

Kitchen & Bath | Faucets | by Dave Holbrook

Off the Wall. Vessel-style lavs are all the rage nowadays, and they demand special consideration when it comes to the faucet. Deck-mounting a high gooseneck is one option, of course; another is to really raise the bar by installing a wall-mounted faucet. The *LK6156* coordinates nicely with this maker's vanity basins; the pared-down design is bound to work well in other contexts, too. It costs \$634 in a chrome finish and \$856 in brushed nickel.

Elkay, 630/572-3192, www.elkayusa.com.



Euro Tap. This kitchen faucet from the *Bali Collection* has enough personality to stand on its own, but probably ought to have a sink nearby to do it justice. The maker touts the spout's "European craftsmanship," citing its high design, solid feel, and thoughtful engineering. It retails for \$465 to \$581, depending on finish — polished chrome, oil-rubbed bronze, or brushed nickel.

Graff Faucets, 800/954-4723, www.graff-faucets.com.



Lever Action. Individual hot and cold levers make faucet use as intuitive as it gets. Color-coded supply lines for faultless hookup don't hurt, either. The *Appleton I* comes in stainless steel, brass, copper, pewter, and chrome finishes. With a side spray, it costs \$420 to \$620; without one, \$325 to \$525.

Blanco, 800/451-5782, www.blancoamerica.com



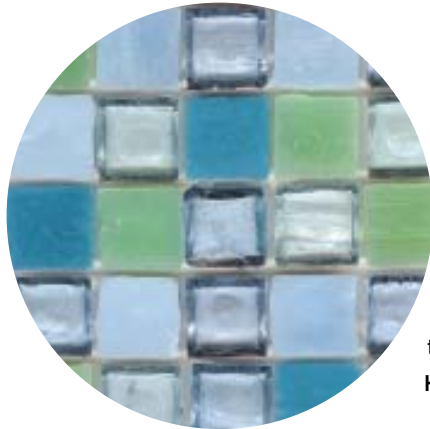
Dandy Deck Mount. In high-design circles, a deck-mount three-hole lavatory faucet seems almost like a rarity. The *Square Vogue's* clean, updated lines, however, should appeal even to the minimalist-minded. The attractive faucet comes in polished chrome or matte platinum for an equally stunning \$967 and \$1,267, respectively.

Villeroy & Boch, 609/409-6792, www.villeroy-boch.com.

Kitchen & Bath | Glass & Ceramic Tile

Glass Snippers. Glass mosaic tile is a current hot item that invites at least one question from the installer's end: How do you cut it? Try a pair of *Glass Mosaic Pliers*, which allegedly cut tile of up to 1/4 inch thick as easily as a pair of scissors. The tool costs \$28.

Karl Dahm, 866/463-9590, www.dahm-tools.com.



Make Your Own Mosaic. Each of the 17 colors in the glass-mosaic *Ashland Series* can be custom blended onto sheets for a highly personalized color scheme. Individual sheets cost between \$8.40 and \$15.20 per square foot, depending on color selection; custom blending involves an upcharge. The company encourages customers to view options and make choices online; there is no minimum order requirement.

Hakatai Enterprises, 541/552-0855, www.hakatai.com.

Graphic Relief. Use these way-cool tiles to bust out of the blahs, but do so sparingly. It's not just the prospect of eyestrain; at \$22 to \$35 per piece, restraint seems only prudent. The *Angela Adams* floor and wall tile collection includes decorative borders and nominal 6x6 and 8x8 sizes.

Ann Sacks, 800/278-8453, www.annsacks.com.



Glass Floor. *Radiance Glass* tiles are cast with a texture on both the front and the back, resulting in a surface that refracts the light for greater visual depth. They come in 3x3, 3x6, and 6x6 sizes and are 5/16 inch thick, making them suitable for floor applications. The series contains nine "water-inspired" colors; prices — \$2.50, \$5, and \$9 per tile — correspond to size.

Crossville Ceramics, 931/484-2110, www.crossvilleinc.com.