EXPANDING AN EGG

Using a piece of cardboard

By Maureen Williams

You've found the perfect figurine and you really need an emu egg to make the figurine look in proportion but unfortunately you only have a goose egg available to use. What do you do? Make the egg bigger! There are a number of ways this can be achieved and many eggers have shown us delightful designs that result from expansion procedures.

The desired end result, whether you want a solid appearance, something light and airy or a combination of both, will determine the type of expansion to use.

An easy way to achieve a solid appearance is to cut the egg in two and insert a strip of cardboard. Another way is to twist the two pieces of shell and rejoin before continuing with the design. Yet another way is to separate pieces of shell with findings.

For this class I will show you how to insert a strip of cardboard to make your egg bigger.

I first saw this technique used by Aline Becker in her Eggs periodical many years ago and have since used this procedure a number of times.

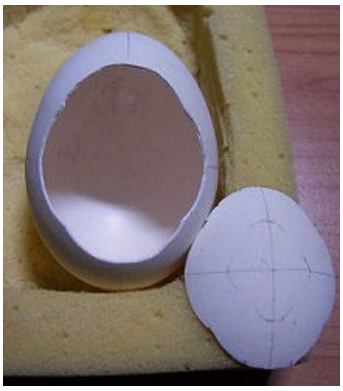
Requirements

Goose egg
Figurine
Cardboard strip - approx 3/4" wide
5-minute epoxy
Micropore or similar tape
Spakfilla or modelling paste

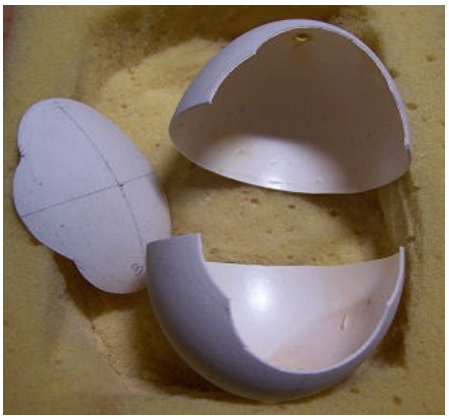
Basic Procedure

Step 1:

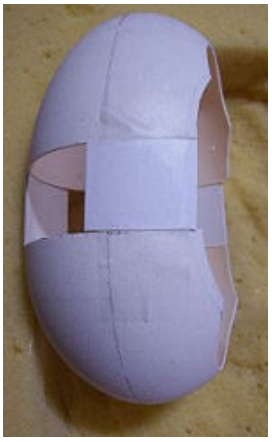
Divide the egg into quarters and mark a centre girth line. Keep the markings light, as they are reference lines only and will be removed at a later stage. Using these reference lines, draw the desired opening on the front of the egg



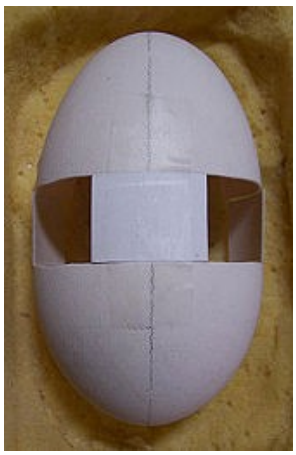
Step 2
Carefully cut out the front opening and put to one side. (this will be used later as a template and then glued back into the egg.)



Step 3
Cut the egg in two around the centre girth line.



Step 4
Cut a strip of thin cardboard the width that you wish to expand the egg. I've used 20 mm or 3/4" Curve the cardboard by running it over your finger, being careful to keep it smooth.



Step 5
Use three short pieces (approximately 20 mm or 3/4" long) as spacers and tape them between the two pieces of shell, locating one either side of the front opening and one at the centre back with the vertical markings lined up around the egg

Make sure these pieces are held firmly in place. If necessary tape a larger piece of cardboard behind the spacers to hold them secure.

These class notes are copyright © Diamond Innovations 2003 - 2014
Copying or reproducing any part of this material is prohibited without written permission from the owner.
Please do not place on any other lists or claim as your own

Step 6
Take the piece of shell that was originally cut out of the front of the egg and position it on the back of the egg over the cardboard spacer and the separated pieces of shell.

