silicone adhesive just above the rows you placed in step 10. Using tweezers, set the chain of rhinestones in the adhesive.



### 12. TILE THE BOTTLE NECK

Finish by tiling up the neck to the crown. Start with three rows of small rectangles. Then set vertical rows, alternating a rectangle with millefiori (as in step 3). Place rows of small rectangles until you reach the top. Grout the bottle.

### Troubleshooting: Grout that won't stick

Add polymer additive (a whitish liquid) to the dry grout in place of water. This will help the grout stick better to the bottle. Polymer additive can also decrease the possibility of grout cracking. Grout with polymer additive dries faster, so you'll have to sponge it off more quickly than grout made with water alone.



### A PLETHORA OF BOTTLES

Here are a few of my many mosaic bottles, once filled with wine, olive oil and milk (from left to right). What I love about doing bottles is that there is an endless supply of them. So many different sizes and shapes can be covered with mosaics, like whiskey bottles and jam jars and small glass apothecary bottles. Consider tiling unopened wine bottles or little olive jars with clear glass over the label, making two gifts in one!