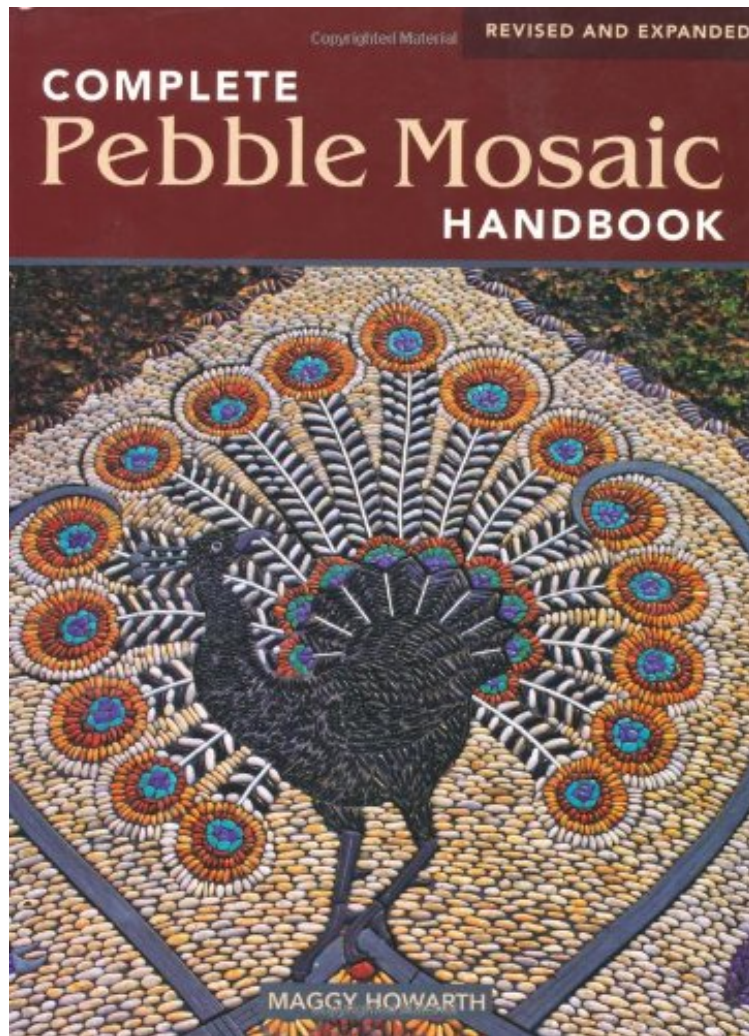


# The Complete Pebble Mosaic Handbook

*Maggy Howarth*

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**Maggy Howarth : The Complete Pebble Mosaic Handbook** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Pebble Mosaic Handbook:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Amazing amount of information By SueP 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Perhaps the info in it is good but when the cover falls completely off in less than a day and the spine collapses I never got to read it. Will look for another copy from alt provider. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great pictures. By David Henderson This was a gift for my wife and she loves it. Lots of great pictures and ideas for projects.

Both beautiful and durable, pebble mosaics are a wonderful addition to gardens, patios and public spaces. This is a complete source book for enthusiasts and landscape designers - an accessible and illustrated guide for creating basic to advanced projects from start to finish. Maggy Howarth, the author, is a leading authority on pebble mosaics, who has worked with this medium for 25 years.

This beautiful book is a pleasure to peruse and would be a great present for any craft lover. Westmorland Gazette The definitive sourcebook and practical guide to this craft, written by one of the world's foremost practitioners in the field. English Garden Howarth's book may well inspire you to design a pebble mosaic or two for your own garden. It'll certainly make you look more closely and appreciate any mosaics you come across. Scotsman Perhaps it's because the individual building blocks of a pebble mosaic are so small and manageable, or perhaps it's because Maggy Howarth makes the process seem exclusive and yet achievable, I defy anyone to read this book and not come away with the itch to have a go for themselves. Professional Gardener Something completely different, and made me wish there were more hours in the day to take up this fascinating craft. Let's Talk About the Author Maggy Howarth is a leading authority on the subject of pebble mosaics. An artist who adopted the medium 20 years ago, she has produced hundreds of pebble mosaics in the UK. To visit her website click here Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Foreword Is it just coincidence that so many different people enjoy collecting and handling beautiful pebbles? There must be a basic appeal in the pebble as a found object, formed by the great forces of nature, recalling memories of happy childhood days spent on sunny beaches. We are naturally drawn to the smoothness of rounded stone; it's a small and perfect emblem of the earth we walk on. When we pick up a pebble and marvel at its beauty, we are holding a chunk of our planet; and when we pick up handfuls, and arrange them together in patterns, we are reflecting the universe. Children love to do it; so do adults if they give themselves the time to play. Some take the one step further that makes their collection of stones into something more permanent: designing, making and then leaving, for posterity, a pebble mosaic. It is now nine years since the publication of *The Art of Pebble Mosaics*, and a lot has happened in that time. A busy working life, involving many pebble commissions, has led me to some useful discoveries and refinements of the basic techniques. In this book I can share with you some of those new ideas and experiences which I hope will in turn lead to more experimentation and development. In addition to research in the workshop, opportunities have also arisen during travel abroad to see for myself some of the marvelous mosaics in far-flung places which have been very little known outside their own countries. Each holiday has become a research trip, trying to take in some of the different pebblework around the world. The photographs and observations are presented here for your delectation. There is so much more out there to discover, and I expect that there will be many more of these adventures -- explorations with eyes down! A third source of information has come from readers of the first book. They were invited to contact me with news of any pebble projects of their own. The call didn't fall on stony ground and there has been a steady stream of information about public and private projects, and lots of pictures. Getting those letters and e-mails was like opening a box of delights, each one new and different. Every pair of hands transforms the pebbles differently. The many artists who have contributed to this book and generously shared information show a breadth of vision and invention that is a source of constant joy and admiration. What you will see here is the best of pebble mosaic. The criteria for my selection are very simple. Firstly, of course, the work must be principally pebblework (not, say, tesserae). Secondly, it must be good work, and not just anything that happens to be made of pebbles. Sometimes it might be extremely simple, or rough and imperfect, or experimental; it might be quite mundane and everyday, or it might be complex, highly skillful and solidly professional. But, whatever their status, they all have a certain quality in common. They must be either interesting (in whatever way), or original and inventive. I have put in as many as space will permit. Whether or not this can be really thought of as "complete" is a debate for the future. In the gazetteer of design ideas at the end of the book you'll find a large collection of pictures and drawings, all of which have been made into pebble mosaics (by me or others) or designed specifically for the medium. A thorough knowledge of pebble mosaic has informed their selection and the drawing of them. It would be wrong of anyone to "copy" them (each design is the copyright of the individual artist); but it is perfectly OK to use them as the inspiration and starting point for new versions. Since time began, artists have fed their imagination from the works of

other artists, sparking off new connections and visions. I hope that, in turn, these pages will feed your imagination. That wonderful elusive trigger-point, inspiration, is the vital element that leads, through draftsmanship and selection, to good design. This is what lifts the medium of pebble mosaic from function and craft to a thing of beauty and art.

Maggy Howarth