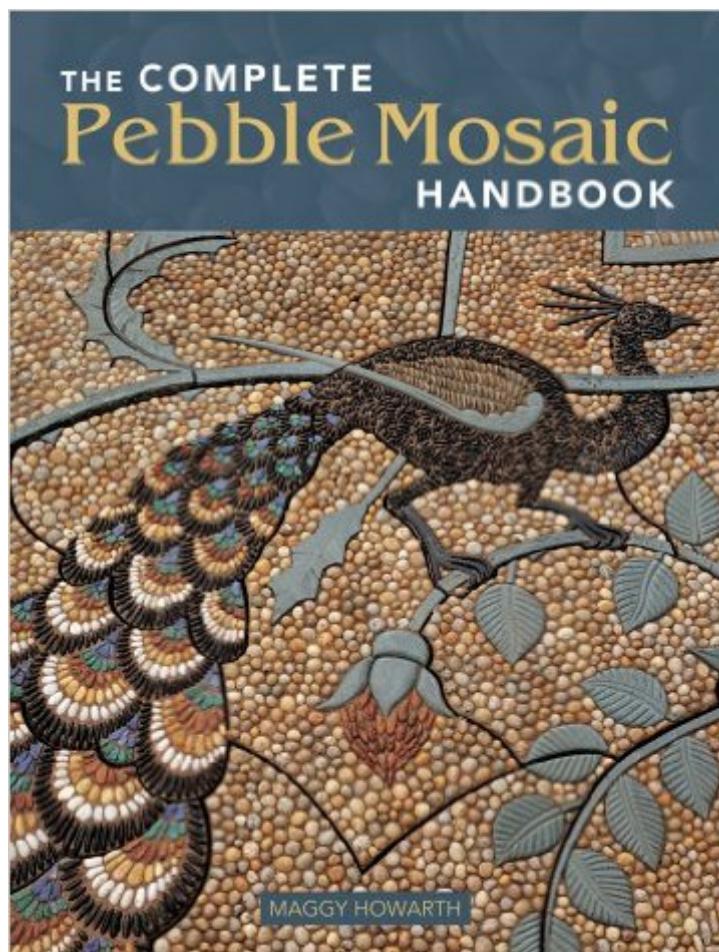


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# The Complete Pebble Mosaic Handbook



## **Synopsis**

Extensive guidebook to a popular and rapidly growing craft. Many of us have walked the squares of Venice, Rome and Madrid and admired the geometric pavements of pebble mosaics. Made from found stones, and as beautiful as they are durable, pebble mosaics are a welcome addition to gardens, patios, and public spaces. The Complete Pebble Mosaic Handbook is the most complete sourcebook for enthusiasts and landscape designers -- an accessible and illustrated guide that covers materials, design, tools and techniques. The book lists the best sources to find or buy pebbles; how to choose and test pebbles for strength and quality; and which materials to avoid. There are practical instructions for ensuring the mosaic can withstand frost, foot and vehicle traffic, pollutants, and water. The book explains in detail the principles of creating walkways and patios, precast slabs, fountains, pools, and cascades. Illustrated sample projects are followed step-by-step. Designing is also fully explained whether using simple sketches or professional graphic design software. A showcase of pebble mosaic from around the world by leading artists demonstrates the craft's vast creative potential. In addition, a section of design ideas features many popular subjects and patterns including animals, heavenly bodies, spirals, borders, floral, fish, flowers, and many more.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Maggy Howarth's COMPLETE PEBBLE MOSAIC HANDBOOK provides a review of pebble mosaics which can be used in gardens, patios and public places. Artists, landscapers, and any with a special

interest in the design qualities of these mosaics will find this a beautiful collection which not only provides step-by-step insights, but includes a survey of traditional works by contemporary pebble mosaic artists.

This book contains spectacular photography through-out: both photos that highlight the artistry of finished works and the close-up, clear, work-in-progress photos that highlight techniques for successful projects. Accompanying text is very readable, and contains a wealth of information about pebble mosaics. I bought the book for the photographs, but was also fascinated by the information about the people and communities that came together to create stunning mosaics to enhance public spaces in their towns.

