



April-May 2021

Merlin Mosaica Newsletter

- Payment Methods
- New Products, and the Pipeline
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With over 1000 products live on the website, life is very busy.

I am continuing to explore additions to our stained glass and our wonderful range of ergonomic tools designed for glass.

Welcome all to the April-May Newsletter. I do apologise for not sending out a Newsletter in April - I started to write it, but illness overtook me. I had an infected larynx, which resulted in laryngitis for approx. 10 days. The general under-the-weather feeling has persisted (thus far for a further 2 weeks), but I am improving a little each day.

This put my order processing quite behind, and I have only just now caught up. I do so apologise to you all, and appreciate your patience.

Customer Reviews:

I have re-instated customer reviews on the website. Did you know you can give a rating (0-5 stars), and post a photo?

You can also help my business by leaving a rating on google. Not everyone finds my business via Facebook, and google reviews help to boost my business. You can leave a review here: <https://g.page/merlin-mosaica/review?np> This link is also at the bottom of my emails.

YouTube:

I have created a YouTube channel. I certainly don't claim to be a media star, and there are not many offerings on there yet, but I took this step in order to demonstrate how to use some of the amazing new tools I have on the web-site.

Have a look here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcluGjRF0dYOWkDXRAv_PaA and promise not to laugh!!!

Payment Methods:

Afterpay

I now offer Afterpay. Who doesn't have to watch their pennies in this world? Afterpay is the modern form of lay-buy. You pay in 4 equal instalments, with the first payable on purchase, and the remainder billed every 2 weeks. Pay on time, and you incur no interest. Download the app onto your phone, and it is pretty easy.

Don't have an Afterpay account? Don't sweat - approval can be done at time of purchase. I receive full payment at purchase, so can pack your order immediately.

PayPal

I have turned off the PayPal option. Paypal decided that, as the traffic volume through my website had changed significantly, they would investigate my business, and withhold funds from me for some time. I am not large enough to be able to withstand a 3rd party holding onto my funds for a month.

"In nature, light creates the colour. In the picture, colour creates the light"

Hans Hofmann





Direct Debit

Direct debit payment to my bank account is the only payment method that delivers me the full price. All others do charge a fee, which I absorb. So, if you are comfortable to do so, direct debit really supports me, and is much appreciated. Just send me a screen shot of the payment once it is made.

New Tools:

As we age, our joints take the wear and tear of life. Typically, wrists, elbows, and shoulders feel the strain. I have therefore taken the decision to specialise in ergonomic glass cutting tools. I am thrilled to be able to offer a great range of ergonomic hand tools and glass cutting systems. Unfortunately, initial stock of these have sold out very quickly, and COVID-19 impacts are still being felt in my supply lines. I have a number of them on back-order, and I can confirm that re-stocks are on their way.

I have grouped tools according to their use:

- ⇒ **Cutting systems:** Here you will find the Cutters Mate & Beetle Bits systems, and various accessories and spares. The Cutters Mate is an ergonomic system designed to cut irregular shapes with no hand pressure. Cutting can also be done whilst seated. The Beetle Bits systems are repetitive straight-line cutters, and ideal for those who cut lots of square, diamonds or triangles. **NOTE:** these tools come from America, and I do not have the space, nor capital to hold a lot in stock. So they do have a back-order option. I will place orders in such a way as to minimise shipping costs, but you need to be aware that there could be a substantial delay before order fulfillment. If in doubt, please give me a call to discuss.
- ⇒ **Cutting & Scoring:** Glass Scorers, Running Pliers, Nippers & Grozing pliers. Also includes spares (wheeled, breaker tips etc..)
 - The [TOYO Pistol Grip scorer](#) comes with the narrow Pattern Head, which is designed to move more flexibly around a curved shape.
 - The [TOYO Pencil grip scorer](#) has the wider head which is designed to run against a straight edge.
 - We also have the [Cutters Mate Python Cutter](#), which has a fixed, narrow Carbide Tungsten head, and a neoprene cushioned handle - again great for those with grip issues. This is designed to fit into the Cutters Mate Waffle grid system, but can be used without.
 - The [Silberschnitt Cut Running Pliers](#) are quite simply the best running pliers I have ever seen. They are a German design, very lightweight aluminium construction, and designed for stained glass. They make breaking out narrow runs and complex shapes so much easier. **Not designed for use on ceramics.** Peter Twining reviewed them here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOWyUO33LUs>
 - The [QEP Extreme Pro Control Nippers](#) are quite amazing. These are very lightweight, and have a fabulous 3 position switch to limit the throat and handle width. Great for those with small hands. **Not designed for use on ceramics.**
- ⇒ **Picking and Poking:** My popular mosaic pick sets, mosaic tweezers, scrapers and needle-nosed picks, and a beginners tool-kit.
- ⇒ **Sanding and Smoothing:** Diamond grit sanding pads, and Needle nosed file sets. These sanding pads are identical to the ones used by my glass wholesaler, and by me when cutting glass. **NOTE:** Please use all these with water to avoid glass chipping, and minimise silica dust contamination. Please use appropriate PPE Protection (N95 mask and protective eye-wear)
- ⇒ **Grouting:** Grout Spreaders (Firm, Medium or Soft), grout bowls and a grout spatula
- ⇒ **Other:** Mosaic Turntable - This is ideal when working on 3D pieces. It is also really useful when cutting curves in stained glass, and you can rotate the turntable, not your wrist.
- ⇒ **Tool Kits:**
 - The [Beginners Tool Kit](#) includes basic cutting tools (scorer & breaking pliers), mosaic picks, 2 grout bowls, a grout spreader, and some mosaic picks. A great initial set.
 - The [Cutting & Scoring Starter kit](#) has a pencil grip cutter and lightweight breakers.
 - The [Cutting & Scoring standard kit](#) comprises the Pistol grip cutter, Heavy duty breakers and a set of Grozing pliers.
 - The [Cutting & Scoring premium kit](#) comprises the Cutters Mate Python cutter, SilberSchnitt Lightweight Cut Running Pliers and a set of Grozing pliers.

