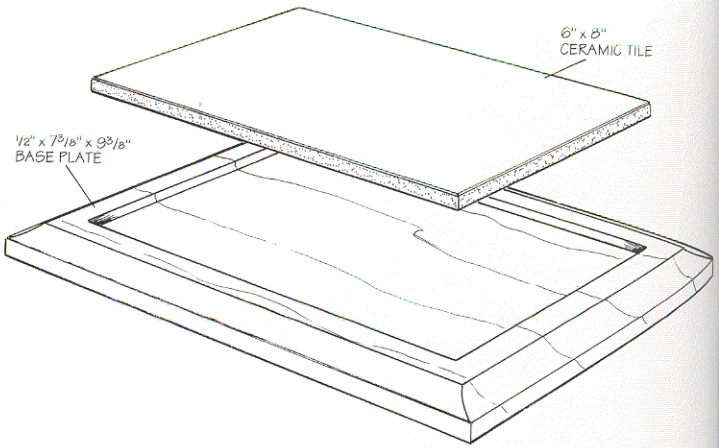
Tiled Trivets

Like the tiled coasters, these trivets are not only functional but can also serve to accent the colors and mood of your kitchen or dining room. They're easy to make (and to alter), too. The tile is glued into a routed rectangle and is raised above the surrounding base so that you'll never scorch the wood when you rest a steaming kettle or casserole on the project's surface.

Materials List

White or red oak is recommended for this project.

(1)	1/2" x 7-3/8" x 19"	Base plate
(2)	6" x 8"	Ceramic tiles
	(Actual dimensions 5-7/8" x 7-7/8")	



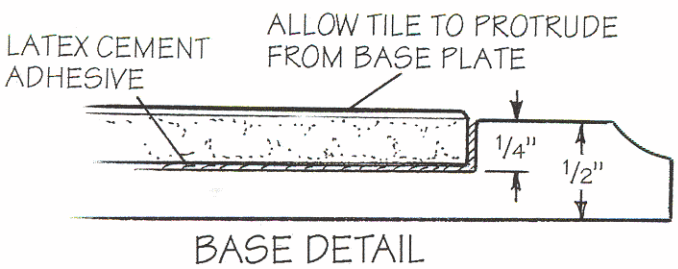
Suggested Tools

Router
Table saw
36" straightedge
1/2" chisel
1-1/4" putty knife
1/4" straight bit
3/8" cove bit

Hardware & Supplies

Latex cement adhesive
Masking tape
Spray lacquer

Hint: *Be sure to purchase a heat-resistant adhesive!*



BASE DETAIL

Construction Procedure

1. This project yields two trivets. Measure the actual size of your tiles to be sure that the wooden base will be large enough to accommodate them. For tiles measuring 5-7/8" x 7-7/8", the wood border around each tile should be at least 3/4".

2. Strike a line across the center of the 19" board. To establish the saw kerf, mark lines 1/16" to each side of this center line. Lay the tiles on top of the wood, and check to see that the borders will be sufficient. Remember to allow 1-5/8" between the two tiles (two 3/4" borders plus 1/8" extra to allow for the saw kerf). Measure 3/4" out from the other edges of each tile and mark lines. (You may alter this dimension if you'd prefer a tile with wider borders.)

3. If the edges of the wood need to be trimmed, make the cuts on a table saw. Do not cut the kerf line between the tiles yet; you'll need the entire base to support your router.

4. Measure 3/4" in from the marked edges, and mark across and down the length of the board. Measure 3/4" to each side of the kerf lines, and mark across the board.

5. Measure the thickness of your tiles; then set the router depth 1/16" less than that dimension. This 1/16" allowance, plus the thickness of the cement, will raise each tile's surface above the base.

6. Using a 1/4" straight bit in the router, rout the material from within the borders of each square. Start in the center of each square and work outward.

7. With a 1/2" chisel, square the corners of the routed areas. Then check the fit of both tiles; they should be slightly loose.

8. Cut the board into two pieces down the center of the marked kerf line.

9. Using the 3/8" cove bit in the router, make a test pass along a 1/2"-thick scrap of wood to establish the best bit depth for the decorative edge cuts. Then temporarily insert the tiles, secure the bases, and rout all four edges of each pad.

10. Remove the tiles. Sand each base lightly, place masking tape over the routed areas, and finish the exposed wood (including the bottom surfaces) with three coats of spray lacquer.

11. After removing the tape, spread the tile adhesive evenly over the routed surfaces with a narrow putty knife. Coat the back side of each tile with adhesive, and set the tiles firmly in place.

12. To finish the grout line between the tile and the wood, wipe off the excess adhesive immediately with a damp cloth. Allow the adhesive to dry thoroughly before using your trivets.