If only I could study with this master of all masters of stone mosaics! She is an inspirational, brilliant mosaic artist. This book makes one want to order truck loads of stone and do nothing but re-do your driveway, walkways and beyond. Lots of wonderful photos. Close ups. Wonderful explanation. Photos of mosaic works from around the world. Ordering her other book as soon as possible.

If you are contemplating doing a pebble mosaic, then the Complete Pebble Mosaic Handbook by Maggy Howarth is essential. It includes easy to follow, start-to-finish instructions written by an experienced professional. Moreover, it includes a plethora of high quality photos of a diverse set of pebble mosaic projects. I also purchased two other books: Pebble Mosaics by Ann Frith, and Pebble Mosaics by Deborah Schneebeli. These are also pretty good books, but on a much smaller scale than Howarth's. If you are serious, get all three. If you only want one book, get Howarth's book. I recently completed my mosaic with stones so small I set many of them with tweezers. About 120 hours of work, but it was worth it. It is an unusual installation, being inverted, Sistine Chapel style (I started feeling like Michelangelo, always looking up!). It includes several elements, including a cat, sun, moon, dragon, galaxy, Audrey (from Little Shop of Horrors), and Old Man Winter. For pictures see [...].

This book is jam packed with pictures of pebble mosaics from hundreds of years BC to modern day installations. You will never be at a loss for inspiration with this collection of images. There's a huge amount of information on the history of the craft as well as sections dedicated to modern day pebble mosaic artisans. The instructions are thorough, if not a little daunting. It's a tremendous amount of work and planning so if you think you can buy this book then crank out a doorstep in a day, think

again. Pebble mosaics require a good deal of planning, patience and dedication. Like many projects much of it is about the prepwork. The actual laying of the mosaic is only a portion. The author recommends trying out a couple of small projects to start before tackling a big project. There's a learning curve to determine the appropriate scale of design, getting the depth of the grout correct, and laying the pebbles in a pleasing and practical manner. Larger scale installations can often require large plywood templates to aid in maintaining a clean design so access to woodworking tools may be necessary. I am hoping that someday I will have the time to dedicate to making one of these beautiful creations (after trying on a very small scale to start) but in the meantime I will peruse this book and dream.

I bought this book after doing research on pebble mosaics and so many people recommended this as the "bible" of making pebble mosaics. I cannot say enough great things about the contents of the book and I do highly recommend it BUT, day two of ownership, the entire binding separated and now my book is just a pile of pretty pictures and instruction. So, if you want an actual book, you might consider buying it elsewhere. I gave it five stars anyway, because I did not want the author to suffer because of the manufacturing issues.

What a joy! I am in the process of planning a new home and would like to incorporate some pebble mosaic. I have long been a fan of pebble mosaic but just recently came across this book. It looked great and I keenly read pages on-line before buying it. After it arrived my initial impression was that it was picture heavy (all of which are inspirational and of good quality) but light on facts. On reflection, this was not a fair assessment of the book and now, having actually taken time to read through about a third of the book I believe that all the necessary information is there. The book has over 250 pages, all packed with visual treats. The book is well organized and is divided into three sections. Each section is well planned and written in clear factual but encouraging language. The book addresses such issues as suitable techniques for dry or wet climates and is full of encouraging comments with just one cautionary comment on an abandoned project on the Greek island of Rhodes. I think this comment, together with photo is testimony to the hard work needed to bring a project to completion and reminds us not to underestimate the scale and demands of our project before we start. The estimates of mass/volumes for some of the projects help to provide the reader with a sense of the scale and demands of any project which they might want to plan. I have great admiration for the author who has somehow found the time to write and compile this wonderful asset. Her inclusion of only "the best" examples helps her readers to aspire to well structured and

durable works of art. The around the world section in which the author showcases amazing examples and techniques might seem unnecessary and probably adds significantly to the overall cost of the book but it serves to inspire. The book is fairly priced and I am happy to recommend this to artists, hobbyists, anyone who enjoys things visual and might want some inspiration.

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