Variation - a finding can also be used for a template on the back. This can them be filled with glass paint to create a stained glass effect.

Step 7
Lightly draw around the pattern piece.

Step 8
Carefully cut out around the pattern you have drawn onto the shell. This will also remove the cardboard spacer in the centre back.

These class notes are copyright © Diamond Innovations 2003 - 2014
Copying or reproducing any part of this material is prohibited without written permission from the owner.
Please do not place on any other lists or claim as your own

Step 9
Use a small amount of 5-minute epoxy to tack the piece of shell from the front into the new opening at the back. Allow to dry and then use more epoxy to secure the shell into the back opening, allowing it to dry thoroughly before proceeding with next step.

Make sure you align the vertical markings

Step 10
Remove the cardboard spacer on the side of the egg and replace with a length of the pre-measured cardboard (step 4) from the front opening around to the pattern piece at the back. Use Magic Tape or Micropore to hold the cardboard in position.

Use 5-minute epoxy to glue the cardboard securely in place. Repeat on the other side.

Step 11
Fill any gaps around the piece of shell set into the back of the egg. Sellys Spakfilla is ideal for this purpose as it is light, fast drying and sands easily.

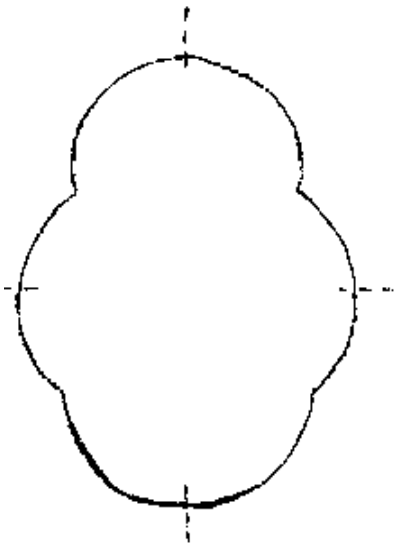
These class notes are copyright © Diamond Innovations 2003 - 2014
Copying or reproducing any part of this material is prohibited without written permission from the owner.
Please do not place on any other lists or claim as your own

Use a spatula to smooth the Spakfilla on to the reconstructed egg. Allow to dry thoroughly and then use a fine sanding sponge or sand paper to remove any excess Spakfilla and leave a smooth finish.

Use a brush to apply some thinned spakfilla on the inside of the shell.

If necessary, repeat the spakfilla procedure to fill any gaps

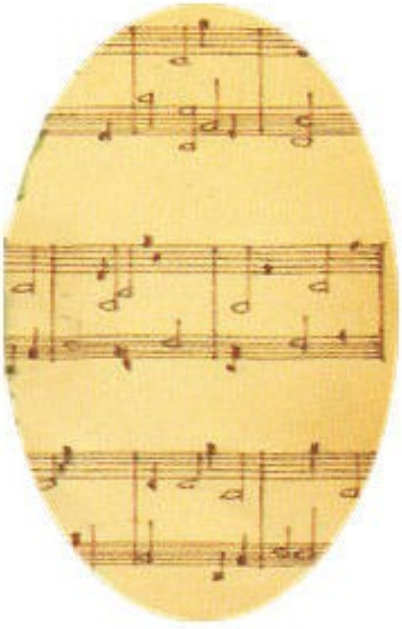
Your expanded egg is now ready to paint and decorate as desired.



Front Opening Template

These class notes are copyright © Diamond Innovations 2003 - 2014
Copying or reproducing any part of this material is prohibited without written permission from the owner.
Please do not place on any other lists or claim as your own

Using a textured paint helps to disguise the insertion

I hope you find these instructions helpful in your egging designs. If you have any problems or queries with this how-to page don't hesitate to contact me.

These class notes are copyright © Diamond Innovations 2003 - 2014
Copying or reproducing any part of this material is prohibited without written permission from the owner.
Please do not place on any other lists or claim as your own