

# IMITATION ENAMELLING

by Maureen Williams



*For these instructions you will need a suitable image, fine gold cord, Petal Dust (a powdered food dye available from cake decorating suppliers) or Pearl Ex and 5-minute Epoxy.*

A similar effect to glass paint can be achieved by mixing Petal Dust or Pearl Ex with ordinary epoxy. One of the advantages of using the imitation enamelling technique is the quick drying time.

## BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

*Note: an egg is not required for this section – I have included this info for future practice.*

Mark and cut the egg in any desired style.

Apply hinge if required and then paint and seal the outside. A pale colour is best for this or at least on the portion where you are doing the enamel decoration.

## DECORATING THE EGG

- Lightly trace off the desired motif onto paper or use a computer print-out. Try to keep the outlines fairly simple. This may mean making slight modifications to leaves etc.
- Cut out the motif and glue onto the centre of the oval.
- Using tacky glue and a fine gold cord, outline the entire design.

## ENAMEL PROCESS

This effect is achieved by mixing cake decorating powder, available from cake decorating shops, with epoxy. There are 20 colours in the Petal Dust range, 9 Lustre Colours (for a pearly shimmer) and silver & gold metallic.

## POINTS TO REMEMBER

- **The powders are very concentrated** and require only the tiniest amount on a toothpick to achieve a nice pale colour.
- **Mix only a small amount of epoxy at a time** so you are able to use it all before it goes stringy.
- Due to the curvature of the shell, if you try to do too large an area at once, the epoxy will run.

- On a piece of waxed paper mix a small amount of epoxy and add a very small amount of the powder. Mix well and then use a toothpick to push the coloured epoxy into the outlined areas. Do not use too much or the epoxy will run over the cording. *Note: The backing paper from labels makes a good surface to mix the enamel on.*
- For shaded areas, apply the lighter colour first, feathering out up to the shading line. When dry, apply the darker colour, extending over the edge of the lighter colour. This will then give a three colour effect in your design.

### Hints for doing enamelling

- When applying the enamel work quickly and don't try to use the mixture once it starts to go stringy. Mix up a new batch.
- As you can only fill a small area at a time, don't mix too much epoxy as you will only waste it. Small and often is a better way.

### GETTING THE RIGHT COLOUR.

As the Petal Dust is very concentrated only the tiniest amount is required for most applications in egg artistry. I use what clings to a wet toothpick (as a measure of how much to add to whatever I am doing).

The easiest way to determine how much powder to add to achieve the same colour for each petal or scroll etc, is to work with a certain number of dips of a wet toothpick.

- 1 dip gives a pastel colour
- 2 dips a medium shade
- 3 or more for a really strong colour

Experiment on a scrap of shell to determine how many dips you need to achieve the intensity you require.

### TIME IS IMPORTANT

- As we are talking about 5-minute epoxy, every second counts. Measure out the two equal parts of epoxy (resin and hardener) on a piece of wax paper. The waxy backing sheet from computer labels is excellent for mixing epoxy on.
- ***DO NOT MIX THE TWO TOGETHER AT THIS TIME!***
- Instead dip the toothpick into one part of the epoxy to wet the end, dip into the powder and then mix the powder into the first part of the epoxy. Repeat with the number of dips to achieve the colour you require THEN mix the two parts together. This is not as silly as it sounds as it gives you a bit longer working time.