

# Modern Mosaics for Our Modern Families

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## Mishpachah II

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Mosaic is the ancient art of creating images with an assemblage of small pieces of colored glass, tiles or stone. In Modern Mosaics we create using an unusual assortment of materials – fiber, paper, rhinestones, rubber bands, sequins, ribbons, beads and whatever else our imagination can conjure!

Families have changed from the nuclear family with father, mother and children to many different iterations. Modern Mosaics tries to utilize materials different from the tradition of glass, stone and ceramics. As modern families appear different, so do our Modern Mosaics.

For Mishpachah II, hearts seem logical since we also incorporated *Chapters of the Heart* into the project. However, Hamsas, Mogen Davids, and puzzle pieces work also. For other holidays, consider shapes of crowns & scepters (Purim), pomegranates and apples (Rosh Hashoah), dreidles (Hanukah).

## **Materials:**

Wooden shapes:

Hamsas – Benny’s Educational Toys

Hearts – Factory Direct Crafts

Stars- Benny’s & Factory Direct

Mod Podge

Mosaic Materials:

Paper, fabric, sequins, rhinestones, beads, rubber bands, feathers, ribbons, cord, trim, yarn, buttons, or any other small objects that look fun.

## **Tools:**

Scissors, markers or pencils, craft tweezers (American Science & Surplus), latex gloves to protect hands, disposable cups for sharing mod podge, small foam brushes

## **Directions:**

Protect working surface with table covering – it will likely need to be thrown away afterwards.

Place a wooden shape and tools at each place. Some such as scissors, markers, mod podge can be shared.

Put mosaic materials on separate table for participants to choose from. It is helpful to have small containers or disposable cups so they may take a portion of the materials back to their work areas.

## **Techniques:**

Have each participant write her name on the back of the wood shape.

Pencils can also be used to sketch a design, if desired.

Coat wooden shape with Mod Podge. Be generous.

Cover shape with mosaic materials.

One technique is to cover the shape first with either paper or fabric and then embellish. This works well for more open designs. Trace the shape onto the paper or fabric and cut out. Then apply Mod Podge. Coat top of material again before applying other mosaic materials.

Another technique is to use the individual materials, or combination of materials, to completely cover the shape.

As work progresses, reapply Mod Podge as needed. If heavier materials are used, such as large beads, use more Mod Podge. The more adhesive used, the longer time to dry will be needed.

Coat entire piece with Mod Podge one more time to seal the work.

When dry, place a hanger on the back, or ribbon through a hole at the top.