



Glues, Grouts and more

Great Service

Free and easy advice

Absolutely Australian, Definitely Different

**New Tiles!!!**

**A wide range of stained glass and mirror.**

**Tiles substrates, glues, grouts, tools & more!**

**Mosaic Workshops & Courses in Canberra**

## Happy New Year!

This is the first newsletter for 2023! Although a dim memory, I hope your Christmas and New Year was kind, relaxing and full of all the things that give you joy! The New Year is not so new any more. I had written a newsletter, but in the mayhem of collecting and listing a heap of new tiles, I neglected to hit the publish button!

This time last year, I had just consolidated everything into my garage. Now I'm teaching in a separate space, and seriously considering my storage options for the coming year!



## 2023 - The Year of growth.

I kicked off 2023 with a light show! I am **extremely** proud to be able to offer you the fabulous **Lunar Glow-in-the-Dark** tiles. These are the same amazing quality that you have come to expect from Merlin Mosaica, coupled with bedazzling beauty! The blue "Aquarius" are a particular favourite of mine. Not ones to hide their light under a bushel, they glow with a super intense turquoise. These tiles come to me direct from the manufacturer in Europe. They have been in production for 17 years, and are used in pools. The manufacturer can vouch for them continuing to glow as brightly now as when they were first installed. The Glow effect is charged from sunlight OR artificial light, and will last up to 8 hours once fully charged.

These tiles come from the same stable as my amazing **Metallica** range - a mix of smooth and textured tiles: some in a pearlized finish, some shiny, bright, blingy metal (Gold and platinum), Aged Copper & Bronze, and the wonderfully iridised Steel. There are a number of different stunning textures: multi (a blend of 6 different texture profiles), hammered, and Lava (boy are these stunning).

I also released my innovative packaging: **tiles in tubs**. Tiles are sold by weight, and there is a small and a large tub. The weight will vary based on the size of the tiles, as small tiles pack in tighter. It's amazing just how many tiles you can get - a large tub is 800 grams of 25mm tiles, or 900 grams of 12mm tiles. Different sizes of tiles may have other weights - but all are described in the listings. **The listings also detail the expected coverage you can get from a tub.**

The Lunar & Metallica are premium tiles not available elsewhere, BUT check out the prices - they are extremely reasonable. I have also released an Everyday Value range; Currently there are 10mm square and 20mm square Vitreous Iridised (non-pitted) tiles, and some super smooth 25mm square gloss tiles in this range. The prices are amazing and the range is well worth a look: <https://merlinmosaica.com/product-category/tiles/everyday-value-tiles/>

I have more tiles in tubs too. Iridised, textured, gloss, and matte - and a variety of sizes: 8mm, 10mm, 15mm, 20mm and more. No messing about with paper, or mesh - these tiles are ready to go. I ship them in post boxes, as Australia Post can be a wee bit rough-excellent value AND reusable containers for your studio! The tubs weigh in at 40 gms (incl. lid) for the small and 50 gms for the large - which isn't going to impact the shipping weights much! I am also offering the smaller format tiles in re-usable pouches. Not everyone wants a heap of these tiny little jewels!

This year, I'm also offering one-on-one tutoring sessions. Great for those who want more than a workshop, but can't make one of my regular classes. Classes resumed in February 2023. The workshop schedule for Feb-Mar has been released, and I am working on the schedule for the next quarter. I have a number of new subjects coming online. Tickets are available on Eventbrite [classes.merlinmosaica.com/Canberra](https://merlinmosaica.com/Canberra). Details are also on my website at: <https://merlinmosaica.com/events/>

My course and workshop offering will be expanding to include weekday workshops, "sip and stick" evening sessions, and a program of short courses, running over 4-6 weeks.

*"We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams"*  
- Jimmy Carter

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My MEGA tile clearance at the end of last year, worked well for you - and cleared the decks for me. I received a large delivery in February, and am still working through photographing them all. I am still negotiating on some more new ranges - stay tuned for some beauties to hit over the next few months.

**Individual sachets** of the hardener for the **Translucent Litokol Crystal Starlike** EVO grout arrived. In the next shipment from Italy, I am getting the hardener for the coloured epoxy, and some super stunning **Shining Gold, Bronze** and **Rusty Epoxy grout**. I have some new colours in the Starlike EVO (Travertine, Beige, Tobacco & Mid Grey), and some new colours in the StyleGrout Tech range too.

The **QEP Nippers** have now moved on to the Mark II version. This addresses the issue of the loosening central screw. So thrilled that the company listened to us, and addressed our concerns. Longer bolts will soon be available as a replacement for older nippers.

I have the most comprehensive range of **grinders and accessories** in the mosaic market. From the "Rolls Royce" The Grinder, through the German Workhorse Kristall 1S, to the Budget-friendly Mini-Maxi, wired to Australian Standards, and backed by Inland. We will soon be offering different grit bits for ceramics. This little beauty doesn't require sponges, as it uses an Archimedes screw function to kick the water onto the grinding bit.

I've been able to source **Tempered glass sheets** in a manageable size. At 5mm thick, they break really well and are a great solution to the increasing difficulty of getting crash glass!

Don't forget that I am selling Apoxie Sculpt AND Pal Tiyal! Great modelling options. More to come in this area as well.

## Bespoke Shapes and Backers:

If you are looking for a particular shape in MDF or in Acrylic, please contact me. I would need a clear black and white image of the shape (preferably in a vector file), the size, and thickness, and desired substrate (MDF or Acrylic). Let me know how many you are after, and I will give you a price.

## Product Suggestions:

If you have a product you would like me to add to my range, please suggest it. Should it provide viable, and achievable, I will give you a \$100 store voucher!

## Future Releases:

I will soon be offering a superior range of **grout colorants** to the market. These are formulated from Metal Oxides, and as such are fade resistant. The sourcing company is Australian-based, and that is so important to me. I have them in stock now, I just have to package them up.

I have many more tiles to list, when I get a bit of spare time to do so! Some old favourites, in different packaging, at competitive pricing.

Additions to my **Acrylic substrate range** are also nearing completion. Some fabulous new initiatives are on their way.

## Facebook Groups:

Unfortunately, the old favourite Mosaics Australia seems to have lost its way a bit. It has become quite restrictive for sales and testimonial posting, and so many of the old stalwarts who gave good advice, are more reluctant to do so. It recently changed its name, and is now known as **Australian Mosaic Artists @ (formally MA)**, and unfortunately the well-known name was taken up by someone else, and I do not recommend the 'new' Mosaics Australia, as it is heavily biased towards one supplier. I fully support the group **Mosaics Australia Wide**. The moderators are sensible, reasonable and fair, and it is running smoothly. All retailers are welcome, as long as they abide by the rules (which are pretty simple).

## In conclusion:

As always, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

I am always happy to offer assistance wherever I can.

Till next time, stay safe,

*Ali*

