

# 1970's Glass Le Disque Installation Recommendations

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## Installing Glass Tile

- Select installers with demonstrated experience in similar materials and project complexity, and who remain current with industry best practices. Require references and a portfolio with all bids or estimates.
- Most adhesives, mortars, and other materials work together without any issues. However, you must read their instructions and cross-check their limitations to ensure compatibility.
- Inspect all material before starting installation.

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## Substrate Preparation

- Installations are only as good as the foundations they rest on.
- Substrate preparation depends on the material of the substrate. Refer to your project architect and installation professional for your project's specific needs.
- Substrate should be structurally sound, and free from any dirt, dust, sealers or contaminants.
- For color consistency, use a primer on the substrate. 1970's glass tiles are translucent and any mortar color differential could cause shading in the tiles.
- Use a level and straight edge to ensure your substrate is flat. According to ANSI A108.02, flatness shouldn't deviate more than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " within 10 feet, or  $\frac{1}{8}$ " for stone, with no bump greater than  $\frac{1}{16}$ ".

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## Layout

- Take accurate measurements of your installation area and create a layout plan.
- Blend tiles from all boxes and complete a dry run to ensure nuances in color or shade suit your project.
- Create a mock-up board to ensure your layout plan, shade of thinset and grout joint size are to your satisfaction.
- Confirm the final layout, cuts, grout joints, and overall look before beginning installation.
- Expansion joints are critical. They must be installed in accordance with TCNA detail EJ-171. Consult with your structural engineer, architect, and installer regarding expansion joint placement, material, and construction.
- We recommend using a wet saw and a premium glass diamond blade to make any needed cuts.

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## Mortar and Adhesives

- Use a high-performance mortar especially made for glass tiles. ANSI recommends using a high-performance thin-set mortar meeting ANSI 118.4 requirements with a bond strength of more than 400 psi. Refer to your installer and the mortar manufacturer regarding compatibility with glass tiles.
- Ensure that thinset is mixed thoroughly and according to manufacturer's instructions.
- For submerged or wet installations we recommend a mortar that meets ISO 13007.
- Since many glass tiles are translucent, make sure your chosen mortar is as white as possible.
- 1970 Glass tiles are impervious, extended drying time for thinset should be expected.

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## Setting Your Tiles

- Clean tiles to ensure they are free from oils, dust or other contaminants before setting.
- "Key in" thinset using the flat side of a trowel.
- Use the notched side of a trowel to create an even setting bed for your tiles.
- Using the flat side of a trowel, flatten the ridges created in the previous step.
- Back butter each tile with a thick layer of thinset.
- When setting each tile press it gently down into the mortar bed and rotate it slightly. This helps ensure 100% coverage.
- Work in only as small an area as you can manage at a time. This is critical to prevent thinset from "skimming over" before setting tiles in it, as well as preventing thinset from drying on the tile surface.
- Before moving on to grouting, make sure to give thinset enough time to fully cure. Refer to your chosen thinset's instructions for this information.
- 1970 Glass tiles are non-absorbent. Extended drying time should be expected.

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## Grout

- For waterline or submerged installations we recommend using either an epoxy or polymer cement grout. Please confirm grout compatibility with your installer and the tile manufacturer.
- If using a cement grout, an unsanded or very finely sanded grout should be used to reduce any chance of scratching the tile surface.
- 1970's Glass tiles round shape will cause wider grout joints in certain areas, please keep this in mind when selecting a grout.
- As the edges of the tiles are transparent, grout color can influence the final color of your installation. Generally, grouts that are tonally the same or lighter than the tile produce the best results.
- Grout tends to dry faster in exterior installations. Dried grout on glass surfaces will cause "shadowing". Therefore, grout only as large an area you can successfully clean before moving on to grout the next section.

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## Clean Up

- Use a large damp sponge to clean as you go, wiping the tile surface with a circular motion, thoroughly rinsing the sponge frequently.
- A further wipe-down, if needed, can be performed after the grout joint has achieved a semi-hard state. Be mindful of not dragging grout from the joints, however.
- If additional cleaning of grout haze is required, consult the grout manufacturer for the proper cleaning product.

