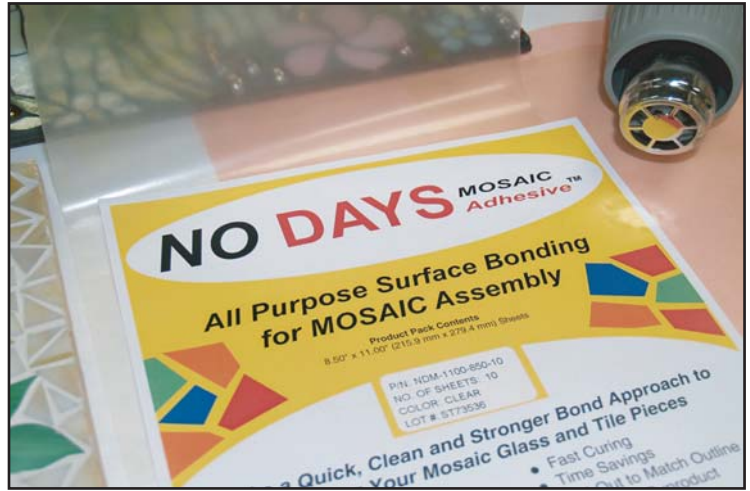


No Days Mosaic Adhesive

Sticking to the subject



by Gina Hubler

When I was asked to do a GLASScraftsman road test for Streuter Technologies new product, No Days Mosaic Adhesive, I thought it was an intriguing proposition. As a mosaicist and educator, I am always looking for new products and techniques to share with the students of our academy, as well as to offer through our mosaic supply company. I feel it is important to look at each project individually, both tesserae and infrastructure, as well as any extenuating circumstances in order to decide the best adhesive for any individual job.

What to look for and what I found

This product comes packaged in 8.5x11-inch sheets, with 10 sheets to a pack. Each sheet consists of a thin translucent film; the sheets have no initial adherence to the touch. The adhesiveness is activated, when desired, with a heat gun or hair drier as soon as the film is heated to a temperature above 160-degrees F and instantly cures as it drops below that temperature. Some of the information accompanying and regarding the product indicate that it has an indefinite shelf life, as well as being non-toxic and producing no fumes. These are all important factors in my studios; I strive for the least amount of

toxicity possible, in all of my products. It was also recommended for use with glass, wood, and metal infrastructures, as well as glass and ceramic tiles.

Possibly the most interesting claim was the ability to grout the project immediately after setting the tesserae. No letting glues or cements dry for hours? Yeaah! This could be a very handy tool to have on the shelf for those projects that need to get out the door immediately!

I decided to work with two different projects, giving the product a test on setting stained glass on plywood, as well as glass on glass. The first test was that of glass on plywood.

Project #1

The instructions state:

1) "Place your NO Days Mosaic Adhesive film on top of the pattern drawn on your mounting surface, before placing glass or tile pieces."
(See photo #1)

2) "Place your glass or tile pieces on top of the NO Days Mosaic Adhesive film to form either a sec-

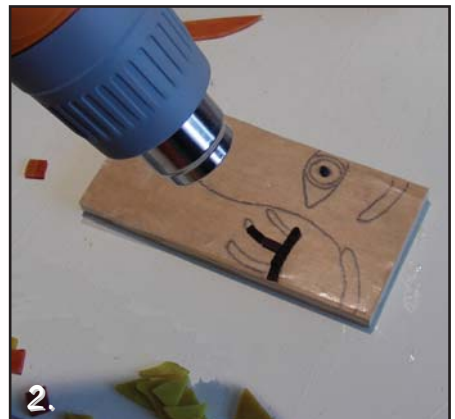
#1. Place your film on top of the drawing on the infrastructure surface, in this case plywood.



tion of your pattern or your whole entire pattern." I chose to set a part of my design and heat the film to see how it would work in increments. (See photo #2) Initially when I used the hot air gun to heat the film, my tesserae flew in all different directions. (I also experienced the glue puddling, which may have been my fault due to overheating.) I tried again with the hot air gun a bit farther away from the project at a direct overhead angle and had a bit better results. This is reflected in Step 3.

3) "Using your heat gun, apply

#2. I chose to do a small bit at a time.



heat throughout your pattern until you see NO Days Mosaic Adhesive Film beginning to flow. For small glass or tile pieces, use a lower air flow setting or heat directly on top of the small piece to avoid movement" ...well, sure, if you're the type that is willing to read the directions before you start it's bound to

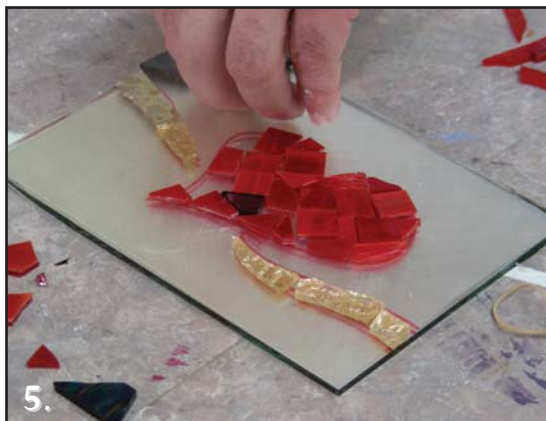
#3. ...just read the directions!



be easier! (See photo #3)

4) "Allow your glass or tile pieces to briefly cool and your mosaic is immediately ready for grouting." (See photo #4) At this point I set the glass-on-wood mosaic aside so that I could set my second Road Test piece, the glass on glass.

#4. The glass is set on the plywood and ready for grouting



Project # 2

For my second project I did a quick sketch, one of my favorite subjects, a heart, onto a small piece of mirror, then repeated steps 1 - 2 .

I set the mosaic in an abstract fashion (See photo #5) and then hit the entire site with the hot glue gun from a direct angle. I still had tesserae flying around a bit, so I'm not sure if practice is not the key here! (See photo #6) However after a moment or two I picked up the mosaic and the tesserae seemed stable. (See photo #7)

Grouting phase

Now I was ready to grout both of my mosaics. Unfortunately, I found that a few of the tesserae from the wood setting had popped off; possibly it is a prerequisite that the mosaic must be grouted immediately? But this was easily remedied and I set out to grout. One of the pieces came off when grouting, this may have been due to the time between setting and grouting as well. The glass on glass mosaic grouted easily.

The next day I found one of the tesserae to be a bit unstable from the glass on glass mosaic, however it was on the edge, and possibly this was due to the adhesive shrinking a bit, or just not being placed properly. Remember, this was my first time with the No Days Mosaic Adhesive, so a few of the problems I encountered could have been due to my inexperience with the material.

Overall, for me it was an interesting Road Test of a new product. I think that the strength of this adhesive is in the ability to grout the work immediately, if you have a rush job. It does require some practice and finesse with the hot air gun, and like any new product, may have the kinks worked over time, oh and just between you and me, read the instructions! So kudos to Streuter for creating outside the box! ❖



Gina Hubler is a renowned Mosaicist and Educator. She is the educational director of the Miami Mosaic Academy that offers classes from beginner through professional levels, in Miami, FL and Allentown, PA. Gina also hosts annual mosaic tours of Italy, and Barcelona. She may be contacted online at www.Mosaictools.com or at 786-457-7999.

#5. Laying out the second project, glass on glass.

#6. Hitting the glass on glass with the heat gun again resulted with a lot of pieces flying around initially... is 'practice' the answer?

#7. A moment after applying heat, the piece seemed stable.