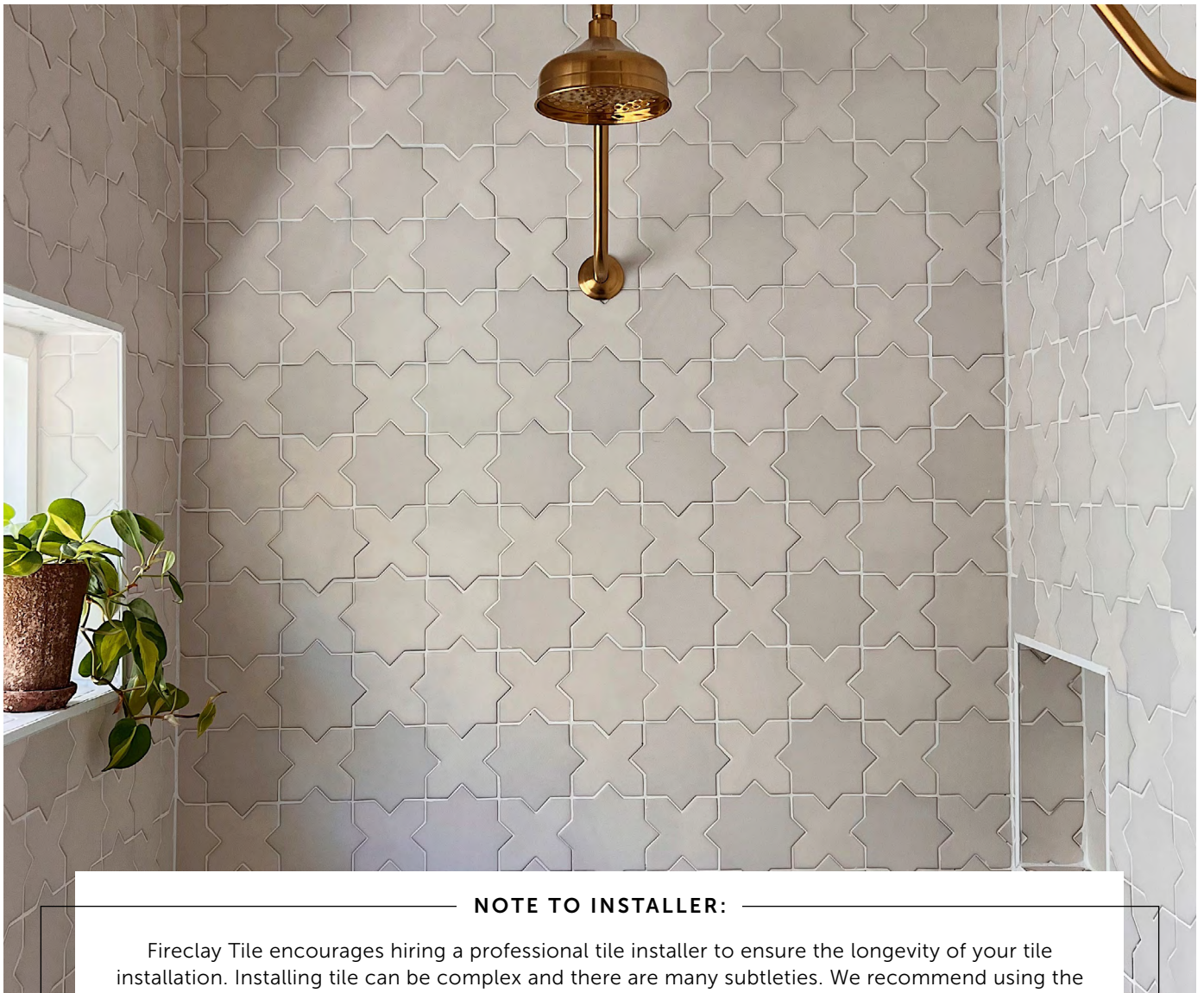




FIRECLAY TILE

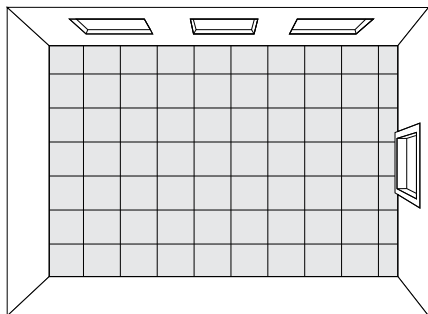
TIPS FOR INSTALLING

Star & Cross



NOTE TO INSTALLER:

