



CONKER
CRAFTS

THE BARBADOS TURTLE PROJECT

When Steven and Kim recently got married they had their honeymoon in Barbados and swam with dolphins in Turkey. They were delighted to see the rare Hawksbill turtles come on to the beach and lay their eggs in the sand. The children at the hotel took the newly hatched turtles to the sea where they proceeded to swim out on their life's journey; it was very funny to see all of these little heads bobbing up and down once they were 20 yards out past the waves breaking.

Steven wanted a permanent reminder of their wedding in their newly landscaped garden. He commissioned Rosanna to mosaic a turtle and dolphin, as a surprise for Kim.

The stepping stones were mosaiced, delivered and set in the garden and then shown to Kim, who was delighted.

Steven says "I wanted something in the garden that related to our wedding year, without it being too slushy, so the stepping stones were perfect".



SKETCHING

The first thing I do when I start a new mosaic is to sketch out the pattern or picture. This may be rough or detailed depending on the intricacy. I tend to use dressmaker chalk as it can be altered easily and rubbed out. This ensures the piece will be the correct scale.



FRAMING

Next, I select the various materials to be used and decide the colour scheme. Once decided I then create the outline which frames the picture. This will give it the perspective, shape and substance. This also helps with the 'flow' of the piece.



MATERIALS

I use a huge and varied range of materials: glass tesserae and ceramic tiles, crockery, jewellery, buttons, stones, slate. Almost anything can be used in mosaics as long as you have a good imagination. Wheeled tile cutters are essential along with glues, grouts, varnish and paint. Tweezers are often used in a very intricate piece.



COMPLETION

On completion the mosaic has to be left to totally dry. It is then grouted and left to dry again, before getting a final polish. It may be varnished and preserved if it is going outside. Therefore even a small piece could take a week to do. I like to photograph each piece and sign it if possible.

