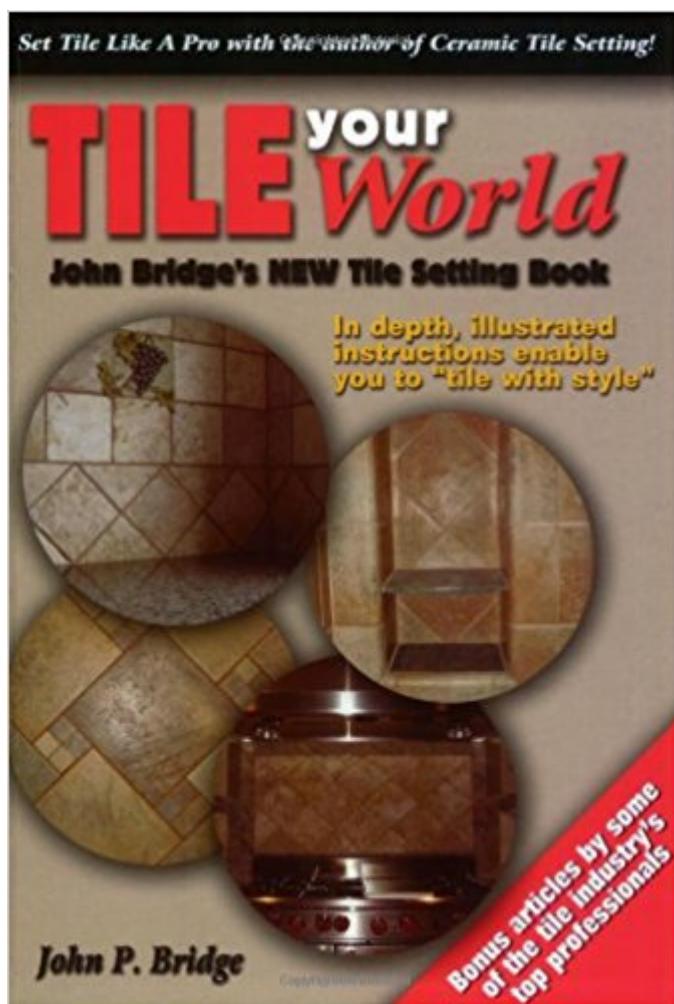


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# Tile Your World: John Bridge's New Tile Setting Book



## **Synopsis**

As of November 2008 TILE YOUR WORLD is still the only available book that covers ceramic tile showers completely. A comprehensive and in-depth guide for amateur and professional ceramic tile setters. TILE YOUR WORLD takes the reader from the early history of the craft, all the way through to advanced residential tiling techniques. Projects range from kitchen and bathroom floors to custom tile shower installations. Kitchen counters and back splashes are also covered. TILE YOUR WORLD contains over 300 black and white photos and line drawings and 6 four-page color inserts. Eight appendices and a full index are included.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If you are looking for a single book [on] all aspects of tile installation and repair, this is it! -- Natural Handyman John Bridge's book has the kind of depth and breadth of information that we are sold on. -- Builders' Booksource Very complete coverage . . . --Cambium Books

TILE YOUR WORLD by John P. Bridge is a must read for people contemplating doing their own ceramic or stone tile work. This is a comprehensive book that fully explains the preliminary steps essential to a good tile job. It then takes you on to the advanced stages of the craft and provides you the information you'll need to bring your tiling project to a satisfactory and gratifying conclusion. TILE YOUR WORLD will also be of use to people who plan to hire their tile work out. Homeowners

will be in much better position to judge the qualifications of prospective contractors after having read the book. Building a new home? Buy the book before the foundation is laid. You'll be glad you did.