Fireclay Tile encourages hiring a professional tile installer to ensure the longevity of your tile installation. Installing tile can be complex and there are many subtleties. We recommend using the methods outlined in the Tile Installation Handbook from the Tile Council of North America. We offer the following advice for those confident in the DIY skills and for the Tile Installation Professional.

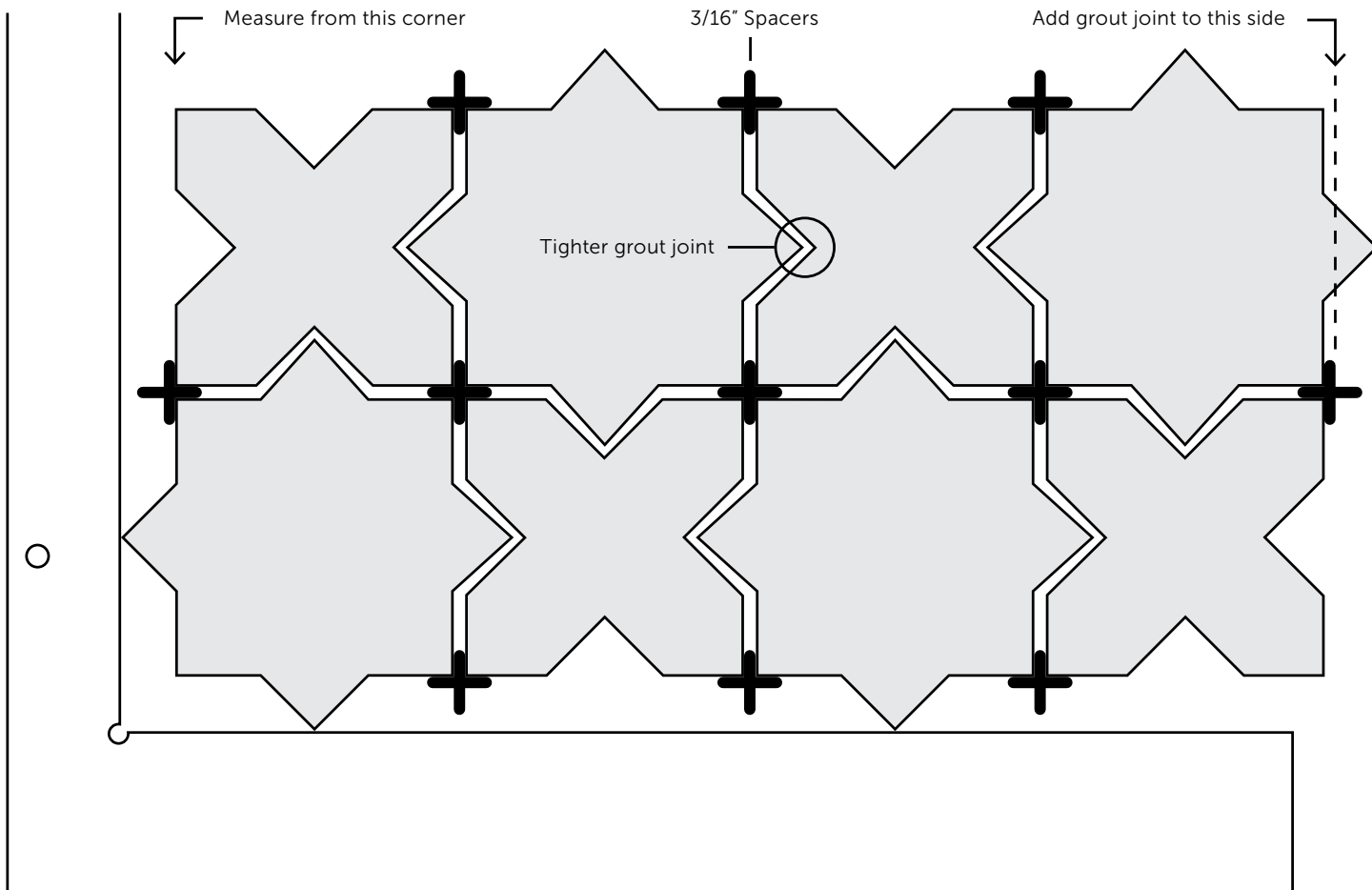


USING A GRID

Star & Cross is a bestselling interlocking shape. It comes in two sizes, Large and Mini. When the two different pieces of tile are placed together, the grout joints will vary in size. This accommodates the variation of the tile's size and shape due to its handmade nature. You can expect a tighter grout joint where the Star point fits into the Cross.

Many tile installers use a grid pattern like the one shown to help facilitate a tile installation. A grid of square lines is snapped out using a chalk box or drawn with a pencil. This is the recommended method for installing Star & Cross.

