

APPLYING FOIL PRINTS TO AN EGG

By Maureen Williams

REMOVING THE FOIL

The wax-like glue holding the foil onto the backing card requires heat to be able to remove the foil.

There are a couple of ways in which this can be done.

- In a dry electric frypan on the lowest heat setting.
- In an ordinary frypan on the stove with low heat.
- On a flat tray in a cool oven (100° C)

I prefer to use the electric fry pan, as you are able to keep any eye on the print as it is heating. Place the print flat in the frypan with the foil facing up. If the card starts to rise, gently push it down in the middle so that all parts of the card are in contact with the heat source.

When the print begins to “bubble” gently lift the corner of the foil and carefully peel it off the backing card. The print must be removed from the backing card whilst the glue is warm, then carefully remove any remaining glue from the back of the print.

Do not attempt to pull the foil off the backing card. If the glue isn't warm enough, you will tear the print.

As the foil is now very fragile, be very careful how you handle it. If you are not going to use the foil as soon as you have removed it from the backing, it can be stored in a photo album with the lift up plastic sheet. This will keep the print flat and protect the surface. Be very careful not to scratch the print with your fingernails.

SHAPING THE PRINT

Decide where you want to position the print on the egg. The easiest way while you are experimenting with the possibilities of foil prints, is to divide the egg in half long ways and apply the print to the front half of the egg.

With the print upright, position it on the egg with an even distance between the edge of the print and the centre line drawn on the egg. Depending on the size of the egg, the print may over-lap the centre line. This can be trimmed once the rest of the shaping is complete.

Starting in the centre of the print, carefully press the print down onto the egg. To ease out the creases, commence in the middle of the egg and remove the creases towards the top of the egg using either a pencil or a rounded brush handle. The bowl of a spoon could also be used for this procedure.

Continue in this manner until the print is shaped onto the egg and all the creases have been removed. It usually isn't necessary to use any glue to hold the print in place. However if the print doesn't sit properly you can apply a small amount of glue on the very edge to hold it down.

SEALING THE PRINT

Once all the creases have been removed, use your favourite lacquer to sink the print and cover any ridges that may have resulted from the creases in the foil. This may require several coats of lacquer to achieve a satisfactory result.

NOTE: Use a couple of coats of water based sealer on the foil before using a solvent based lacquer otherwise you may lose the colour and definition on the print.

WHERE TO GET YOUR FOIL PRINTS FROM

With the wide range of foil cards and postcards almost any theme you can think of is available. In some newsagents or stationers, foil cards tend to be available only for special occasions (eg. Mother's Day, Christmas, Weddings etc). However if you look around, especially in tourist areas, gift shops and some of the big department stores, you will find many other designs including dolphins, landscapes, fairy-tale characters, cats, horses, butterflies, etc. When you are looking for a foil print be sure the one you choose is a true foil. These can be lifted from the backing card. Foils can usually be identified by looking for a card with a frame over the print rather than one that is part of the actual card. A lot of cards which look like a foil are not true foils and cannot be removed by the method we will be using in the class.

Once removed from the backing card the foil is very thin and fragile and resembles a foil chocolate wrapper. Foils are also available as postcards. You may wish to use only one print or two prints back to back for Christmas ornaments.

If you are looking for something special <http://www.fjwarren.co.uk/dufex.htm> the home of Dufex foil prints is the place to check. This will give you an idea of the type of things available. Both of the ladies listed below have a large selection of suitable prints and will be happy to help you with your selection of foil prints.

In Australia - contact Rhonda West - email address: elegantegg@ozemail.com.au

In the US - contact Kathy Lamb from The Eggery Place - email address: kathy@TheEggeryPlace.com

Web address: <http://www.theeggeryplace.com/foil-prints.html>

SELECTING THE PRINT

When you are looking for a print, keep in mind you will lose a certain amount of the print at the top and the bottom as it over-laps to fit the contour of the egg. Where possible choose a vertical print as opposed to a horizontal print unless you are using only portion of the print. Select an evenly shaped egg - not too fat around the middle and not too pointy at either end.

Instructions taken from
Bright Ideas & Facets of Egg Artistry
By Maureen Williams

For more ideas, hints & tips visit
<http://www.aussie-eggshell-carvers.com/zzz-how-to.htm>

