

Bunny in the Carrot Patch

Design Fabrication and Text by Terry and John Benefiel

Spring is a great time to plan new garden décor, and this stepping-stone can be a wonderful place to begin. The bunny will add charm and grace to your surroundings while he keeps a watchful eye on the carrots and lettuce growing in your garden.

Step 1

The pattern that was used to create the stepping-stone was originally a full-size window hanging of a rabbit in the garden. It can be resized for this project by using a clear acetate-type material and drawing around the size of the mold that will be used for the stepping-stone. Then the drawing of the mold can be placed on top of the pattern, and the pattern can be traced to fit inside the size of the mold.

Step 2

Cut the glass to fit the pattern. Then back the glass behind the rabbit with copper sheet foil to enhance its color. Cut the backing a little larger than the piece of glass and wrap it up the edge in order to prevent leakage between the glass and the tape when pouring the DiamondCrete.

Step 3

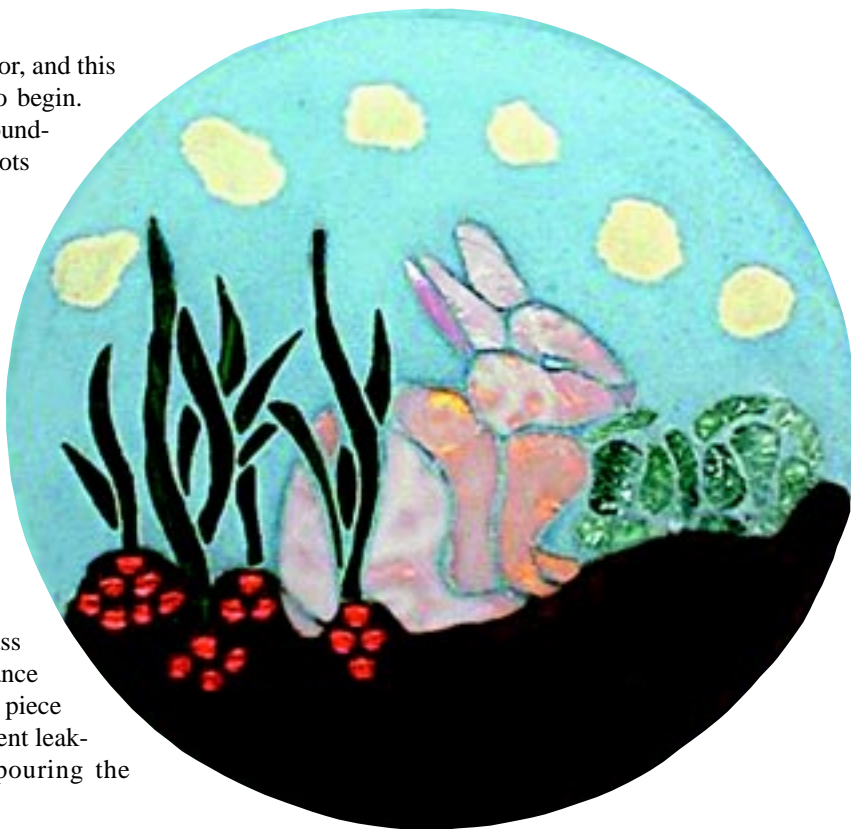
When you are ready to place the glass on the Con-Tact paper, take the acetate pattern, turn it upside down, and position the glass upside down to match the pattern. Be sure to leave about 1/8" of space between each piece.

Use Play-Doh to hold open an area for the eye and to cover the cabbage glass, which has deep ridges, in order to prevent leakage underneath and to prevent it from lifting and moving during the pouring of the DiamondCrete. Play-Doh can be used to hold open any area for nuggets, shells, rocks, or other nonflat pieces used in your project.

Prepare the mold by applying some petroleum jelly to ready the bottom of the mold, or use double-sided Scotch tape under a couple of the pieces of glass to hold the Con-Tact paper in place. Spray the sides of the mold lightly with baby oil and remove most of it with a paper or terry towel, since very little release agent is needed. When the mold is ready, place the Con-Tact paper with the glass into the mold and make sure that all of the wrinkles are out of the Con-Tact paper.

Step 4

Develop a rough area on the stone where you will later mortar some DiamondCrete with white silicon sand. Gently pour approximately 1/2 cup of sand into the area. More sand can be used to cause a deeper recessed area. DiamondCrete does not penetrate the silicon sand, which can be used in many applications for different effects.



Uroboros and Spectrum

#00-031, Pastel Pink and White for Rabbit, 1 Sq. Ft.
#65-74, Emerald, Spring and Light Greens for Lettuce, 1 Sq. Ft.
#622-7S, Lime / Forest Green for Carrot Tops, 1 Sq. Ft.

Other Materials Required

1 Cup Antique White DiamondCrete™
25 Pounds Powder Blue DiamondCrete™
3 Cups Earth Brown DiamondCrete™
(1) Black Glass Nugget for Eye
18 Orange Glass Nuggets for Carrots
Copper Sheet Foil Clear Acetate Baby Oil
Play-Doh® Petroleum Jelly or Double-Sided Scotch™ Tape
Con-Tact® Paper 1/2 Cup or More White Silicon Sand
Concrete Glue Mosaic Glue
DiamondSeal™ Weldbond®
18" Mosaic Mold

Glass in the Garden



Step 5

In order to form the clouds, mix only about 1 cup of Antique White DiamondCrete to a very thick, almost clay-like consistency and pour it into the mold. It will stay in place because of the thick consistency. Use a spray bottle to add the water to the DiamondCrete; this will prevent too much water from being added. Only a very small amount of water is needed for this process.

Next, mix a 25-pound box of Powder Blue DiamondCrete according to the new mixing directions, which can be found on the DiamondCrete website (www.diamondcrete.net). Always use an electric mixing device for at least 2 minutes of the 5-minute mixing time. This will activate the chemicals and increase the strength of your stone. Using slightly warm water will also help.

The stone will be ready to come out of the mold in about 1 hour. Remove the Con-Tact paper, brush the sand away, and clean off the glass. Remove the Play-Doh from the cabbage glass with the deep ridges and from the area for the eye. Glue the eye in place using mosaic glue. Back the nuggets with copper sheet foil in order to enhance their color and glue them in place for the carrots in the area where the sand was. Let the glue dry completely.

Apply concrete glue on the rough surface where you plan to mortar. This will help bond the two layers of DiamondCrete.

Step 6

Mix Earth Brown DiamondCrete to a very thick consistency, as you did for the clouds. Carefully mortar it on, leaving it rough and bumpy looking, as if the garden has just been plowed. Be sure to immediately clean up any spills or droppings off the sides and top of the stone so that the color does not stain the blue background. A warm, damp paper or terry towel will help in this process.

Step 7

Sometime from 2 to 4 hours after removing the stone from the mold, lightly wash the top of the stone using a diluted solution of 6 parts water to 1 part Weldbond. Place a few drops of this solution on the top and wipe it around to seal all of the glass to the DiamondCrete. Wipe any excess off the top of the stone. This prevents water from getting between the glass and the stone, which is what causes cracking.

Step 8

Wait 24 hours and seal the top and sides of the stone with DiamondSeal. This prevents efflorescence from forming on the top of the stone. After the stone cures for 40 days, seal the remaining back of the stone with DiamondSeal, which has been specially formulated to work with DiamondCrete.

GPO



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G - Emerald, Spring and Light Greens for Lettuce, 1 Sq. Ft.
B - Lime / Forest Green for Carrot Tops, 1 Sq. Ft.

Pattern has been reduced 50%



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www.GlassPatterns.com