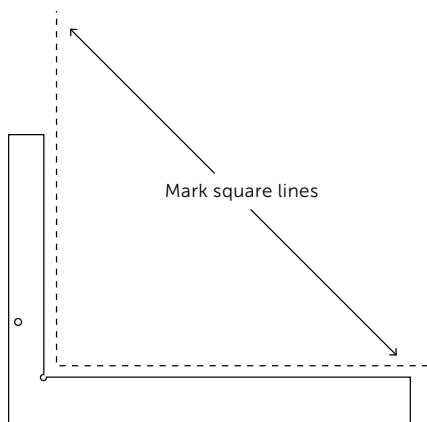
INSTALLATION PREP



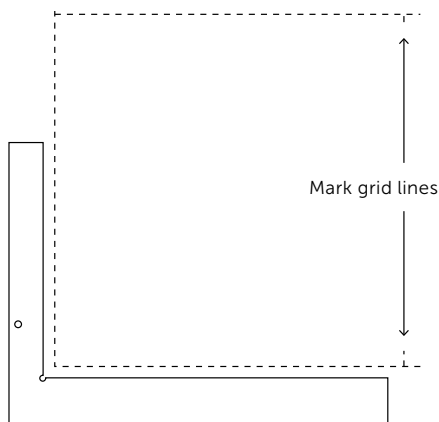
To start, use a framing square to determine the tile layout. 3/16" tile spacers are recommended for most Fireclay products. The tile spacers are inserted where 4 corners meet between the Star & Cross. The grout joint where the Star point fits in the Cross will be smaller. The grid starts at the corner of the left side, and on the right includes the tile spacer, or grout joint.

For this example using Large Star & Cross, our grid will be 22-5/8" by 22-5/8". Please note that your grid may be different. Marks will be made using a pencil or snapping out chalk lines with a chalkbox. It will include 8 Stars and 8 Crosses.

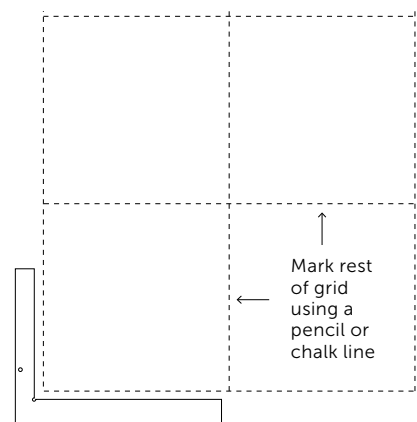
*** DRAWINGS ARE NOT TO SCALE AND ARE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY. ***