New Product:

What can I say - already 2021 has seen a massive influx of new product. The Stained Glass continues to sell well, and I have added stained glass mirror to the range. A bit more expensive... but oh so lovely. I am also selling the 30mm wide strips in colour packs of 10 or 6 (depending on the range): Denim Days (Grey Blues), Ocean Mix (Turquoise/Teal), Sunbird Mix (Yellow/Orange), Sky Mix (Blues), Jungle Mix (Greens), Earth Mix (Browns), Snowdrift Mix (whites & clears), Royal Mix (Purples), Fire Mix (Reds), Fleshpot (Skin tones), Iridised and Mirror mixes. Contents depends on availability.

I have added some delicately **lovely glass leaves, butterflies, stars and hearts** to the glass flowers. And I have just listed some very cute iridised fish beads - 2 shapes/sizes.

The **Luxury** range has been bolstered by the arrival of some more Penny Rounds, and some tremendous oval shapes. They do have a mould line around the edge, so may need a bit of a polish off with one of our diamond hand pads.

Our **Steampunk** range is now available, and there are still more items coming online.

The iridised **Ball-Chain** has been a big hit, and I can report that it withstands grouting. I have also just listed the most divine 4mm **Rose**



Gold Ball Chain in 2 styles: one with semi-circular corrugations, and a terribly blingy faceted/textured one. These are a bit more expensive - but of wow!

There are also some unusual 15mm **Psychedelic pink** tiles available in 3 hot pink shades - very different!

At the **Prismatic range** - Laser cut squares and rods with an iridised reflective face....oh wow!

I have in store a supply of **Pipers Paper**. This is quite amazing. Roughly the same weight as photo paper, this amazing stuff comes in pack of 5 x A4 sheets., It is designed to go through a printer, and has an adhesive film on one side, and is waterproof. So, you can download a design from the internet, and print it onto this sheet. Cut out the pieces, stick onto your glass, and cut the pieces out. The weight of the paper allows it to act as a guide for your scorer. You can also run it through a grinder, wet saw or Taurus without the line washing off, When you are happy with your shape, just peel off the paper, and the job is done!

In the Pipeline:

I have so many plans that I am unable to speak of just yet, as they are still in the initial stages, but rest assured, they are all good, and terribly exciting!

- I am trialling some exciting new grout options. This is a very promising range, that will be ideal for bird baths, and is crack resistant. Very excited about this.
- I have also been designing some wonderful new garden substrates. I hope to have these online in a month or so. They will be quite different from anything else you've seen.
- I am hoping to expand the range of grout pigments that I can offer. What's even better, is that these will come from an Australian manufacturer.

The Merlin Lounge:

In closing, I just thought I should mention the Merlin Lounge. I have done quite a bit of work re-vamping "the Lounge". There is a **Guides** tab that contains a whole raft of hints and tips. If you haven't already, pop onto Facebook, and join up to the Lounge. Grab a tea, coffee or wine, and have a browse. I am tossing up putting these Hints and Tips on the web-site for subscribers access only.

I am also showcasing a Featured Artist each Month. Today, I will mention 2, as I didn't issue a Newsletter last month:

April 2021: Anisa Sharif

Anisa Sharif is a Melbourne based artist who specialises in glass mosaic. Much of her art is utilised in art-activated initiatives working with marginalised and underprivileged communities. Anisa draws her influence from Moroccan, Indian, Persian and the Art Nouveau genres.

I reached out to Anisa and asked to share a piece by her. However, there are so many pieces that are just incredibly beautiful I can't stop at one.

May 2021: Jenny Stevens

Jenny Stevens is a Queenscliff based artist who specialises in "painting with glass". Coming from an artistic background, Jenny found mosaics 5 years ago (can you believe), and loves the light and movement only glass can bring to a piece. Jenny tends to cut mainly with nippers, and uses coloured grout. However, some of her pieces are un-grouted.

I contacted Jenny for permission to feature her works here, and am thrilled to invite her as a member of the lounge. Jenny is available for commissions and her work may be viewed on her Facebook page [Painting with Glass](https://www.facebook.com/PaintingwithGlass), or on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/jennystevens.mosaics/>). Jenny also teaches at Axess Glass in Melbourne.



Till next time..

Ali