I ordered this book on the strength of the positive reviews. I'm doing an outside deck with expensive porcelain tiles, so I thought I'd read a manual. I've done tiling before and the jobs have come out fine and get compliments and have never cracked or popped a tile. I'm a little slow, but I don't pay myself by the hour. So I wanted to know more about the actual process of tiling. Not the history of tile or the trade. And I know now John loves his mortar bed, but they invented backer board to make tiling more accessible and that's why I'm reading the book.. I look at the pictures of people somehow doing a mortar bed in a big room, and only think, "yeah, right. That's an art and I'll never do that". I'm not doing a bathroom, so I'm not grading that portion of the book. I did carefully read every word up to that point in the book. I thought the description of how to layout tile and snap chalk lines was very good. The discussion of isolation was also good, how you can make your tile job more resistant to changes to the substrate. What I didn't find was much on how to actually put the thin set down, when to back butter tiles, why you pick a trowel notch size (although John says he doesn't see the need for much beyond 1/4-3/8, he doesn't ever explain how to figure out what you should use from first principles), what are some tricks for swiping the thinset (I've always used straight trowel movement but the pictures show arcs), how you see your chalk lines after you've smeared over them with thinset, do you then scrape up all thinset right up to edge of placed tile(s)? I was also looking for some guidance on how to work out of multiple boxes... I've only done near identical tiles, and now I have tiles that are mixed and I don't know how to work out of multiple boxes or whether I should literally lay out 100% of the tiles and move them around by sight and then carefully stack them to the side... And a real back breaker for me... even though everything I've seen or read (or done) says you hold the trowel at a 45 deg angle when making the ridges, John says 90 deg. Whew! Is that why he doesn't use a big notch on big tiles? He gets twice the thickness at 90 deg? If you do this, do you pull the trowel? This is so different than even the back of the thinset bags, it begged an explanation. So the book gives some good information on design and is worthwhile for that, but the stuff John probably forgot is harder for amateurs (if you can do a mortar bed, actually placing tiles must be like getting dressed) doesn't get covered in enough detail. Basically the problems you're dealing with when you are on your knees with boxes of tile piled about.

Doing tile right takes a bit of time and a bit of money. Most "do-it-yourself" books will give short shrift to tile laying, put in some pretty pictures and make it look easy. And they your tile will pop up or

crack five years later. Tile should last decades. And sometimes it can take a lot of work to prepare a surface, and some surfaces shouldn't even be tiled at all. With that in mind, finding good information and digesting it is a must before taking any steps. John Bridge's book does a top notch job of covering a wide variety of tiling specifics and generalities. In addition to all the gory details he has a motivating "can-do" writing style that encourages success. Furthermore, his online website and tiling forums are an amazing resource and clearly demonstrate his willingness to make a major contribution to both professional and do-it-yourself tiling laying. Do yourself a favor, get this book and Michael Byrne's "Setting Tile" before doing a thing. A 15-minute Home Depot "how-to" seminar can be a dangerous thing - get real useful info instead.

If you're getting ready to do a bathroom renovation that includes putting in a new shower, you NEED this book. We are not new to major home renovation projects and I have done lots of tiling projects in the past, but this is our first shower build from the floor up. This book is not just about how to schlep mud on a wall and make the tile look pretty, but more importantly it goes into considerable detail about the crucial part - what's underneath and how to properly construct it. I've learned with each successive project that you have to think in terms of "3 steps down the road" - step A has to be done a certain way, otherwise later on when tackling step C or D, you run into problems. This book does just that. It's not your typical bathroom book (which are usually nothing more than a photo gallery of nice bathrooms telling you to hire a contractor to do the project). This book is for those of us who enjoy working with our hands and are up to a good challenge. The step-by-step instructions include lots of pictures and details even which order to tile the curb, niche, bench, etc. And yes, it also includes "pretty pictures" for inspiration!!

As a dedicated DIYer with no tiling experience, I needed a book that would provide a good overview as well as the details to actually get the job done. This book presents the necessary information in a manner that benefits novices and pros alike. I was able to read the book cover to cover without losing interest. I then dug back into the book to re-read material to gain a more thorough understanding. When I've not been able to figure something out, I've posted questions directly to an active web-based forum hosted by the author (great resource and the book makes a pointer to it - that's the "keeps on giving" reference in the review title and it was worth the price of the book alone!). The only ding I'd give the book is that a good portion of the images are printed too small. As a newbie, I'd appreciated larger images throughout and would have been glad to pay a little more for it.

I had very little experience tiling so I decided to read up on it before I tackled tiling my shower surround. I found several helpful hints in this book, but I learned way more from someone that helped me that has been tiling for a while. I think it is one of those things that experience is nearly impossible to substitute. Nonetheless, I found the book to have some good tips, even if some of the styles in the pictures are a bit dated. I also would have found more pictures to be helpful.

Good tips here not covered in other publications.

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