STEP 1


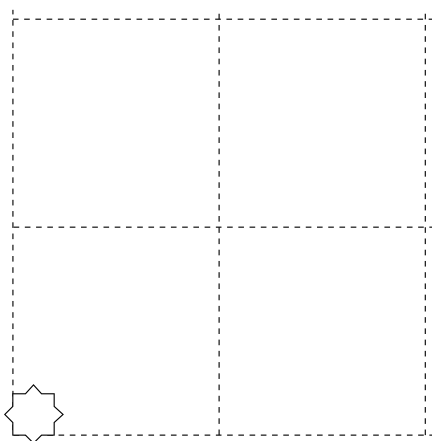
Mark your square lines using a pencil and framing square, or snap out chalk lines with a chalkbox.

STEP 2


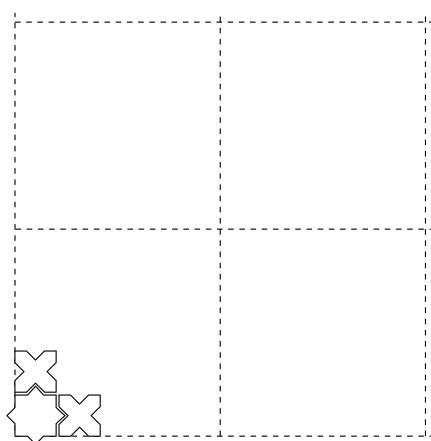
Mark your grid lines. For this example, the increments will be marked every **22-5/8"** (45-1/4", 67-7/8", etc.) Your grid layout may be different.

STEP 3


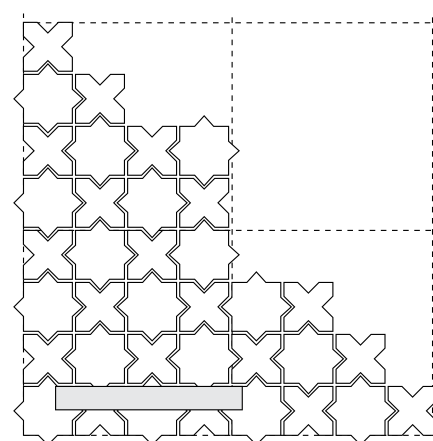
Check a few of the grids with your framing square to make sure they are square. If you are installing a floor, you do not have to use spacers if you keep your tile on these lines. The centerline of the grout joint should be straight according to ANSI* A108.2 Section 4.3.8 for tiles that vary in size.

STEP 4


Now, you can start laying the tile in the grids. Line up the first Star against the square line corner. Two points of the Star will be outside the layout lines.

STEP 5


Continue to fill in the first grid with Stars and Crosses. The Cross lines up with the grid.

STEP 6


You can use a straight edge to check how straight the tiles are between the grid lines if needed. Adjust before the thinset mortar has set up.

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Star & Cross
installed using
multiple colors



Star & Cross
installed with
Crosses placed
vertically

FINAL NOTES

- Spacers do not install tile straight, they just provide space between the tiles. If the tile varies in size and shape, the grout joints will vary as well.
- If you are installing tile on a wall, use spacers to hold the tile in place until the thinset mortar has set up. Use wedges for making minor grout joint adjustments.
- Using the grids to line up the tile is efficient and accurate. Make sure none of the tiles are touching. Fireclay always recommends a grout spacing of 3/16".
- Grout release or tile sealers may be needed to help prevent the grout from staining glaze crazing. Crazing is an inherent part of ceramic tile.
- We recommend against using a contrasting grout. If you're choosing to do so, be sure to test a small area of your tile to ensure it's been properly sealed, and check that the grout will not stain the tile.
- It is always a good idea to make a mockup to see what your finished product will look like.
- Fireclay Tile recommends using one manufacturer for all installation materials. Your professional installer may have a brand they prefer to use. You can use any materials that meet ANSI requirements.

***ANSI** = American National Standard Specifications.