

Try This!

Photo Mosaic On **ALUMAJET**[®]

By Sam Wainer

You can create a striking, full-color photo mosaic on real metal using AlumaJet. AlumaJet inkjet printable aluminum allows you to print full-color, photographic-quality images directly on to metal with an off-the-shelf inkjet printer. In this project, we used an image of Cinque Terre, Italy, to create a photo mosaic.

STEP #1: PICK YOUR ARTWORK

You'll need a high-resolution image to start with. We used someone's vacation photo from their honeymoon. AlumaJet allows very high resolutions, so the better the quality, the better the end result; especially if you are creating a large mosaic (ours was 18"x24").

STEP #2: PRINT YOUR ALUMAJET

Printing on AlumaJet is just like printing on paper. Many standard inkjet printers work with AlumaJet. We used the Epson 3880. After printing, we allowed the piece to dry and then protected it with a cold laminate.

STEP #3: CUTTING UP YOUR ALUMAJET INTO PIECES

Using a standard AccuCutter shear, we cut up the artwork into about 20 pieces of various sizes.

STEP #4: MOUNTING YOUR PIECES

We wanted the background of the mosaic to be metal, so we used a large piece of AlumaJet as the backer. Using hobby glue and foam board, we mounted the individual pieces about one-half inch and one inch off the backer with a one-eighth inch border to provide separation.

The result turned a vacation photo into a high-end-looking piece of artwork.

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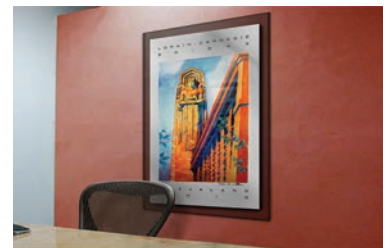
1. Design your print using appropriate software



2. Load and print AlumaJet with an ink jet printer



3. To protect the sheet, either use cold lamination or a spray coating



4. Cut and mount your AlumaJet sheet



Sam Wainer is a Product Manager for AlumaJet. For more information, visit www.alumajet.com.

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