

## Tessellation with Straw

Instructor: Laurene Fitzpatrick

When cleaning out some files I found instructions to create tessellations. Tessellations are interlocking images, the simplest one being a black and white checkerboard or floor. One of the most famous is the fish to bird image by M.C. Escher. I thought it would be nice to try this in straw.

While attempting to create this version I found different ways to create interlocking images. I also started developing shortcuts which will make the process easier and just now thought of others, which I will try before the class. During this class I will demonstrate and provide information how to create tessellations starting with different shapes. I will provide some samples and templates for each person to choose their own project. After creating the basic image, the tessellation can be personalized with Swiss straw work or other creative ideas of choice.



Note: pictured above is but one example of tessellation. If you want to check out other possibilities of tessellation designs, put “tessellation images” in the search box of your browser.

**CLASS TIME: Friday, February 23, 9:00-11:00 and 1:00-5:00**

**Skill level:** open to all

**Finished size:** 8 inches by 12 inches (inside dimensions of the mat opening). The mat will easily fit into a standard 11x14 inch frame.

**Bring to class (in addition to basic tool kit):**

- \*Various colored straw, split and flattened (I will also have straw available and ready to use)
- \*Glue, at least 4 ounces (Elmer's glue works fine)
- \*Scissors, one standard and one small, sharp pair for small spaces
- \*Burnishing tool such as Hindenberg, spoon, hand held rubber ice scrapper, small hand held glass squeegee, or wooden ceramic tools, to name but a few possibilities. If you don't own one, don't rush out to buy one. Instructor will bring extra to class for use.
- \*A protractor, but only if you have one. Don't rush out to get one.

**Kit fee:** \$6.00 (to be paid directly to instructor, or representative, in class – exact amount is appreciated). Kit includes a mat with the backing to glue the tessellation on, and plastic templates of at least 2 shapes.