

# LIQUID LACE

by Maureen Williams

## Basic Instructions

Liquid Lace is a water-based, non-toxic medium, which can be used very successfully on eggshells and other smooth surfaces to create superb 3D images including scrolls, lacework, flowers & leaves (to name just a few applications). It can be used to strengthen lattice or on any area of your design you want to highlight. Small designs like flowers around the opening of a design are easier to cut if they have first been built up and strengthened with Liquid Lace.

The surface of the egg should be clean & dry. If you wish to paint the egg this should be done before applying Liquid Lace. However the egg can be sealed before or after adding the Liquid Lace.

Hand drawn designs, prints cut from wrapping paper, photocopies or cards all make an excellent background for Liquid Lace. It is important not to run two lines together when building up the design. I've included some scrolls which you might like to play with.

Add dimension to flowers, leaves or scrolls by applying Liquid Lace to alternate areas. Allow these to dry then fill in the ones that you skipped. If you want to create a vein down the centre of a leaf, apply Liquid Lace to half the leaf, allow to dry and then do the other half.

## Applying Liquid Lace

There are a number of ways to apply Liquid Lace including brush, fine tip applicator bottles or even a toothpick. To achieve a smooth, rounded appearance use a brush. This takes a bit of practice so don't despair if your first attempts aren't what you feel they should be! If you make a mistake, wait until the Liquid Lace sets a bit and it can then be removed with a craft knife blade, allowing you to have another go.

An applicator bottle with a fine tip or a glue bottle can be used to apply Liquid Lace to lattice work or to apply raised lettering on an egg. **Plate No: 18 - Cupid's Rose Trellis** from 'Tis An Egg is an example of Liquid Lace applied thickly from an applicator bottle. With this thicker application you will notice the Liquid Lace has formed ridges, which creates a more natural appearance for the lattice than the smooth technique used for scrolls. Liquid Lace sets in around 20 minutes with complete drying in about 2 hours. Once the Liquid Lace dries off a bit you can use a rounded toothpick to shape your design and push the medium where you want it to go.



## Colouring Liquid Lace.

Acrylic paints or chalks can be used to colour and highlight Liquid Lace. These may be applied once the lace has dried completely or alternatively acrylic paints can be added to the lace before it is applied to the shell. Lettering can be enhanced with gold metal-flake enamel paint applied with a very fine brush.

Although Liquid Lace can be purchased from most egg supply places, below is a recipe for an economical homemade alternative for you to practice with. If you wish to participate hands – on in the class you will need to make up a batch of this before hand.

## Homemade Liquid Lace

- 1 Teaspoon cornflour
- 2 - 3 Teaspoons thin PVA glue (Aquadhere, Sobo, etc)
- 3/4 Teaspoon acrylic white paint (or other colour if desired)
- 2 - 3 drops water (if required)

Mix to a consistency that will flow slightly after being applied, allowing it to smooth over.

## Variations

Similar results can be obtained by using the dimensional fabric paints used to decorate T-shirts. Brands such as Plaid Dimensional Fabric Paint, Duncan Iridescent Scribbles, Polymark Pearl Iridescent Dimensional Paint and Fashion Show Glitter Dimensional Paints are some examples of paints suitable for this type of decoration. They come in a wide range of colours and textures. Experiment and have fun!



